



1817-2017

To all the

**SSCC Brothers
SSCC Sisters
Members of the Secular Branch**

Rome, 17th November 2016

Bicentenary of the pontifical approbation of the Congregation 1817 - 2017

Dear brothers and sisters:

“The divine Master appears to be opening his Heart to us and is saying to us: Come to me, all of you”. This is how the Good Father expressed himself when he announced the news that Pope Pius VII had just approved the Constitutions of the new Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary and of perpetual adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

It is already two centuries since that pontifical approbation. On the 10th January 1817, the Pope recognized the Congregation as a family in the Church, the fruit of a true gift of the Spirit: the SSCC charism, received through our Founders. The Constitutions which were then approved gave citizenship to the SSCC religious men and women and the Exterior Association (which we know today as the Secular Branch). Two hundred years of this recognition are now being celebrated. We are all rejoicing.

The General Governments of the sisters and brothers are inviting the whole SSCC family to make 2017 a year of thanksgiving, celebration and reflection on our identity in the Church.

Each community and each area will look for ways to make the most of this special time. On our part, we are proposing the following dates and activities, which could mark the celebration of this bicentenary.

- **10th January 2017:** beginning of the jubilee year. This is the date of the approbation in 1817. It would be good to mark this day with meetings, celebration of the Eucharist, etc.
- **23rd November 2017:** Feast of the Good Mother. We will take this date as the day to mark the closure of the bicentenary. Some days before, we will have been celebrated on the **17th November**, the 200 years of the promulgation of the Bull “Pastor Aeternus” (known as the “Bula Sub Plumbo”), with which Pope Pius VII confirmed the approbation of the Congregation.

- You will receive a computerized presentation with the explanation of the content of the **Bull “Pastor Aeternus”**.
- **Poitiers Session:** from the 2nd until the 22nd July 2017, a new “Poitiers session” will take place, with the theme “Being useful to the Church”. As you know, it is a study session, which will take place in the foundational places of the Congregation, the aim of which is to strengthen the SSCC missionary spirit.
- An international meeting of the **Secular Branch:** from the 24th to the 29th July 2017, representatives from all the Secular Branch groups throughout the world will meet in El Escorial (Spain). It will be the first international meeting of this type. The aim is to allow the lay members of the Secular Branch to get to know each other and to search together for orientations for the future for their lay commitment inspired by the charism of the Congregation.
- **Day of adoration:** on Thursday **22nd June 2017**, the vigil of the Feast of the Sacred Heart, we will be asking everyone to make an hour of adoration at 20.00 (8 PM). In this way, following the time zones of each country, the whole Congregation will make continual adoration for 24 hours. In it, we will give thanks to God for the gift of the Congregation and we will ask for light for our mission today. Put it in your diaries as of now.

Through INFO and other means of communication, you will receive more information about these events and material for reflection and celebration.

Let us celebrate this event with joy and let us use this opportunity to renew our identity and mission in the Church.

In the love of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary,



Emperatriz Arrobo ssc
Superiora General



Javier Álvarez-Ossorio ssc
Superior General