

www.giorgioliguoriperlacalabria.it

**Online weekly magazine of cultural
political, religious and social up-to-date news**

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A website dedicated to Giorgio Liguori (1922-1970), a doctor lent to politics for the social liberation of the «last ones» of his land, the first regional councillor of Calabria who died while accomplishing his mandate. Almost forty years after his tragic death, many people still remember him for his political and social care felt like a mission, at others' service.

The site reports several sources dating back to the 50ties and more recent ones (documents, published and unpublished writings, witnesses, images...) which, altogether, outline the history of a man of humble origins, who became doctor and then committed to politics. Through his action and work we now reconstruct an extraordinary and lively social context which waned progressively after his death», stresses Riccardo Liguori, Giorgio's son, journalist in Perugia, who is editing his father's biography and realized the website with the help of an editorial staff. This consists of young Calabrian and Umbrian journalists, webmasters, history and social studies enthusiasts. The editorial staff operates in Perugia, town hosting several Calabrians where the Association «Friends of Calabria and Umbria» has been operating for several years. Giorgio Liguori himself was ideally attached to Umbria, to its saints and to its solidarity examples.

Objective of the website is to preserve and hand down to posterity the historical memory of figures like Giorgio Liguori and his social and cultural context. This is a past which can't be lost, but has to be studied in depth because of its topicality in several respects.

It is fascinating to be able to do that through the most innovative communication tool, Internet, largely used by the youth whom Liguori was attentive to and whom he used to help in their needs.

The 14 pages of the site: «Alto Jonio in brief», with its geographical, social, religious and historical outlines; «Poems and writings in his memory»; «Pictures of a simple life among people and his beloved ones and in the institutions»; «Ideas and programmes still topical today»; «documents and political-electoral fragments»; «conferences and events»; «electoral data...»; «the news» about culture, politics, religion and society; «press review of yesterday and today»; «contributions to and reviews of the site»; «the first 40 Regional councillors of Calabria».

Who was Giorgio Liguori?

He was born on 1st October 1922 in Montegiordano (CS – Italy), where he worked as a medical and health officer. Along with other men of humble origin he entered politics, the one Pope Paul VI defined as «the highest form of charity». He was a convinced Christian, strong devout of Saint Rita da Cascia, fascinated by the life of the thaumaturge, especially by Her great teachings: forgiveness, reconciliation, closeness to the neighbour. Teachings he tried, though with his limits, to put into practice with his family and friends as well as in his profession and his political-social commitment. A lot of people still remember his smile and his great availability to dialogue, to listen to others' reasons.

In 1952 he joined the DC (Democrazia Cristiana party) and organized the party in his village and in Calabrian «Alto Jonio» (16 municipalities with an overall population, at that time, of about 50.000 people), where the Right was very deep-rooted.

His political career was remarkable: he held management positions within the party at provincial level, was elected several times to the national congresses of the party; from 1960 to 1970 he was also provincial councillor (Province of Cosenza) and in 1962 he became personnel councillor of the first Centre-Left provincial government of Southern Italy, chaired by Antonio Guarasci, influential figure of Calabrian DC. In 1963 he travelled to USA, where he attended the III Italian Congress of Forensic Medicine (New York and Washington, 22nd September - 1st October). One of his most outstanding achievements was the establishment of the personnel organization of the Province of Cosenza, approved unanimously by the Provincial Council in 1964. He also played an important role in the process of relaunch or start-up of other local bodies (Alto Jonio Mountain Community, «Ferro e Sparviero» land-reclamation Syndacate, Industrial nucleus of Sibari, etc.)

After presenting his candidature to the Chamber of Deputies in 1968, to serve his party, in 1970 he was elected to the Regional Council of Calabria with more than 11 thousand preferential votes. He was one of forty councillors of the first legislature who took part in the Statute Commission formed by fifteen members; this Commission had to work in a climate of strong social tension which culminated in the risings of Reggio. Six months after the installation of the Regional Council, on 21st December, he died in a car accident on the motorway A3 Salerno – Reggio Calabria while driving to take part in a meeting of the Regional Council. After more than 24 hours his body was found not far from his car which ended up under a viaduct several metres high.

His sudden death caused a huge emptiness among those who had met him and had placed in him their hopes for a better life, thanks to a social liberation that still today stays unaccomplished.

Edited by Francesco Mundo