

portrait gallery

Dun Ġorġ Preca

b. 1880 d. 1962

Born in Valletta on 12 February 1880, Dun Ġorġ was the son of Vincenzo Preca and Natalina Ceravolo. On 22 December 1906 he was ordained priest. The next year he founded the Society *Magister, utinam sequatur Evangelium universus mundus* (MUSEUM), which in 1913 was to participate, as a corporate body, in the XXIV International Eucharistic Congress celebrated in Malta. In 1932 Bishop Mauro Caruana published the decree which established the canonical constitution of the Society, henceforth officially known as *Societas Doctrinae Christianae*.

This spiritual movement is a living monument to Dun Ġorġ. It grew steadily until it spread not only throughout Malta and Gozo but even among Maltese migrants overseas.

On 2 October 1952 Pope Pius XII appointed Dun Ġorġ Preca Monsignor. The year before he had blessed the foundation stone of St. Michael School which the Society had intended to set up. In 1954 work started on the Museum Headquarters at Blata l-Bajda. In 1957 the Society celebrated its Golden Jubilee. Dun Ġorġ was a symbol of saintliness and humility, a great spiritual leader, a profound orator and a prolific writer. He had over a hundred publications of a religious, moral and ethical nature, addressed partly to the members of his Society, partly to the general reader. These include, for example, the six-volumed *Cathedra, Programmi Spiritwali* (7 vols.), *Is-Santwarju tal-Volontà t'Alla* and *Ix-Xbieha t'Alla*.

Dun Ġorġ died at St. Venera on 26 July 1962, bequeathing to his followers a legacy of "deep spiritual conviction, moral strength and the courage to speak the word of God".

