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Prot. Reg. V; fol. 205/01

Why look among the dead for someone who is alive?
He is not here; he has risen (Lk 24:5-6).

Subject: Easter Wishes 2019.

Dear Confreres,

the liturgical time, punctually, once more proposes to us the celebration of the Paschal mystery of the Death and Resurrection of the Lord, not allowing us to forget that it is by giving life up to the point of sacrificing of oneself that we conquer it fully. So when death will come, because it will come with certainty, it will no longer have to take anything away from us.

As a religious family we are living the Year of Charism driven by the wish to never lose sight what distinguishes us from other religious families, and to build around now communion and unity in the Order.

To the traditional one I allowed myself to add a tinge of optimism, suggested to me by the words of the Bull of 5 May 1620 by Paul V: “...*presertim sub suavi Religionis jugo in humilitatis spiritu serventium felice...*”, and to translate it with a little freedom, but without betraying its meaning, with *Joyfully serving [the Most High] in spirit of humility*.


Joyfully: the Lord wants us to be joyful. We want to be joyful. Others want us to be joyful. Joy is the fruit of someone who makes his life a constant offering, a holy and pleasing host to the Lord for the benefit of others. The obvious challenges and difficulties of the passage of monocultural communities to multi-ethnic ones must not weaken the enthusiasm to live our noble vocation as consecrated persons.

Serving the Most High: the prototype and only model of a servant is Jesus, the humble Jesus who, by contradicting the false expectations of a political and triumphalist messianism on the part of the Jewish people, embarks on the path of the servant of JWHW, who sets himself available to the Father’s plan in an abnegative self-giving to the service of humanity up to the extreme, paying it himself in person. As Jesus said to Peter, yes, I am the Messiah, know that the Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men, who will condemn him, crucify and kill him, but on the third day he will rise again.


In spirit of humility: we grasp the signal of the beginning of maturity we when we tell ourselves that we are not the entirety, but only a part of the whole; that we are not the center of our life nor of the world and we learn to stand aside to serve, leaving the center to those who compete. The proof that the Lord is occupying the center of our heart consists in putting His will, His projects before ours and when the concern for the good of the other is constant. This is the true *kenosis*, the true annihilation of oneself: “When you have done all you have been told to do, say, ‘We are useless servants’” (Lk 17:10).

Happy Easter and a joyful service to the Lord in our brothers and confreres.

Rome, 19th March 2019, Feast of St. Joseph, Patron of the Order.


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Secretary General




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