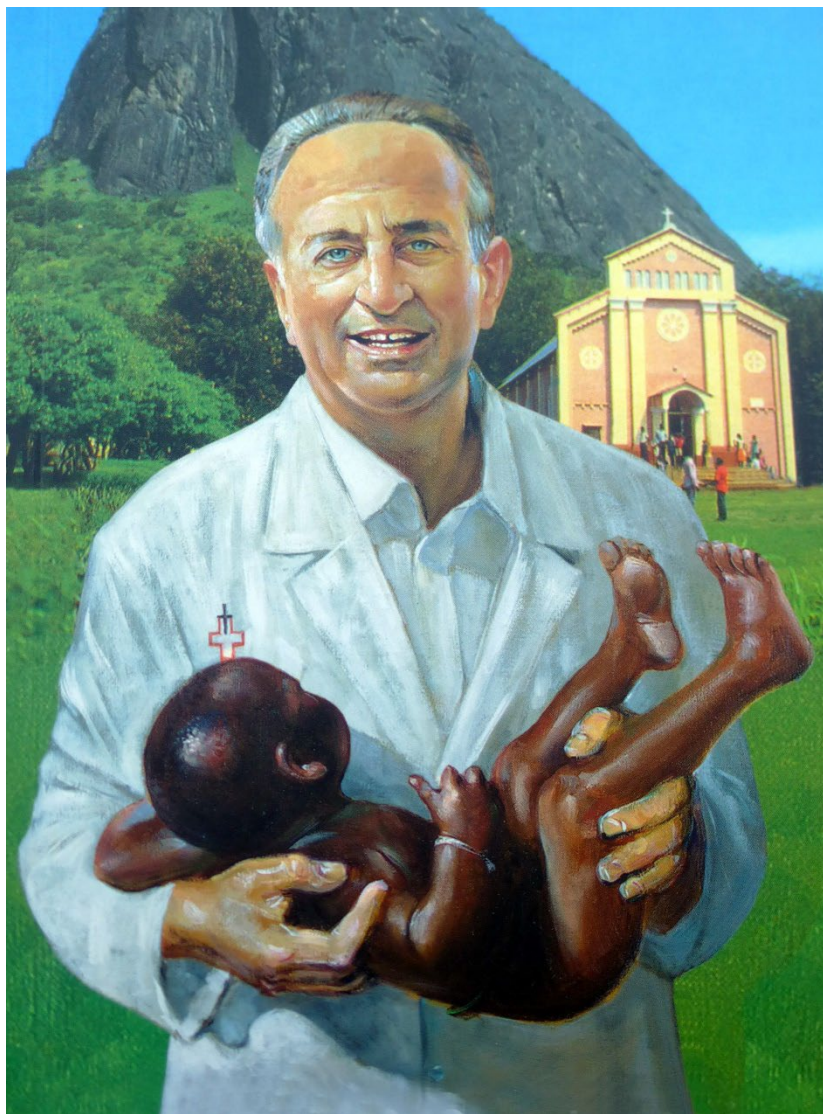




BLESSED JOSEPH AMBROSOLI
Liturgical texts

Liturgical texts of Blessed Giuseppe Ambrosoli

Some confreres have requested the liturgical texts for the celebration of the Memorial of Blessed Giuseppe Ambrosoli. With the Apostolic Letter of 7th October 2022, the date of the annual Memorial of Blessed Joseph was set for 28th July, the eve of his baptism.

The liturgical texts were approved on 4th March 2021 by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. They consist of two documents: the *Collect* for the Eucharistic Celebration and a short biography, and the *Second Reading* of the Office of Readings of the Liturgy of the Hours, with the respective *Responsory*.

Of the *Collect Prayer*, the original (Latin) and the translations into 5 languages (English, French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese) were approved, while of the *short biography* and the *Second Reading* of the Liturgy of the Hours, which includes some passages from the letters of Blessed Joseph, the Italian original and the English, French, Spanish and Portuguese versions were approved.

For the Eucharistic Celebration and the Liturgy of the Hours, we refer to the Common of Pastors (for Missionaries), or to the Common of Holy Men and Women (for those who practiced works of mercy.).

BEATI IOSEPHI AMBROSOLI, PRESBYTERI

De Communi Pastorum: pro missionariis; vel de Communi Sanctorum
et Sanctarum: pro iis qui opera misericordiæ exercuerunt.

COLLECTA

Deus,
qui húmili caritate
beáti Ioséphi, presbýteri,
Ecclésiæ illustrásti missiónem
curæ egeniórum suméndae,
fac ut nos, eius intercessióne et exémplo,
testimónium misericórdiæ tuæ feréntes,
Evangélium profiteámur salútis.
Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum Filium tuum,
qui tecum vivit et regnat,
in unitate Spiritus Sancti,
Deus, per omnia sæcula sæculorum.

R/. Amen.

BLESSED JOSEPH AMBROSOLI, PRIEST

Optional Memorial

From the Common of Pastors: for missionaries; or from the Common of Holy Men and Women: for those who worked for the underprivileged.

THE COLLECT PRAYER

O God,
who, in the humble charity
of the Priest Blessed Joseph (Ambrosoli),
caused the Church's mission
of caring for the most needy to shine forth:
grant, through his intercession and example,
that, bearing witness to the Gospel of salvation,
we may become instruments of your mercy.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

R/ Amen.

BLESSED JOSEPH AMBROSOLI, PRIEST

Born in Ronago (Como, Italy) on 25 July 1923. A young doctor, formed in the ranks of Catholic Action, he entered the Comboni Missionaries on 18th October 1951 at the age of 28. He spent 31 years of missionary life in Kalongo, Northern Uganda, where he fully developed the hospital and midwifery school which he founded. He died in Lira (Uganda) on 27th March 1987. He distinguished himself for his unshakable faith witnessed in his work as a surgeon, exercised with gentleness of spirit and admirable charity.

From the Common of Pastors: for missionaries or from the Common of Men Saints: for a saint noted for works of mercy, with Psalms of the Weekday.

THE OFFICE OF READINGS

SECOND READING

From the *Letters* of Blessed Joseph Ambrosoli, Priest

(Kalongo, 9th March 1987.

Archivio Comboniano, Rome, C/405/16/13)

Let us give thanks to the Lord for everything!

What matters is not how much we do, but how we do it, and whether we do it for the love of God. Let us allow Jesus to take away whatever He wishes, and what little He lets us do, let's do it only for love.

The mission in Kalongo was closed after fifty years of missionary work of evangelisation, of human promotion at all levels, especially in education, health care and the training of qualified midwives. It was the conclusion of political and social struggles that troubled Northern Uganda and the whole country from July nineteen eighty-five to nineteen eighty-seven.

On the thirtieth of January nineteen eighty-seven the military authorities spoke to all the staff of the hospital and the mission, gravely accusing us of certain things: cooperation with the guerrillas, especially in reference to the battle of Kilak which occurred two weeks earlier; a change in our attitude towards them; our imperialist and fascist tendency. The conclusion of this meeting was that none of us could leave without written permission from the defence line located just a few metres from the mission and hospital buildings: we were practically under house arrest.

At six o'clock in the evening on the seventh of February we were all told to present ourselves within seven minutes to a meeting with the brigade commander. In a few words he told us that we had to leave Kalongo and move to Lira taking all that we could carry. For a few minutes we were all left speechless. Still incredulous, we found ourselves a bit later gathered for the Saturday evening Mass. At the prayer of the faithful there was just one invocation: "Lord increase our faith, give us strength to do your will, protect our people, grant us peace". That night we began to prepare our personal effects. At four o'clock in the morning on the thirteenth of February sixteen trucks and a battalion of soldiers arrived. We were ordered to load immediately what we had prepared, as we would leave straight afterwards. We worked uninterruptedly until three o'clock in the afternoon in the midst of an indescribable confusion, between tears and deep sadness at seeing the prelude to what could have been the destruction of Kalongo. At around three in the afternoon, on the road that leads from Kalongo to Patongo, a long line of vehicles ready to leave began to form. As the two-kilometre-long convoy began to move, we saw a column of black smoke rising up behind us; it was sacks of millet and corn, beans, etc., bought in view of hunger and left there for lack of means of transport, burning in warehouses and containers. The medicines were also left behind. Slowly, in fits and starts, the caravan snaked its way along the difficult roads of the savannah.

The Lord, however, is great and has given us the strength to accept everything from His hand. It is indeed a wonderful opportunity to grow and mature spiritually, and to detach oneself from many earthly things. So, let us give thanks to the Lord for everything! Whatever God wants, it's never too much! By His grace the hospital of Kalongo has come a long way without much fanfare. Many found healing here, many returned to their huts with their conditions improved, some unfortunately died in the hospital despite the treatment. But we all wished that they had left the hospital with the memory of our fraternal understanding, sympathy and ... love. This is the human side, so important everywhere, but especially in a missionary hospital.

RESPONSORY

Job 2: 10b; Psalm 88: 16, 29

R/ If we take happiness from God's hand, must we not take sorrow too? * Happy the people who learn to acclaim you: they will live, Lord, in the light of your favour.

V/ I will keep my love for him always, my covenant with him shall stand.

R/ Happy the people who learn to acclaim you: they will live, Lord, in the light of your favour.

Prayer

O God, who, in the humble charity of the Priest Blessed Joseph (Ambrosoli), caused the Church's mission of caring for the most needy to shine forth: grant, through his intercession and example, that, bearing witness to the Gospel of salvation, we may become instruments of your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R/ Amen.

