

SAINT GIOVANNI ANTONIO FARINA WITH US

SEPTEMBER 2025

DAY 14 - EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



FROM THE WRITINGS OF SAINT FARINA

“From those thorns born and grown on Golgotha, at the foot of the cross that redeems the world, will spring the crowns that on your head will never wither.”

BRIEF REFLECTION

Farina does not deny that the Christian life, being a “following of Christ”, is bound to the Passion. In the pain caused by the thorns that pierced the head of Jesus lies the fulfilment of our self-giving for the salvation of our brothers and sisters. Those thorns sprouted in a particular place, Golgotha, and were watered by the Most Precious Blood of Christ. They are therefore unique thorns of immense value, capable of transforming pain and evil into good, through the power of God’s grace.

(Freely adapted from Nicola Gori, *Con la passione nel cuore*)

ANECDOTES ABOUT FARINA'S LIFE

“As the time for school was approaching, I had finished primary school. My very poor health did not allow me to take up a trade, and my poverty did not allow me to attend secondary school. My mother, a widow, was advised to speak about me to Bishop Farina, who immediately admitted me among the externs of the Seminary. It was his zeal and care to promote priestly vocations. In March I was admitted to First Communion and went to him to show him the little picture commemorating that beautiful day. In his paternal kindness, he gave me some sugared almonds and a fine florin (we were under Austrian rule). Then, turning the little picture over, he said to me: ‘Here you will write the day we make you a cleric, then the day of your first Mass, and later still the day you will become a Canon...’”

(From the memories of Canon Antonio De Marchi, catechist of the deaf-mute girls).