



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. 214/01

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ORDER.

Subject: Prior General's Message for the Solemnity of St. Joseph.

Dear Confreres,

the Solemnity of St. Joseph; the husband of the Virgin Mary and Patron of our Order, is one more reason to turn my thought and gaze to each of you in this delicate moment of trial for Italy and for the world because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

It neither does compete with me, nor do I want to add comments to already existing comments. All I care about is that everyone knows and feels that I am close to each one. Starting with those who like me have accumulated more springs – to the younger aspirant; I believe, is in the Seminary in Ampère (PR), Brazil. My affection, my brotherly and friendly embrace to all.

I would like you to know and feel that I want to be close to you as we all form one family and we all live in a single house whose dimensions span various countries of the world.

They are asking us “not to leave the house”. We thank the Lord because we have a home and it is spacious where we can gather together. We are grateful to Him because we have that “nest” of which Augustine speaks and in where we feel welcomed, protected and saved. It is called: community; miniature Church, built with the little bits of the Cross of Christ.

This pandemic is exposing each person, brutally placing them in front of his structural littleness and precariousness. It is a real metanoia; a real challenge to transform, not without divine help. It turns the misfortune into precious grace. It will indeed be a tool of metanoia if it can slap our prosopopoeia and make us discover the purest truth: that we are beggars of God, of everything and of all. It asks us to throw away every mask, every false appearance, every self-sufficiency and arrogance. It asks us to show us with unequivocal clarity who we are in depth, in whom and in what we place our hope.

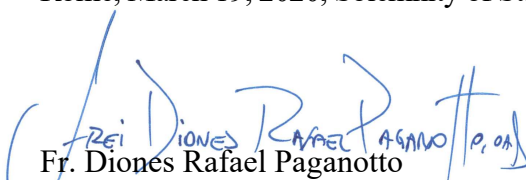
Contingencies are the most effective teachers who want and can help us discover the essentials in life, what is truly worth and what can motivate and justify in all that gets us busy.

The moment of prayer proposed by the three Augustine families (attached file) for tomorrow, March 20, is the most noble and effective way of proclaiming our impossibility to be suffice to ourselves and to ask Him; the Lord of Life, to continue to hold His hand outstretched and support us on the journey of life.


St. Joseph; whom was entrusted with the custody of the Holy Family, also takes care of us, all the Augustinian Families and those who support them.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

Rome, March 19, 2020, Solemnity of St. Joseph, Patron of the Order.


Fr. Diones Rafael Paganotto
Secretary General




Fr. Doriano Ceteroni
Prior General