

DECREE

Mons. Guisepppe Carata
Arcivescovo Di Trani - Nazareth E Barletta
Amministratore Perpetuo Di Bisceglie
4th of March of 1987

We consider as a perennial and authentic gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church of Christ, the rising and the spreading, according to the time's needs, of Movements, Groups and Associations, which identify and appreciate the various charisms poured for the benefit of the community, and which contribute to the perfection of the Christian life, as well as to an authentic and ever growing witnessing in the world, to the most humble and charitable service, and to the most fraternal communion.

With highest gratitude to God our Father, We note a special abundance of this gift of the Holy Spirit in Our beloved Church Community in the period after the Vatican Council, which We undoubtedly define as "a Spring for the Church", observing—as the fruit of a deeply lived experience within the Church according to the dictates of the Second Vatican Council—the blooming of Pious Associations and Movements, of certain Christian-catholic inspiration, through which the faithful live more visibly the mystery of the communion with Christ, participate responsibly in the life of the Church, and perform functions and ministries with awareness and competence, and in the harmony of unity and charity.

Among these Associations, the one called "LITTLE CHILDREN of the DIVINE WILL" was recently established in Corato. Its main purpose is the Christian education and the ascetic perfection, in the spirit and with the practice of a community prayer of Its members, in the light of the example, the teachings and the writings of the Dominican Tertiary LUISA PICCARRETA, who died in odor of sanctity in Corato, in 1947.

Therefore, having examined the request, which We received by the promoter Sister Assunta Marigliano, in the name of all the supporters, on February 15, 1987;

Having examined and approved ad experimentum the Statute containing the purpose of the Association, the instruments for the education, the organisms of direction and other basic norms, as well as the apostolic projection of the Association;

As laid down by cann. law 299, §§ 2 and 3; 300 etc.;

WE RECOGNIZE AS ESTABLISHED, WE PRAISE AND RECOMMEND, AND WE GIVE OUR CONSENT THAT IT BE HONORED WITH THE NAME of "Pious or Catholic"

The PIOUS ASSOCIATION "Luisa Piccarreta" LITTLE CHILDREN OF THE DIVINE WILL with center in Corato
(Archdioceses of Trani-Barletta-Bisceglie) in via Nazario Sauro n.25.

The established Association will be ruled by the general norms of CJC (cann. 321-326) and by the above mentioned Statute which We approved.

In full uniformity and submission to the Divine Volition, which appears to Us clear in this, through the signs of the times, through the fervor of the supporters and their beneficial fruits in the apostolic field, We encourage and exhort all to continue in their good intentions of sanctity and ministry for the Church, sustained by copious celestial blessings.

Given in Trani, from Our Archbishop's Palace, on the 4th of March of 1987, on the fortieth anniversary of the pious transit of Luisa Piccarreta.

Luisa Piccarreta



+ Giuseppe Carata

For more information, please write to:
Pious Association Luisa Piccarreta, Little Children of the Divine Will
Via Nazario Sauro, 25
70033 Corato (BA) Italy

DECLARATION

**The Congregation for the Causes of Saints
February 25, AD 1994**

The Congregation for the Causes of Saints, answering to the request which has been proposed to It, declares on the part of the Holy See the NON OBSTARE for the opening of the Cause of Beatification of the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta, Laywoman, Tertiary Dominican; everything, however, according to the instructions which are established in the enclosed letters of March 25, AD 1994, written to the Most Excellent and Reverend Msgr. Carmelo Cassati, Missionary of the Sacred Heart, Archbishop of Trani-Barletta-Bisceglia, after having observed all things which must be observed by law.

Given in Trani, from the place of the same Congregation, on February 25, AD 1994

EDICT

**MONS. CARMELO CASSATI
Archbishop of Trani - Barletta - Bisceglie, Titular of Nazareth
ARCHDIOCESE of TRANI - BARLETA - BISCEGLIE
November 19, 1994**

Cause of Beatification of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta, Secular, Dominican Tertiary

EDICT

for the Collecting of the Writings

The Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Trani - Barletta - Bisceglie has begun the cognitive process about the life and virtues in general, as well as the miracles and supernatural gifts of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta, secular, Dominican Tertiary; and having to collect the writings attributed to her, according to the Code of Canon Law and conforming to Norms issued by the Pontiff, John Paul II, on the 7th of February 1993, We order all those who may have been in possession of any object, and writing on any subject, which may have for author the foresaid Servant of God, to return them with due promptness to Us personally or to the Postulator of the Cause, Mons. Felice Posa, House of Divine Providence - 70052 Bisceglie (Bari) Italy.

Those who wish to retain the originals of the writings, may present duly authenticated copies.

Furthermore, We remind everyone and each of the faithful, be they ecclesiastics, religious or laity, that the Code of Canon Law directs them to give Us information on everything which may shed light on the reputation of sanctity of the foresaid Servant of God, as well as the miracles which have occurred or may occur through her intercession.

Lastly, We order that the present Edict be affixed on the doors of the Curia and the Parish Churches and Rectories of our Archdiocese for a period of three months, and that it be brought to the attention of the faithful in all those Dioceses in which there may be found writings of the Servant of God, in a manner which the Ordinary of the place will deem most opportune, and that he may, moreover, give this matter the maximum disclosure, even by printed means.

Given in Trani, from the See of the Curia, November 19, 1994.

ARCHBISHOP CASSATI

**Homily Given at the Opening of the Cause for the Beatification of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta
Feast of Christ the King
November 20, 1994**

Praise be to Jesus Christ!

My dearest brothers and sisters, for Corato this evening it is certainly THE DAY. It is an evening of great importance; and, even if we cannot have present here all its citizens, your presence is particularly significant. You are the citizens of Corato ("the Coratini") who wish to honor one of your own citizens in a particular way because your Luisa was the first to honor you.

Starting this evening (we must add -- in awe and fear) we open this process, entrusting it to God that it will unfold conforming to all laws and rules but, at the same time, with the speed or slowness that God reserves for all his things.

God is not in a hurry like us; therefore, for Him a thousand years are like a day; a day like a thousand years. We are the ones in a hurry, and that is why we do so many bad things -- because we are always in such a big hurry. God is not in a rush. Time is in his hands; therefore, 'when and how' this process will conclude is known only to God. We only wish to place ourselves in his hands and say that we want to fulfill his Will because, if we do not dedicate ourselves, we are also going against the thoughts and will of our own Luisa, who had only one, single desire: to fulfill the Will of God. The FIAT that she continually repeated was an immense desire to do only the Will of God, and she presented her FIAT by sacrificing herself.

For many years, almost her entire life, she was bed-ridden, many times in great pain and overwhelmed with much of the Passion of our God, Jesus Christ. As a young child, even before her illness, she saw our Christ asking her for assistance in suffering the Passion, to carry the Cross; and she was willing. From that moment, the rest of her long life was a continuous sacrifice.

In our human terms we could ask: for what reason did this woman live her entire life bed-ridden? What could have been the reason for such a life? With today's mentality and the diabolical theories of euthanasia, someone would probably have killed her. For what did a bed-ridden life serve? For what did the life of a small woman serve, whom, among other things, upon her death, could not be made to lie in a coffin; and a special casket had to be made in the shape of the letter 'L' because her body could not be straightened? For what did that life serve? Humanly speaking, we must say that such a life was unsuccessful, a useless life -- but in the eyes of God it was the life of one who willingly climbed upon the Cross and, having known the Will of God said: "Here I am; your Will be done." Not for three days nor for three years but for sixty years on the Cross, bed-ridden.

This sacrifice, this gift, this offering enters directly into the Chalice of the Passion and Death of our God, Jesus Christ, in the Blood of Christ. And Luisa, with her sacrifice, becomes the one who makes reparation, who makes restitution for the sins of others. Therefore, this life becomes heroic. God wanted her alive because He was grateful for her sacrifice given freely. Before such generosity one should not marvel, then, if Luisa had particular visions, if Luisa also had some particular insights seen in her writings, if Luisa had been able to speak about God in a determined way, and if Luisa speaks about God as God Love, who immolates Himself for this creature, whom He has made to his image and likeness and who once was lost, to come Himself and take the trouble to bring him back. And, if God was so humbled, then, well spent were 'my more than sixty years in a bed of the Cross.'

You will see that it makes sense, then, and that it is no longer a useless life in the way men think. It becomes a most precious life because it collaborates the Crucifixion of Christ for the salvation of the world. We will never know if one day in the hereafter, when we arrive at our Father's house (if God wishes to receive us into his house), if maybe then we will see the value of the souls who have immolated themselves for Him. And, if the world is still standing, maybe we should give credit not to our techniques and to our people's skill in knowing always how to quarrel; but we should give credit to these hidden souls who sacrifice in order to compensate for the tide of sin in this world.

We saw the flood two weeks ago and the damage provoked by a small earthquake. If a small quake of that kind can bring about so much damage to all nature, what damage does a soul obstinate in sin do? Then we can realize and not be astonished if at a certain moment God asks: "Soul, will you give Me a hand?" That is the reason for the invitation to Luisa: "Soul, will you give Me a hand?" My Redemption is enough, but I need other souls to participate with Me in this Calvary, in this Sacrifice, because man never grows tired of offending God.

Therefore, my dear ones, we must try to see Luisa by her Light and not try to seek in her writings something that we might not be able to understand; and we will not understand unless we put ourselves in Luisa's Light. If we do not put

ourselves in the Light of the God who asks of this soul reparation, suffering, sacrifice, the cross, calvary, blood and life, what restitution can I give to my God for the sins of the world?

If I see myself a rationalist, if I see myself a schemer, if I see that I want to reason like a man, I am off my path. With God either you love Him, and He takes you where He wants you, or our rationalization is of no use. God has given us intelligence so that we can love Him, not to engage in criticizing Him and debating his plans of Love. Luisa never did this; she offered herself; she sacrificed herself; and God loved and bestowed privileges upon her.

I hope that Luisa's writings may penetrate the hearts of men in one way or another and also be understood. We certainly have an immense responsibility because Luisa is not a Saint like all the others. Luisa was a Saint placed on the Cross. On the Cross, Christ received insults; Christ was ridiculed; Christ was scorned; and, therefore, we should not be astonished if she has received some of those things as well. It was necessary for her in order to be more like the Crucified Christ. She had asked to participate in his Passion.

My dear ones, Luisa's phenomenon, although she was born, she died, and was buried in Corato, is a phenomenon difficult to explain. They love her more outside of Corato. The New World loves her more. That truly becomes a problem and an incessant prayer for us -- that they truly understand the thought of Luisa, the writings of Luisa, and that it be understood, above all her spirit, because today we live in a world where sorcerers, fortune-tellers, spiritists and many others say that they see God, the Madonna, the Saints; and so many others who say they see the devil. We are in a world full, very full of these realities, of these miseries; and it becomes easy for us to run to the place where there is a fortune-teller; and it is easy to run to the place where some fellow has said that he sees Jesus Christ, that he sees the Madonna. We have flocks of people, even in our city, who run right and left, back and forth in search of those who have seen the Madonna, who have seen Saint Michael, who have seen Christ, in search of those who sweat blood, who sweat this, who sweat that. We go about in search of emotion; but the Faith -- our religion -- is not emotions. We cannot be emotional people who follow fortune-tellers, visionaries, people who even go after the devil!

My dear ones, open your eyes because the world, and maybe even Corato, is full of people who run to and fro. To understand Luisa, we must go, I repeat, to one point alone: the FIAT, Your will be done! We have no other choice. That "Your Will be done" meant for her an entire life upon the Cross; FIAT, I accept. And then we can say that we are in tune.

Now, I do not know if I will be able to explain myself, but I would like to say a few words to these friends who have come from America because, as I have said, even there, the name of Luisa and her writings has spread among them and is still developing among very many. But, perhaps it is over there that there could be a greater danger, in that they could misunderstand her. Let us hope that I will be successful in explaining myself a little.

PASTORAL LETTER OF ARCHBISHOP CARMELO CASSATI FOR THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF LUISA PICCARRETA

Mons. CARMELO CASSATI
Archbishop of Trani-Barletta-Bisceglie
Titular of Nazareth
Trani, January 23, 1997

Dearest Priests, Consecrated Souls,
and Faithful of our Archdiocese,

LUISA PICCARRETA died in Corato on March 4, 1947. It has been 50 years since her death; and while in Corato she continues to be remembered as "Luisa the Saint," in very many parts of the world her name is known because of her writings.

These are composed principally of her "Diaries," which were handwritten by Luisa in obedience to her confessors. In them is seen the continuous preoccupation of wanting to imitate Jesus Christ in the best of ways, placing herself in harmony with the Will of God.

She prayed ardently that the KINGDOM OF THE DIVINE WILL would be established on earth; and, for this to happen, it is necessary for men to begin to know this ardent desire of God, because no one can appreciate a gift without having experienced it.

The DIVINE WILL is the most precious thing that can be imagined, and It is unveiled to us in the measure which God deigns to make It known.

St. Paul prayed that we would have a full knowledge of the Divine Will with every wisdom and spiritual intelligence. The just are sanctified in the measure in which they have appreciated and loved It; and Jesus spoke continually of his desire to do the "WILL OF THE FATHER."

Unfortunately, THE DIVINE WILL is the great unknown, notwithstanding the fact that It is spoken so much of in Sacred Scripture. This is because our sin brings us overbearingly to do our own will, turning away from the Divine Will.

The Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta, urges us to immerse ourselves in the Will of God. According to her, God created man in his image and likeness, adding a gift all His: THE GIFT OF HIS MOST ADORABLE WILL, so that man might act and live as a little God capable of conversing with his Creator.

The 50th anniversary of the death of Luisa "the Saint" might be for all of us the propitious occasion for an attentive study of her writings in order to feel closer to her.

We pray, also, for the good outcome of the Cause of her Beatification should it be in the Will of God that his Servant be exalted.

With affection,
Your Archbishop
+ signed (Mons. Carmelo Cassati)

ARCHBISHOP GUISEPPE CARATA
Archbishop Emeritus of Trani/Bari/Bisceglie &
Co-Founder of the Canonically approved "Association Luisa Piccarreta"
November 12, 1997

Dear friends,

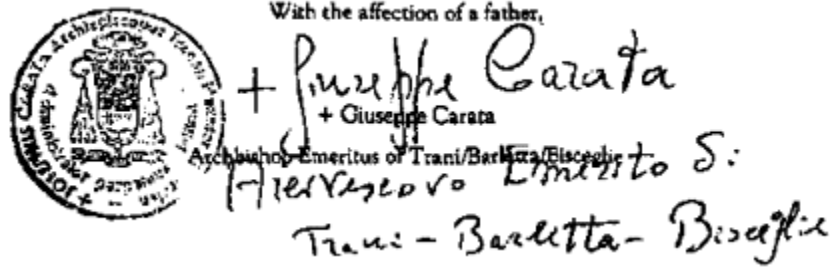
What a joy it is to have arrived at the best years of life and to reflect on so many years of having lived in the land of the saints, as our beautiful Apulia is often called. One of my greatest joys has been able to work so close with the Association which I co-founded in Corato, together with Sister Assunta Marigliano, and to now see that, we are ever closer to having a new saint. For us here in Corato she will never be "Saint Luisa," but will always be "Luisa the saint." As a seminarian in the late 1930's, our spiritual director shared Luisa's Writings with us students on a daily basis, and we were awed that a soul so intimate with God resided in our very midst.

During my many years of ministry in this Archdiocese I have seen Luisa loved, crucified, risen, and I know my days will not end until I see her exalted to the honor of the altar as, without any shadow of doubt, she deserves. The theology of her spirituality brings confusion to the intelligent, wonder and hope to the simple, and now brings a depth of understanding to the Church which, as I have always held, could very well be a new heavens and a new earth for all the faithful. The praises which I offer do not come from having served as rector of our pontifical seminary for fifteen years, but from many years of meditating our Lord's own prayer – let Your Will be done on earth as it is in heaven!

Be gentle with our Luisa, for she is our pride and joy. Honor the inheritance she has passed on to the world in her Writings. Pray for her intercession before the Trinity for your sanctification in God's very own Spirit, for this is the reason why we were created. It is a matter of glory – given, and shared – which will shepherd us through eternity. "If you only knew what it means not to live in the divine Fiat you would die rather than give life to your own will." These words, often spoken by our Lord to Luisa, have led me through my own episcopacy, and now that I may rest in my aged reflections, I can see that it is a wine in which I greatly delight.

God bless you all in your retreat. May you mature in love and holiness in your days of friendship and rejoicing.

Archbishop Guiseppe Carata



CAUSE OF BEATIFICATION OF THE SERVANT OF GOD LUISA PICCARRETA SECULAR, THIRD ORDER DOMINICAN

**Archdiocese of Trani - Barletta - Bisceglie
Diocesan Ecclesiastical Tribunal
Archebiscopale Curia
Via Beltrani, 9
70059 TRANI (Bari) Italy**

On December 18, 1997, Rev. Cosimo Reho, Professor of Dogmatic Theology, tendered his theological evaluation of the writing of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta, to the Diocesan Tribunal responsible for her Cause of Beatification.

Rev. Father Reho has determined that the writings of Luisa Piccarreta contained nothing contrary to Catholic faith or morals.

His findings, therefore, concur with the findings of Rev. Antonio Resta, Rector of the Pontifical Theological Institute of Southern Italy, who submitted his report to the same Tribunal on June 2, 1997. He also found nothing in Luisa Piccarreta's writings contrary to Catholic faith or morals.

These two independently commissioned theologians have arrived at the same conclusion of other esteemed theologians who have evaluated Luisa's writings at previous occasions during this century. It should be recalled that Blessed Hannibal Di Francia, who was Luisa's extraordinary confessor for 17 years, and was appointed by the Church to be the censor of her writings, also, found nothing contrary to Catholic faith or morals and granted the "Nihil Obstat" to the first 19 of her Volumes in 1926, shortly before his death, Archbishop Joseph Leo granted the Imprimatur to those Volumes, also in 1926.

The Official Theological review of Luisa's writings is now nearing completion. Any further theological evaluations will depend upon the judgement of the President of the Tribunal responsible for Luisa's Cause, Archbishop Carmelo Cassati, who, according to Church Protocol, is the only official judge in this matter. Later, when all the necessary work has been completed in the diocese where Luisa lived, the Cause will be forwarded to the Vatican, whose offices, gave the appropriate permissions to Archbishop Cassati to open Luisa's Cause in 1994.

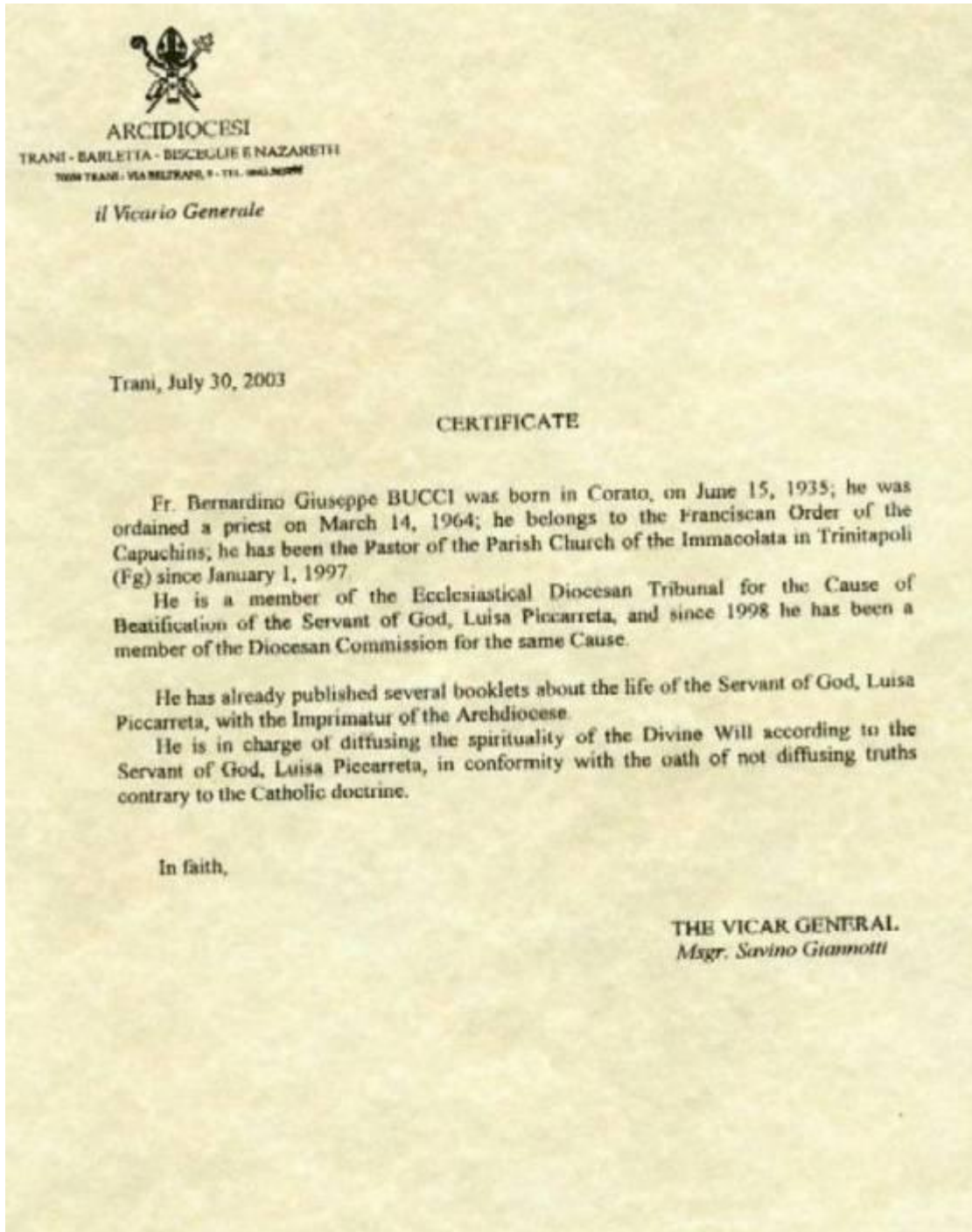
**DIOCESAN COMMISSION
Year 1998**

At the beginning of 1998, Archbishop Carmelo Cassati, President of the Tribunal for the Beatification of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta, established a Diocesan Commission and Office headquartered in Corato. Archbishop Cassati charged the Commission with the following responsibilities:

- The course of the Cause of Beatification.
- The spiritual activity of the Pious Association "Luisa Piccarreta P.F.D.V."
- The typical edition of the writings of Luisa (the Diaries).
- The coordination of the Centers that already exist and those which will be formed.

- Answering the numerous questions for clarification that arrive from all over the world.
- Inquiries can be addressed to the:

Diocesan Office
Via Carmine, 6
70033 Corato, (BA) ITALY
Phone/Fax: 011-39-080-898-6887





ARCIDIOCESI
TRANI - BARLETTA - BISCEGLIE E NAZARETH
78018 TRANI - VIA BELTRANO, 9 - TEL. 0884.364488

il Vicario Generale

Trani, August 5, 2003

COMMUNIQUE

With reference to the Cause of Beatification of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta, in process at the Archdiocese of Trani-Barletta-Bisceglie (Italy), we make known that, on October 10, an official communique was released concerning the work of the Postulation. The same communique indicates the future work itinerary in conformity with the Congregation for the Causes of Saints of the Holy See, issued in 1983.

This communique reports the rights acquired by the Archdiocese concerning the property of the writings of Luisa Piccarreta and the juridical norms for the use of these rights.

Therefore, those who, in the past, have worked for the diffusion of some of the writings of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta, have been discharged. Only the printing operation of Mr. Gamba from Bergamo (Italy) and the printing operation of Thomas Fahy in Jacksonville, FL (USA), were given permission to deplete what they had already printed, but without any Imprimatur or Nihil Obstat on the part of the Archdiocese.

The Tribunal of the Postulation of the Cause of Beatification of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta, after the resignation of His Excellency, Most Reverend Msgr. Cassati and of some priests, has been newly constituted. Msgr. Felice Posa, Father Michael Adams, Father John Brown, are no longer members of the Tribunal.

Currently, the Ecclesiastical Tribunal is composed of:
Msgr. Pietro Ciraselli, President; Most Reverend Fr. Bernardino Bucci, Promoter of the Faith; Doctor Giuseppe Iurilli, Secretary; Msgr. Giuseppe Asciano, Actuary.

Fr. Giuseppe Iannuzzi was never given any position from the Archdiocese of Trani-Barletta-Bisceglie. He is interested in concluding his studies on mystical life, studying the writings of Luisa Piccarreta, which have not been recognized by the Archdiocese to date, nor was he ever given any responsibility as censor or preacher.

In faith,

THE VICAR GENERAL
Msgr. Savino Giannotti

CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH

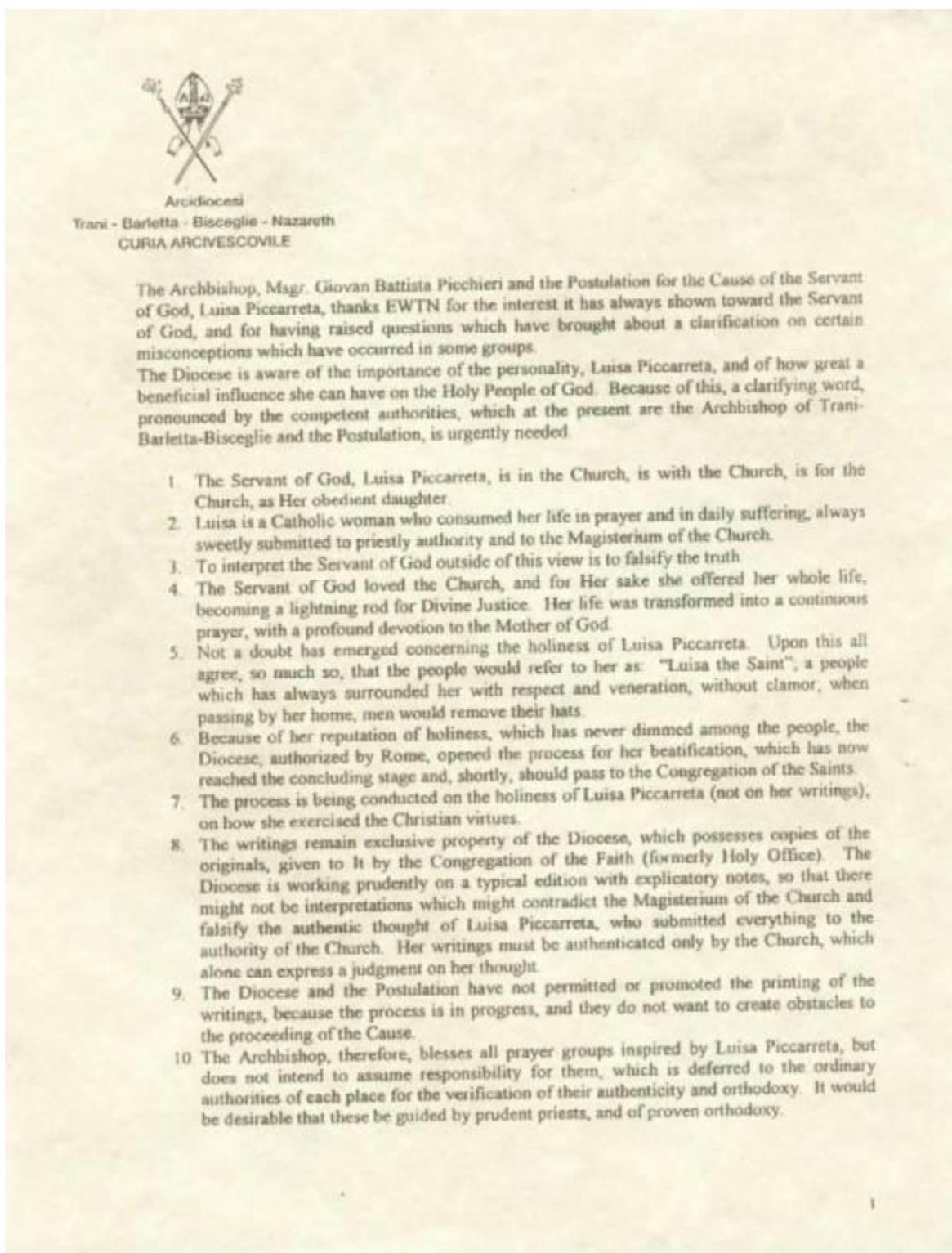
Letter to EWTN

4 October 2003

The writings of Luisa Piccarreta have not been judged by this Dicastery: as such they enjoy neither the official approbation, nor the official condemnation, of this Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. In fact, they are currently being studied, by reason of competence, by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, after this Servant of God,

independently of the content of her writings, received the nihil obstat of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith regarding her cause for beatification.

As such, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith makes, at this time, no pronouncement on the writings in question.



11. EWTN is exhorted to publicize the figure of the Servant of God as much as possible, without going into her writings. It is a good for all to recognize the Servant of God as a gift of God to the Church and as an authentic daughter of the Church.
12. To exhort the groups to imitate Luisa in prayer and to form true groups of prayer; to earnestly pray God to glorify this creature of His on earth, to plead, through her, for a kingdom of peace for all men.
13. If signs or miracles should take place through the intercession of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta, it is necessary to notify the Postulation, with precise and serious documentation.
14. No one can be authorized to diffuse the writings of the Servant of God through inappropriate publications. It is licit to diffuse only the writings concerning the biography of the Servant of God, that she may become ever more known. In the near future, as soon as the Diocese has examined all of the writings, it will certainly give them to the Congregation for the Cult of Saints. At the present moment, other unauthorized initiatives can be an obstacle to the "Cause in Process". The Congregation of the Saints will indicate the representative from the Holy See and the censors of the writings. The Postulation will take care of any informing about all the stages concerning the Cause, and hopes that the conclusion of the process before the Congregation of the Saints, about the holiness of the Servant of God, may soon be reached, so that she may be declared Venerable by the Church. We state that, by official document, the Archdiocese is the only proprietor of that which belongs to Luisa Piccarreta. Currently, the Archdiocese maintains all rights over the writings and their printing. The violation of these writings will be punished according to the laws in force.

THE VICAR GENERAL
Msgr. Savino Giannotti