



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. 214/04

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ORDER.

Subject: Prior General's Message on Holy Thursday.

Dear Confreres,

we are in the Holy Week, in the heart of the Paschal Mystery that celebrates the sufferings, death and resurrection of the Lord. Easter exaggerates the love of Christ, a love without measures that goes to the sacrifice of His very self: "Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" (Jn. 13:1) and also: "so he took off his outer clothing, [...] he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet" (Jn. 13:4-5). We once again relive, all this, in the liturgical actions of the Easter Triduum for us to be encouraged to translate it into everyday life, both as consecrated and as ordained ministers.

In fact, on Holy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper and the Institution of the Eucharist, which anticipates the total gift of Jesus' life on Calvary on Good Friday, and we celebrate the Institution of the Priesthood: they exist for each other. If, for now, it has been impossible for us to physically participate in the Chrism Mass, gathered in presbytery around the bishops and renewing the priestly promises, we are not prevented from repeating them during the rites of the Paschal Triduum in our conventual celebrations. It is our daily life that testifies to whether, in fact, we live with joy our religious and priestly vocation/donation in the service of communion.

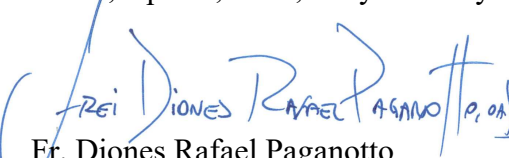
Humanity is being tested by the Coronavirus Pandemic that is causing many, too many, deaths, forcing everyone to stop and stay at home. So far, in our religious family spread around the world, there have been no cases of people suffering from the virus, although the situation in Italy is extremely serious and the evolving situation in Brazil, the Philippines, Cameroon, Vietnam, Indonesia and India.

The true greatness of ours is to be able to transform every misfortune into grace, because this is also God's constant work. As wise people, in this moment of disorientation, we are invited to listen to reality, a true teacher, in order to understand its appeals, assimilate its lessons and draw the proper conclusions.


The pandemic has triggered mechanisms of solidarity at the local and global level, a dense network of mutual help, the globalization of charity: just think of doctors, paramedics, nurses, janitors, volunteers and many anonymous people who sacrifice themselves and who certainly will not appear in the official cast. It is bringing to light so many people capable of a love for the other up to the sacrifice of oneself. We know that those who die with and like Christ, that is, giving his very life, will not only rise up with him, but already live a resurrected life.

Let us remember in prayer those who begin to feel the weight of the economic implications of this situation, such as all the self-employed and especially the poorest. Happy Easter and best wishes for a joyful service to the Lord in spirit of humility in our brothers and sisters and in our confreres.

Rome, April 7, 2020, Holy Tuesday.


Fr. Diones Rafael Paganotto
Secretary General




Fr. Dorian Ceteroni
Prior General