



Letter of the Superior Generals

Rome, 27 March 2024
Feast of the Good Father

"INTERCEDING FOR US"

Dear brothers, sisters and Secular Branch members,

The Good Father has surely felt in these last days that we are counting more on him, on his intercession. He is being addressed in languages he never knew: Bahasa, English, Japanese, Spanish – not forgetting the language of Bossuet! The Good Mother is saying something similar. Their sons and daughters are seeking their intercession and asking them to be with them at the forthcoming General Chapters.

"Yes, down below, they remember us - especially every six years" sighs the Good Father to the Good Mother.

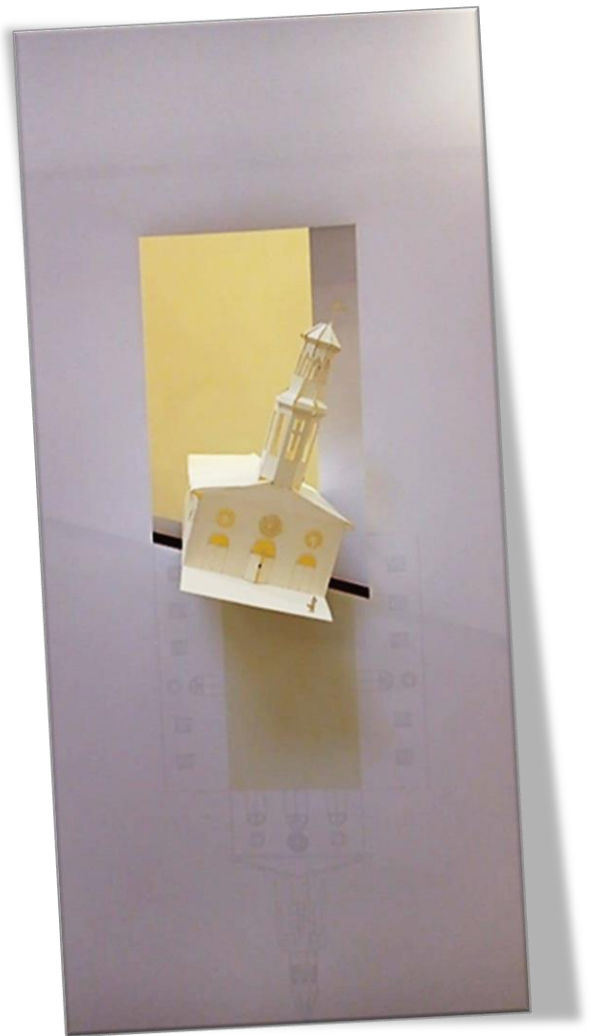
"Don't exaggerate," replies the Good Mother, "our children remember us more than you think. I assure you that our brothers, sisters and lay members often remember us with affection".

"They must be very needy to remember us just now," mutters the Good Father.

The Good Mother, who did not hear this comment and as if she was recalling a conversation spoke her thoughts aloud, says: "How our family has grown! Look, we are still in Picpus and Poitiers and we are also in Kinshasa, in Tomobe, La Paz - that reminds me of what you used to call me - in Fiji, Berlin, in Bogota, Calcutta, Bojai, in Mentawai, ...".

"Menta... what?" - asks the Good Father, clearing his voice. "Mentawai in Sumatra, Indonesia", she replies and then continues in a serene voice: "Isn't that what we dreamed of, that brothers and sisters would take the Gospel everywhere?"

"Amazing work of God! -The Good Father adds with a certain emotion in his voice, "Isn't it really? The work he began with us – using two badly polished planks - God continues to carry forward".





"Badly polished planks...". "Hmm...", says the Good Mother with a slight smile, "You speak for yourself, my dear Good Father!"

"I see our sons and daughters, some very hard-working, others resigned to the fact that they cannot do many things, other than pray and entrust the Congregation to the good Lord Jesus. How I would like them to see with gratitude how God continues his work and that what is important is not how much or how little each one does, but the willingness of each to seek and support the ways of God's Provident Love!"

The Good Mother gave her answer: "Yes, it is true, but you must recognise that it is clearer from here. Let us take comfort in seeing that the Good Lord continues to count on our family to carry on his tireless work".

"Do you remember," says the Good Father to the Good Mother, "almost at the beginning of our family, how someone told us about the prophecies of a venerable Jesuit, Father Nicotou, who foresaw how our congregation would appear and achieve great things?"

"Yes", she replied, "I remember, and you were kind enough to ask this person to talk to me in the belief that important decisions should not be taken alone. Also that day he said something that marked me and that I think it says a lot about our way of collaborating with God's work: "Great projects, maybe. But you cannot be great doers, other than through humility". Humility does not mean not valuing ourselves or not committing ourselves to what has been entrusted to us. Humility is letting the hand of God move us to do great things, despite our limitations, to shine ever more brightly in us so that in response to the good that we can do for the Church and for others, people say: "It is the Lord who continues to do his work discreetly and mysteriously".

**"Humility is
letting the hand of God
move us to do great things"**

"Our life hangs by a thread, but that thread is carried by a great cable. Let us always have hope".

They both remain silent for a while. And then the Good Mother says to the Good Father: "Shall we listen to what our sons and daughters are asking of us?"

Faternally,

Patricia Villarroel scc
Superior General

Alberto Toutin scc
Superior General



ADORATION

for the Feast of the Good Father 2024

“Let us be seekers of God”

We are sons and daughters of a long history of fidelity to God. There are so many brothers and sisters who have passed through this world doing good, which makes us heirs of a beautiful treasure left to us by our Founders and which continues. As we celebrate the feast of our Good Father, we gather in his memory to adore God.

We are now responsible for keeping this gift alive and making it bear fruit amid the different realities and people with whom we live and share our lives, drawing out the best of ourselves without taking anything away.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

HYMN: *No me esconderé:* <https://lc.cx/Mnwvg6>

Good Father, once again, your sons and daughters are gathered in your memory in the presence of God. We want to place ourselves at His feet and adore Him as you asked us to do from the first day of the birth of your religious family, and we do so with your same words, feelings, and recommendations.

“Let us remain, in his presence, filled with a respect like that of the angels who surround him. He is the most tender friend to the souls who seek to please Him; His goodness knows how to mould itself to the smallest of creatures as well as to the greatest. Do not be afraid, then, in those solitary conversations, to speak to Him of your miseries, your fears, your boredom, of those dear to you, of your plans and your hopes; do it confidentially and open-heartedly. See, my daughter, how holy Job poured out his heart; in his great trials he cried out: "Oh, what heavenly joy and consolation when God was, secretly, in my house! when the Almighty was with me!"

(GF RECOMMENDATIONS ON ADORATION).

HYMN

SILENCE

BIBLICAL TEXT: Heb 10: 21-24

«Because we have a high priest over all the House of God, let us approach with a sincere heart, and filled with faith, interiorly cleansed from a bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us keep firm in the hope we profess, because the one who made the promise is faithful. Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works».



The apostle Paul, the one with a heart that was in love with God, encouraged the Hebrew community to remain faithful to God as he is faithful to his people, suggesting to us that the way to do so is through mutual love and good works. In the same way that Paul encouraged his community, you, Good Father, continue to do so in us, your children. Once again, we echo your words:

"It only remains for me, dear brothers and sisters, to make one wish: that God has not lavished his graces on us in vain; that you may be faithful to the observance of our holy Rules. This fidelity will be your consolation on earth and will ensure your everlasting happiness. Our brothers and sisters who have preceded us and have passed on to a better life were convinced of this great truth. They edified you by their virtues, their steadfastness, their obedience, their spirit of detachment and sacrifice, and we have the tender confidence that their death was precious in the sight of the Lord. Strive to imitate them: the same crown awaits you".

(CIRCULAR LETTER OF THE GOOD FATHER TO THE WHOLE CONGREGATION, 11 February 1826.
He asked that it be read twice a year in each community).

HYMN

Pope Francis says in his homily to consecrated men and women (2 February 2024):

"Brothers and sisters, *waiting for God* is also important for us, for our faith journey. Every day the Lord visits us, speaks to us, reveals himself in unexpected ways and, at the end of life and time, he will come. He himself exhorts us to stay awake, to be vigilant, to persevere in waiting. Indeed, the worst thing that can happen to us is to let "our spirit doze off", to let the heart fall sleep, to anesthetize the soul, to lock hope away in the dark corners of disappointment and resignation.

I think of you, consecrated sisters and brothers, and of the gift that you are. I think of us Christians today: are we still capable of waiting? Are we not at times too caught up in ourselves, in things and in the intense rhythm of daily life to the point of forgetting God who always comes? Are we not too enraptured by our good works, which runs the risk of turning even religious and Christian life into having "many things to do" and neglecting the daily search for the Lord? Don't we sometimes risk planning personal and community life by calculating the odds of success, instead of cultivating the small seed entrusted to us with joy and humility, with the patience of those who sow without expecting anything and those who know how to wait for God's time and let him surprise us? We must recognize at times that we have lost *the ability to wait*".

SILENCE

This year we find ourselves in the time of preparation for our next General Chapters. Let us once again place our Congregation of brothers, sisters, and lay people into God's hands.

The **Good Father** in his Circular convoking the first General Chapter of 20 July 1819, tells us:

"You will understand, our dearest brothers, that it is very important to draw upon our deliberations the lights of the Holy Spirit; we therefore commit you and all our brothers to ask the Lord with constant prayer to bless our efforts".



This is why we ask the Holy Spirit to accompany and guide us at this time, making our own the words of **Pope Francis** on the day of the Epiphany of the Lord, which he seems to have written for us at this moment in time:

“Brothers and sisters, like the Magi, let us lift up our eyes to heaven, set out in search of the Lord and bow in adoration. Let us look up to heaven, embark on a journey and adore. And let us ask for the grace never to lose heart, never to lose the courage to be seekers of God, men and women of hope, intrepid dreamers who search the heavens; the courage to persevere along the paths of the world, with the weariness of the true journey, and the courage to adore, the courage to look up to the Lord who enlightens every person. May the Lord grant us this grace, above all the grace to know how to adore”.

We invite you to pray the **PRAYER OF THE GENERAL CHAPTERS**:

*God, our Father,
you have called your servants
Henriette Aymer de la Chevalerie and Marie-Joseph Coudrin
to found a new religious Congregation in the Church
to spread throughout the world
the infinite riches of your love
manifested in the Heart of Jesus, your Son
and in the Heart of Mary, his Mother.*

May their witness help us to love and to make others love the Gospel.

*May their ardent zeal and confident prayer
sustain and enlighten us.*

*May their audacity inspire brothers, sisters and lay people,
as we prepare for the forthcoming General Chapters,
to walk with Jesus alongside all men and women
who promote peace and justice.*

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

AMEN.

HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

The **Good Father** had a special affection for the Virgin Mary, to her heart he entrusted himself and to her he had recourse. He said:

“Let us console ourselves in our sorrows, thinking that Mary was and will always be our protector, our support, that we will always have a share in the affections of her heart. We need to have recourse to her when God withdraws, in our sorrows, in our desolations, in our infidelities; she will pray for us if we invoke her instead of being desolate”.

(CIRCULAR LETTER OF APPROBATION OF THE CONGREGATION, 14 April 1817, p. 4).

HYMN: *Salve*
