



ORDINE DEGLI AGOSTINIANI SCALZI

PRIORE GENERALE – prioregen@oadnet.org

Piazza Ottavilla, 1 – 00152

Roma – Italia

Tel.: +39 06 5896345 – www.oadnet.org

Prot. Reg. V; fol. 213/04

If Christ has not been raised,
then our preaching is without substance,
and so is your faith (1Cor 15:14).

Subject: Easter Wishes 2020.

Dear confreres,

we are living Lent, a strong time in the liturgical year that wants to prepare us for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of the Lord's death and resurrection, which began with his incarnation in Bethlehem. Incarnation and redemption are the heart of the Copernican Revolution which constitutes the essence of Christianity.

While in the other religions the man attempts to rise to God, in the incarnation God comes down, he comes to us, making himself one of us. While in the other religions the man offers sacrifices to make himself propitious for the divinity, the opposite occurs in Christianity: God offers himself in sacrifice for our salvation. From that moment on, those who die with and like Christ, by giving their life, will not only rise with him, but already live a resurrected life.

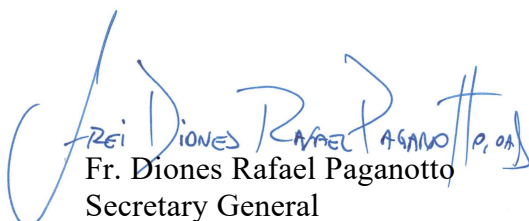
As a religious family, we are preparing ourselves for the celebration of the LXXIX Extraordinary General Chapter, driven by the need to become aware of the *Constitutions* approved on November 21, 2019 and to complete the work of revising the outdated parts and also to adapt the *Directory* to the new *Constitutions*, still on the wave of the Year of the Charism.

The *Constitutions* translate our Charism, especially in the first ten numbers, "Joyfully serving the Most High in spirit of humility" (Const. 3), offering us the foundations of our specific spirituality as Discalced Augustinians, the fulcrum on which our religious consecration rests, centered around to which our life and mission in the Church and in the world must gravitate. On them, one day, we laid our hands, swearing loyalty.

The kenosis, the annihilation and self-denial, of which the humble Jesus was the personification, are an essential part of the diakonia, because they ask us to move the attentions and concerns from ourselves to the other through service. The diversity of ages, cultures and mentalities present especially today in many communities offers us infinite ideas and opportunities to practice the virtues of mutual welcome, patience, flexibility, understanding, gentleness, humility and service. Sometimes, the real problem is not the stones on the way, but the use we make of them.

Happy Easter and best wishes for a joyful serving the Lord in a spirit of humility in the neighbors and confreres.

Rome, March 1, 2020, 1st Sunday in Lent.


Fr. Diones Rafael Paganotto
Secretary General




Fr. Dorian Ceteroni
Prior General