

About Our Economy

Alberto Toutin ssc
Superior General

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Dear brothers,

Fraternal greetings from Rome, and my best wishes for this new year that we have begun. This letter was sent earlier to all the superiors of the major communities, regions and delegations. Now we are sending it to all the brothers.

Through this letter, we wish to share with you some of the reflections that took place last month in Rome involving the General Government, Ignacio Moreno, the new General Econome and Raja Sebastian, the outgoing General Econome. In this letter we want to capture in some way the impact that the pandemic is having on the economies of the world, in our countries and in the Congregation. The pandemic has impoverished our economic resources and forced us to adopt more sober lifestyles and be in greater solidarity with those who have found themselves in precarious situations. We have realised that we cannot continue to live with the standard of living (consumption, travel) that we had before the pandemic. At the same time, we need to rethink our ways of operating economically, whether regarding work or solidarity within the Congregation. All these issues are not new among us.

The desire to rethink our economic way of working and our way of life had surfaced before the pandemic. However, the pandemic has revealed – supported by the hard force of facts - that we need to integrate some of our practices in such a way that they can be effective in helping us to change. Therefore, this letter seeks to open up a space for reflection and dialogue in the Congregation concerning the economic situation of the Congregation and our ways of functioning, with a view to introducing the changes required by the discernment of these present times in order to better serve the mission. We have asked the superiors to discuss this letter with their respective governments and with their finance commissions and/or advisors. We also asked that the letter be discussed in community meetings, assemblies and other occasions. Finally, we have asked the superiors to collect the synthesis of the comments, corrections, additions or proposals to this reflection from the communities and to send it to the General Econome, Ignacio Moreno, by 27th March 2021. These contributions will then be collected and integrated into a new document which we hope to send you on 1st May, 2021. In this way we will have a broader view of what the whole Congregation thinks about this topic.

We do appreciate your collaboration. May the Feast day of the Epiphany of the Lord reveal to us the ways by which we can find and serve him in our poorest brothers and sisters.

Fraternally,

Alberto Toutin ssc
Superior General