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Prot. Reg. V; fol. 202/07

And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us,
and we saw his glory (John 1:14).

SUBJECT: CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Dear brothers,

The Church, using the discourse of our Holy Father Augustine every year, on the occasion of Christmas, repeats: *“Wake up, O man, for you God became man ... For you, I say, God became man”*. It certainly makes us think of the fact that the Church, after so many centuries, still asks man (or humanity) to wake up. Wake up from which sleep? We are all awake ... maybe too much.

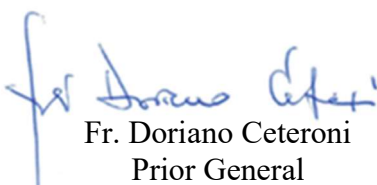
We breathe a culture that feels proudly emancipated and self-sufficient, that blindly believes that science will offer humanity an idyllic future, because it will be able to solve all the problems related to human life, giving it the desired well-being.

There are two great illusions - falsehoods that hide in this vision of things and act as a strong anesthetic. The first consists in making science a religion, a deity as if something sacred, absolutely certain and omnipotent. The second great falsehood consists in believing and maintaining that the supposed well-being provided by science is identified with true progress and happiness. In any case, the first to be discarded and put aside is God, because He is rendered useless, an excess.

It may happen that this culture has slowly been introduced into the convent and has subtly undermined some irreplaceable certainties of which religious life is constituted: salvation is given to us, it comes from the outside; our salvation is an “Other” or “Someone”, it is the God who is love that comes to get us out of the impossibility of being happy. The mystery of the Incarnation, of his Christmas, goes directly to the heart of humanity, of mine, of yours, of his: *“For you, God became man”*.

Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year, also from the brothers of the General Curia.

Rome, November 13th, 2018, the feast of all the Saints of the Order.


Fr. Dorian Ceteroni
Prior General

