



Letter of the Superiors General

Roma, 24 June 2022

A HEART THAT KNOWS HOW TO LISTEN

Dear sisters, brothers and Secular Branch members,

On these feast days of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, for all of you, we echo the request that Solomon made of the Lord, when the Lord visited him during his sleep at Gibeon: "Grant, O Lord your servant, a listening heart to judge your people, to discern between good and evil" (1 Kgs 3:9).

Attentive, lucid and empathetic listening to the men and women of our time helps prepare us to recognize what the Lord is saying to us through them. We cannot listen to God without listening to our brothers and sisters. What happens to them touches our hearts and indeed touches the very heart of God.

Our founders – Pierre Coudrin and Henriette - wanted listening to be our first and vigilant response to the love of God manifested in the hearts of Jesus and Mary. Both were attentive to the men and women of their time, they allowed themselves to be affected by the turbulent events they lived through and they knew how to discern in such events the activity of God. The very congregation they founded they clearly conceived as "God's work". In order to know what was to be done, their first question for God was this: where are you in all of this and what do you want us to do in your name?

To learn from our founders how to listen to God and understand his acting in our world and in our time, we invite you to watch four videos "In the footsteps of the founders" made by the professed brothers of the Province of France. Thank you, brothers, for this gift you are giving us. Each of these 15-minute videos connects us with the itinerary of Pierre Coudrin and Henriette reflecting on their family, and the social and ecclesial context in which they lived.

The **first video**: "Land and Seed" narrates the family origins of Pierre Coudrin and Henriette. Link: <https://youtu.be/2kwGSS-U4vI>

The **second video**: "Flowers in the heart of winter" presents Pierre Coudrin and Henriette and their commitment to the persecuted Church during the dawn of the French Revolution, in the Poitiers region. Link: <https://youtu.be/W6kg2UblLkw>

The **third video**: "The Nursery" recounts the formation of the community in Poitiers, its first steps and the vows of the founding group. Link: https://youtu.be/Ue_gEziDHF0

The **fourth video**, "Taking root in the Church and before the world", evokes the arrival of the Congregation in Paris, in particular in Picpus and the presence of Our Lady of Peace, who sustains the growth and mission of the community. Link: <https://youtu.be/PKo3GbPjL-w>



We hope that these videos, whether watched in a community meeting, or viewed as part of a retreat, or shown to young people, secular branch meetings, etc. will help us all to keep our hearts grateful for what God has done and continues to do in the world and through us. Let us be vigilant so that like Pierre Coudrin and Henriette, we may respond with generosity and audacity to God's calls.

Fraternally in the SSCC,

Patricia Villarroel ssc
Superior General

Alberto Toutin ssc
Superior General