



ORDINE DEGLI AGOSTINIANI SCALZI

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Prot. Reg. V; fol. 211/04

Rather [Christ Jesus] emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance (Phil. 2:7).

Subject: Christmas Greetings 2019.

Dear brothers, friends and collaborators,

We have intended to beautifully-crown the celebration of the Year of Charism, called by the Prior General on March 10, 2019, and the 420th Anniversary of the introduction into the Order of the Vow of “non ambire” (not-to-aspire-higher-office), then became the Vow of Humility, with a solemn Concelebration of Thanksgiving presided over by the Vicar General Fr. Carlo Moro, in the Church of Santo Stefano Rotondo in Rome.

A group of Discalced Augustinians have gathered on December 10, 2019, repeating the gesture of our first Reformed brothers who, at the request of the Apostolic Superintendent Fr. Pietro Villagrassa, renewed their Religious Profession, adding the Vow of *non ambire*.

The proximity of this founding date of our history with the holiday of Christmas urges us to directly relate the Vow of Humility with the mystery of the Incarnation of the humble Jesus. The segment of the *Letter to the Philippians* asks us: “Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross!” (Phil. 2:5-8).

Would there be a more radical and complete gesture in Christ’s life of humiliation, annihilation and total stripping of his Incarnation? In this segment Paul also shows the very close connection of the mystery of Christmas with that of Easter: The Redemption brings to fullness the unfathomable mystery of the Incarnation.

It is truly great for someone to encounter, to know how to go down and knows how to serve in order to elevate and make others great. Our Charism summed up in the meaningful expression *Joyfully serving the Most High in the spirit of humility* requires a change of sentiments and criteria, a conversion of mind and heart.

My sincerest wishes of a Holy Christmas and a Happy 2020 to all.

Rome, November 1, 2019, Solemnity of All Saints.

Fr. Carlo Moro
Pro-Secretary General



Fr. Doriano Ceteroni
Prior General