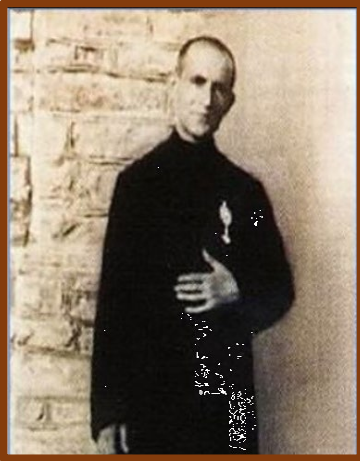


**Venerable Giovanni Nadiani**  
**(Italy) 1885-1940, Incorrupt**

*Professed lay brother in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.  
Served as infirmarian.<sup>1</sup>*



**Giovanni Nadiani** was born on February 20, 1885, in Santa Maria Nuova in Cesena, Province of Forlì, Italy, to Ercole Gaspare and Annunziata Piazzini. He was the youngest of three, having an older brother and sister, Erminio and Maria.

His father was an anti-clerical republican who ran a grocery store and tavern and married his mother in 1880. When Giovanni was three-years-old, his mother died at the birth of her fourth child, Adolf, who also died immediately after her. In 1892, his father married his first wife's sister, Lucia, to whose union was born Giovanni's half-sister, Annunziata, who died at age 5. Lucia also died. In 1897, Giovanni's father married for the third and final time the maid, Giovanna Ruffili. His mother and both step-mothers raised him in a Christian manner, educated him in the faith, taught him to pray and ensured he received the sacraments, even though his father was not a practicing Christian.<sup>2</sup>

Vanitti, as he was called, was a fine student. He showed a particular disposition for singing and was a fine soloist. He completed elementary school in 1898, at the age of 13, and briefly entered the seminary in Cesena, Italy.

Discovering this was not his vocation, he returned home after 4 years in 1902 and worked in his father's restaurant. He continued to read religious books and would make the sign of the cross if he heard a bad word. He grazed their horses near the chapel of the Blessed Mother where he would sing and pray. His sister loved to hear his beautiful voice. Vanitti entered the Christian Democratic Circle of Prodezza and served as the secretary.

As he contemplated his future, he thought about being a missionary. He went to work in Switzerland in order to learn French and German. There he worked in a chocolate factory. In 1905, he enlisted for military service in Italy and was transferred to Rome where he worked as a bartender.

Once, when visiting the Church of San Claudio, he observed Eucharistic Adoration. Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament, was solemnly exposed with two priests praying in adoration as the lay faithful came in and out to pray for a long time or just for a few minutes. Kneeling, he came to understand this would be his mission. He got to know the Blessed Sacrament Father who welcomed him, not as a candidate for priesthood because of his age, but as a lay-brother.

When he entered the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament (formally known as the Congregation of the Presbyters of the Most Holy Sacrament) at Turin on July 2, 1907, Vanitti was 22 years old. On November 14, 1907, he began the novitiate at Castelveccchio di Moncalieri under the direction of Father Carlo Maria Poletti. Here he began writing his "*Spiritual Notes*." He decided to be consecrated in a nuptial communion to Jesus in the Eucharist through the "*Eymardian Vow of Personality*." His mystical insights, his passion for the Eucharist and the Blessed Mother reached the highest levels. The Vow, initially made by St. Peter-Julian Eymard on March 21, 1865, and the source of its name described by St. Eymard, is as follows:

"I made the perpetual vow of my personality to our Lord Jesus Christ through the hands of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, under the patronage of Saint Benedict: nothing for me and

anyone, and asking for the essential grace, nothing by me... Everything through Him, with Him and in Him.”<sup>3</sup>

Brother Giovonni was professed in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, as a lay brother, on November 14, 1909. He served as the sacristan and promoted the Blessed Sacrament periodicals and was of humble service wherever he was needed.

During World War I, from January 1917 to the autumn of 1918, he worked on the front near Strassoldo (Udine) as an assistant to a military chaplain. After this, he returned to the community and served in many capacities including the vice-treasurer.

In October 1931 at the age of 46, he was transferred to Ponteranica, where he was made the infirmarian of the community. Though he did not have a diploma in nursing, he learned on the job and undertook his duties with kindness and generosity. He earned the esteem of the doctors, who recognized in him a “really maternal care for the sick.” He set down his own thoughts in *“The Spiritual Maternity of the Religious of the Blessed Sacrament.”*

Brother Giovanni, in contemplating Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, would prepare by choosing themes --- then, following adoration, he would note the spiritual fruits.

When Brother Giovanni was fifty-five years old, the doctors discovered that he had stomach ulcer which they eventually determined was cancer. He thanked the Blessed Virgin Mary for “that little living cross.” He continued to work as the infirmarian. On September 9, 1939, he traveled to Bergamo on foot, alone, to the clinic where he was told the diagnosis. He responded: “Deo gratias.” Surgery was performed on December 22, 1939, at the main hospital. He asked others to pray for a miracle but also placed himself in the will of God.

Brother Giovanni died from cancer of the stomach on January 6, 1940, the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord in Ponteranica, Bergamo, Italy.

Seventeen years after his death, in 1957, the canonization process began. Forty-eight years after he died, his coffin was opened on November 8, 1988, and his body was found to be intact.<sup>4</sup> Giovanni Nadiani was declared venerable by a decree of heroic virtue on June 11, 2019, by His Holiness Pope Francis.

#### Intercessory Prayer:

*O Most Holy Trinity, we thank you for the gift of the Eucharist, the font and strength of all holiness, and ask you to glorify the Venerable Giovanni Nadiani, who witnessed in humility and service the life of love springing from this Sacrament. Through his intercession grant us the graces that we are asking from you.*  
Say 3 “Glory be to the Father...,” to the Most Holy Trinity.

---

#### References:

1) “Venerable Giovanni Nadiani”. CatholicSaints.Info. 1 July 2021. Web. 4 June 2022.  
<<https://catholicsaints.info/venerable-giovanni-nadiani/>>

2) SSS Congregatio. Accessed 4 June 2022. The Venerable Giovanni Nadiani, Blessed Sacrament Brother.  
<https://www.ssscongregatio.org/en/news/causes-of-saints/item/61-the-venerable-giovanni-nadiani-blessed-sacrament-brother.html>

3) Father Francis Mwanza. SSS. (4 May 2020). The Gift of self in an eymardian perspective. Accessed 24 April 2022. <https://www.ssscongregatio.org/en/news/recent-news/item/1407-the-gift-of-self-in-an-eymardian-perspective.html>

4) Daniele Bolognini (28 Jun 2019). Venerable Giovanni Nadiani.  
<http://www.blessedsacramentphil.org/venerable-giovanni-nadiani/> Accessed 4 June 2022.