

News of the Director General

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Pray, Fast and Sacrifice!

Dear friends,

We are already in November. Time goes so rapidly and many things have happened in 2020. We are in the second wave of COVID - 19; no medication is found. We celebrate all Saints, all souls and we begin the beautiful time of advent during this month. I recall the scripture passage: *"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel"* (Mk, 1:15). With all that are happening now, what is our goal? Where are we journeying? What does this year 2020 teach us? I would agree with Saint Paul who wrote to the Colossians saying that God delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col, 1:13 - 14). In spite of all these killing viruses, we are still living. There is a reason, and we have to fulfill it. It is possible only through prayer, fasting and sacrifices with the fast world which has also brought everything fast.

The *first five* of our Institute's Spirituality reminds us again now to live a life of intimacy with the Lord through daily prayer: reading of the Bible, meditation, Holy Eucharist - the highest prayer ever, spending time in front of Blessed Sacrament and the intercession of the Blessed Mother. These spiritual exercises stamp our personality, direct the will, create a solid relationship with God only when we put them into practice. Do we really take time to be in prayer? The first letter of John says, *"Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth,"* (1John 3:18). Sometimes I question myself: Do I pray enough, or do I justify myself by telling some excuses? Prayer is the spiritual weapon that keeps all to fight against evil. Let us pray, fast and make little sacrifices for the Lord in order to focus on prayer and to seek God's will.

Temporal life is transitory; Eternal life is the permanent. This month we celebrate first all Saints. They are the models who led their lives with beautiful examples and achieved the glory of God. This feast reminds us to homage to all those who have stood out for their charity, for their faith, for their prayer life and for their sacrifices in a Christian way of life: as ordained ministers, as laity or as consecrated persons. We also remember the souls who believed in God, led their lives to the best of their ability and in transition to the promised Kingdom of Heaven. In the transitory life, it is our responsibility to pray, fast and make some sacrifices for the loved ones, unremembered souls and the unprepared souls. Last but not least, we celebrate the beginning of the beautiful season of Advent. It is the memory of the first coming of Jesus who came to reconcile us with God and the invitation to prepare ourselves in repentance and prayer for our encounter with Saviour, the Bridegroom.

All this pandemic situation that we are living now and all the catastrophes around the world show us that God is calling us urgently to conversion. Let us conscientiously prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus through constant prayer, fasting and offering small sacrifices in our daily lives. I invite you all to spend an extra moment of prayer, fasting (sacrifice one little thing that you like) and share that little thing as a sacrifice to the good of a person. This we will do for the conversion of the whole world and for the end of the pandemic. Let us all be united in special prayers. God bless us all.

Thought of Father Parent

"It is necessary to have the spirit of prayer in order to become holy as it is to have intelligence in order to think..." (Louis-Marie Parent, omi)

News from the DG

On November 2nd, let us have a special thought for all our deceased members, benefactors and especially for those who departed this year. Let us think about our Founder, Fr. Louis-Marie PARENT, who is already in the glory of the Father, and let us pray for the deceased members of our families.

Our next Central Council meeting will take place on November 30th. We thank you in advance for your prayers.

Birthdays

On November 2nd, Richard NORMANDIN, from Canada, volunteer at the Central House, will celebrate his birthday.

On November 3rd, Patricia BLANDON, affiliate and Accountant at the Central House, will celebrate her birthday.

On November 5th, Marie-Andrée GROARKE, volunteer at the Central House, will celebrate her birthday.

On November 24th, Fr. Laurier ALBERT, from Canada, Secretary of the Central Council will celebrate his birthday.

On November 30th, Fr. Francis EVENS, Director of the District of Haiti will celebrate his birthday.

Anniversaries of Marriage

November 18th, Mr. José Reinaldo MOTA and Mrs. Ana DE LA CRUZ from Dominican Republic will celebrate 25th anniversary of their marriage.

Anniversaries of Incorporation

November 20th, Fr. Gaétan NELSON from Canada, will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his first vows.

I invite you to pray for the above celebrants, as well as for all other members who celebrate their anniversaries in November. May God continue to bless them and accompany them on their life journey.

S. James Dunstan I.V.Dei
Director General