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The Founder's Prayer

Father Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan was a man of prayer. He 'prayed his life', his work, his achievements and sufferings. His experience of God was so deep that everything in his life was related to prayer, which was full of confidence, and always aimed at fulfilling the will of God.

Like Jesus, he spent hours in prayer and contemplation, preferably during the night, and recommended that his spiritual sons and daughters do the same. He sought 'light from above' as he prayed for the gift of discernment to know if his foundation project was in fact the work of God – for the glory of God and the good of souls – or whether he was following human aspirations. After much prayer and consultation with competent people, he discovered that God was calling him to carry out great things: *"In God, through God, with God, for God the Almighty!"* In moments of despair, distress and persecution, he found strength in prayer to keep up the fight.

He considered himself a good son of the Virgin Mary. He venerated her with love, confided his secret joys and sorrows to her, and imitated her Magnificat. A proof of this was the habit of placing little notes in the hands of the image of Our Lady that was in the corridor at the entrance to his room.

His love for the Eucharist, the Cross, and the Mother of the Savior were, from the very beginning, the supporting columns of the foundations with which he enriched the Church. Let us be men and women of prayer like our Founder!

Bishop Tulio Duque SDS