

News of the Director General

Volume 11 ♦ Number 4

October 2020

Missionaries First as Baptized Persons

Dear Friends,

Last month, we consecrated the monthly letter to the *mission* of our Institute with its own characteristics. This time, again in the light of the *Constitutions*, I would like to examine with you our mission first as baptized persons : Here is what is written in paragraph 6 of Chapter II of our *Constitutions* :

The spirituality of the Institute is none other than that of the baptized in the Church : a life of communion with the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit. In accord with the will of God, each member endeavours to develop in a special way the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity, as well as the cardinal virtues of justice, prudence, fortitude, and temperance. These are the foundation of a spiritual balance that shapes the members of the Institute into true witnesses of Christ in the world.

Within the Church, we are first of all the baptized people who live, like all the other baptized, our spiritual life in communion with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and also in communion with our brothers and sister in Jesus Christ. It is important to grasp well this basic notion so as not to place ourselves, consciously or not, in a position of superiority compared to other baptized people who have the same privileges as us: we are all priests, prophets and kings because of our baptism (1 Peter 2 : 4-10). Our consecration does not elevate us above the other baptized persons; it only confirms our baptism and renders us more aware of our responsibilities and our privileges as sons and daughters of God in Jesus Christ.

This is what prompts Pope Francis, among other things, to consider all baptized as chosen missionaries. Indeed, *World Mission Day 2020* opens under this theme : « *Send Me* ». The Holy Father reminds us that God continually asks us all the eternal question: "Whom shall I send?" We are all qualified by the fact of our baptism to be sent to proclaim the Risen Christ, to proclaim the Good News of salvation.

Moreover, this year, in the context of COVID-19, he invites us even more to «*reach out*» . . . This is not a call to civil disobedience, let us understand well what he means. To «*reach out*» is more of a state of mind, an inner attitude that makes us think of others rather than of ourselves. It is to be together in the same boat, in solidarity with each other, in this « storm » that is the pandemic. As baptized persons, it is to adopt a positive attitude while living the present moment ; it is to take time to listen to the distress of others, to take the time to pray with them, to connect with them via telephone or video-conference. In our daily prayers of intercessions, it is to take the time to pray for universal situations, for the intentions of the Church, for refugees, and for the poorest on earth. During our visits outside our homes, it also means that we apply ourselves to follow the sanitary measures requested of us, out of respect for others and also by the responsibility entrusted to us as baptized people.

Dear members, to act in this way is to live in conformity with the will of God, striving to develop the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity, as well as the cardinal virtues of justice, prudence,

fortitude and temperance. To act this way is to live the foundation of a balanced spiritual life that will make us true missionaries of Christ in the world.

Thought of Father Parent

«Let's give to others the kindness that we have received from God and with which they will part without nothing being taken away from us. » (*Louis-Marie Parent, omi*).

News of the DG

During this month of October in union with the universal Church let us be missionaries conscious of the power of our baptism. Let's be missionaries also through the intercession of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, our Mother in heaven, the very Holy Virgin Mary whose solemnity we mark on October 7th as well as October 13th the last date of the apparition at Fatima.

Thanks to the rosary, we conquer the spiritual battles that confront us.

The next meeting of the Central Council will take place on October 26th. Thank you for your prayers.

Birthdays

11 October, *Anthony CIORRA* Director of the District of the United States celebrates his gift of life.

29 October, *Andrew SIOLETI*, Assistant Director General celebrates his gift of life.

Anniversaries of Marriage

28 October, *Valerio PORTORREAL and Martha BAUTISTA* of the Dominican Republic will celebrate their 25th.

Anniversaries of Stability

26 October, *Pilar Maximinio MATOS SÁNCHEZ* of the Dominican Republic will celebrate his 25th.

26 October, *Dionicio REYES GONZÁLEZ* of the Dominican Republic will celebrate his 25th.

Anniversaries of Incorporation

2 October, *Michael CHELLAYAN and Valsala MICHAEL* of Kerala (India), 25th.

2 October, *Varghese GENARDHANAN and Vimala THANKAYYAN* of Kerala (India), 25th.

5 October, *Héctor Justo SÁNCHEZ DÍAZ* of the Dominican Republic, 25th.

7 October, *John REMIGIUS* of Tamil Nadu (India), 25th.

I invite you to pray for these persons as well as for all members that will celebrate whatever anniversary during the month of October. May God continue to bless them and accompany them in their life journey.

S. James Dunstan I.V.Dei
Director General