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Prot. Reg. V; fol. 204/03

INDICTION OF THE “YEAR OF CHARISM”

(10TH MARCH – 13TH NOVEMBER 2019)

“WE ARE USELESS SERVANTS” (LK 17:10)


The success of the celebration of the Year of Holiness “Saints in Love” of 2018 has impelled me to declare for this 2019 a year dedicated to the reassessment and dissemination of our charism as Discalced Augustinians: “Joyfully serving the Most High in spirit of humility”, given to us by Pope Paul V, in his bull *Sacri Apostolatus Ministerio*, confirming our *Constitutions* of May 1620. These words define our charism, specify our vocation and our mission in the Church and in the society of all times, therefore also today.

Reflecting on the words of the Pope, what immediately came to mind were those words of Jesus: “When you have done everything you had to do, say: we are useless servants” (Lk 17:10). Wanting to choose a short and stimulating expression, which is able to remain in the mind and in the heart, and faithful to the thought of Christ and Pope Paul V, I summarized it in this way: “Joyfully serving the Most High in the spirit of humility”. How can we not think of the songs of the Servant of YHWH in Isaiah? Or to Jesus’ gestures of service at the last supper? In the hymn of Philippians 2, on the annihilation of Christ, so dear to Augustine?


In a culture like ours that puts the person at the center of everything, that idolizes the self and the self-referential mentality, which makes the eulogy and the immediate reward the end of human action, these words of Jesus certainly have a shocking impact, because they go against the current. But this connection at first glance negative, diametrically opposed to the dominant culture, constitutes its originality and its strength: the other before me, the other as more important than me. It is about changing the center of our life, its main axis. The core of the Christian proposal is in itself shocking, in the literal sense of the term, because it distorts the human criteria. The Beatitudes, in the interpretation proposed by Pope Francis in the *Gaudete et exultate* as the essence of holiness, in itself possesses and never lose their own charm because it is extremely provocative and true.

On the anniversary of the 420th anniversary of the first profession of the vow of humility that took place on December 10, 1599, this Year of the Charism aims to offer us Discalced Augustinians as well as to the laity who gravitate around our parishes and religious communities, opportunity to remind us of a dimension that belongs to us profoundly and is essential to the world and in particular to the young to whom we would like to return to devote more attention. I am convinced that to present to young people our charism of Discalced Augustinians is the greatest gesture of charity towards those who are searching for their identity and their vocation in the Church.

Rome, January 31, 2019.


Fr. Diones Rafael Paganotto
Secretary General




Fr. Doriano Ceteroni
Prior General