## The Servant of God Rev. Fr Francesco Maria Margotta, C.SS.R. (1699-1764)

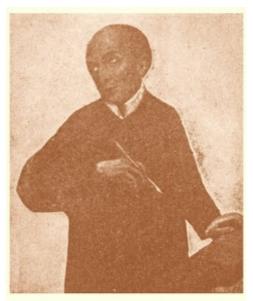
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Father was born at Calitri in Italy in 1699 and entered the Redemptorists in 1747. Of note is at the age of 30 he fell gravely ill and his director, the great Servant of God, Don Giuliani, having been called in great haste found him dead upon his arrival. Father Giuliani several times repeated this prayer to Our Lord: "My Jesus, I wish him alive for Thy glory, yes I wish it; it is a grace that Giuliani asks of Thee, and Thou must grant it to him." He repeated the prayer until the young man returned to life.

He was later ordained priest and entered the Redemptorists, making his profession on 2 July, 1748. As one of St. Alphonsus' first disciples he became procurator general just a year after his vows at the first General Chapter of 1749. His outstanding qualities gained for him many friendships, including those of numerous distinguished persons who assisted him during his final illness.

He was the companion and friend of St. Gerard Majella. Father Margotta died on 11 August, 1764, as the result of an epidemic, assisted by charitable confreres and regretted by the people, above all by St Alphonsus, who had lost in him one of his most devoted friends. †





Fr Margotta from an old portrait.