

Circular Letter #3:

May 21, 2019

Subject: Congregational Update

Dear Mothers and Sisters in our Monastic Congregation,

During this beautiful Easter season, and this month dedicated to honoring Our Blessed Mother, we find ourselves already into the 4th month of our existence as a Monastic Congregation. Several of my advisors have recommended that it would be good for me to send you an update on our activities and how things are developing as we strive to lay solid foundations for the future. I happily do so, because it gives me the opportunity to invite you to engage in a closer union of intercessory prayer for the events, situations and needs of our Congregation.

Anniversaries and other Festive Occasions:

First of all, in order to increase our sense of being a Passionist family, I am sending you a list of important events that we have been made aware of. If anyone else has a special occasion for which they want to invite our union of prayer, please send out a notice to all the monasteries.

- **Our Sisters in Marbel, Philippines** celebrated the 50th anniversary of their foundation on April 29.
- **Our Sisters in Ovada** are having a special event of thanksgiving on May 17th, in honor of Mother Leonarda receiving the title of "Venerable."
- **Our Sisters in Mexico** are celebrating the 25th anniversary of their foundation on June 1st. Fr. Antonio Munduate will represent Fr. Joachim Rego as well as our Monastic Congregation at this event. I have asked Father to deliver the special message I wrote for this occasion on behalf of all our monasteries.
- **Our Sisters in Maumere** are celebrating 25 years on July 16th. Please also give thanks to God for the following Nuns who are celebrating the 25th anniversary of their profession at the same time: SR. M. CRISTIANA, SR. M. YASINTA, SR. M. GERMANA, SR. M. MATILDE and SR. M. MARGARETH. I have asked Sr. Martina to represent me for this occasion, and to deliver the message of congratulations on behalf of all the members of our Monastic Congregation. Sr. Martina will also be my delegate to preside over the election of the Maumere superior, while she will be in Maumere.
- **Our Sisters in Ripatransone** are having a thanksgiving Mass on July 21st in honor of Sr. Addolorata receiving the title of "Venerable." Their bishop will preside.
- **Our Mexican Sisters—Sr. Miriam and Sr. Gabriela**—who have done the two last years of their juniorate formation in Croisy under the direction of Sr. Gertrude, will make perpetual profession in France on October 13th.
- **Our Sisters in Pato Branco Brazil** are celebrating 40 years on Dec. 15th. And Mother Veronica who made the foundation with Sister Gema (now deceased) will be celebrating her 60th profession anniversary.

Work of the Congregation:

1) May I remind all the superiors and bursars to send their annual financial report for 2018 to the Mother President? In view of our General Statutes #18,3 f, we no longer send these reports to the local bishop.

2) During the last three months, I have spent many days in collaboration with my council, and in particular with Sr. Gertrude Poggio, as we followed the protocol necessary for requesting the dispensation of perpetual vows from the Holy See for three of our Sisters. The indults for all three were quickly processed.

3) Sr. Gertrude, the first councilor, has agreed, with the consent of the entire council, to serve as “pro tempore” bursar until we can find someone who is better prepared in this field, or until we can train a Nun for this service. In this regard, I ask very special prayers for the Passionist Superior General, Fr. Joachim Rego, and his council, for the financial contribution they recently made to our Monastic Congregation fund.

4) Thanks to consultations with Padre Vincenzo Fabri and two of the economies of the Signa Sisters (the Sisters of St. Paul of the Cross with whom we share suffrages), we are slowly learning the necessary steps to take in order for our new Monastic Congregation to be recognized as a legal entity by the church as well as by the state here in Italy. We are also learning that the Congregation itself needs a “Civil Statute”. We were told that eventually each sui juris monastery will need a similar legal document. Writing this Statute according to Italian law and applying for its approval takes time.

5) Urged by Mother Rosaria of the Tarquinia monastery, I visited Tarquinia on my way to Ripatransone. I so enjoyed meeting the wonderful community in Tarquinia. Then together with Mother Rosaria and Sr. Martina, I visited the two remaining Nuns in Ripatransone, and had a tour of their massive monastery. I am asking all our Nuns throughout the world to beg Our Dear Lord, through the intercession of Ven. Addolorata, to help us find a solution for the difficulties relating to Ripatransone.

6) In the midst of all this, I have been in contact with the Most Rev. Giulio Mencuccini, C.P. regarding the new foundation of Passionist Nuns in Kalimantan, Borneo. Therefore, it remains for us now, prayerfully to choose the founding group. More about this in an upcoming circular letter.

7) We held two General Council meetings during the First General Chapter at Ss. John and Paul’s in Rome. Since I will preside at the capitular election of the superior of the Whitesville monastery in June, Whitesville has been designated as the place for our June General Council meeting, June 15-21, 2019. Some of the council members will also be undergoing an “English immersion” experience while in the US. At this moment, Sr. Daniela of São Paulo in Brazil is already in Whitesville, and Mother John Mary has arranged for her to receive professional English lessons.

Dear Mothers and Sisters, I realize that this update is lengthy, but I have wanted you to be aware of the “hidden” foundational work that is being done, and also to realize why I am unable to concede to the many gracious requests you have sent me to visit your monastery. I truly desire to get to know each monastery and its community members, but time is lacking. Be assured that your prayers, Masses and assurance of “closeness” in mind and heart are helping not only myself but also the council members. I truly “feel” the strength of your prayerful support and ask you to continue it as daily with Jesus and Mary I try to “listen to the Father...and learn from Him” (John 6) how to carry out the work the Father has given me to do in this initial period of the history of our Monastic Congregation.

Also please be assured that each one of you are held very much in my heart, prayers and daily sacrifices. I have always loved what our holy founder put at the end of our primitive regulations, and I close with this now: "Be happy in the Lord!"

Wishing each of you a deep sharing in the joy of the Risen Lord Jesus and His Holy Mother,

Mother Catherine Marie Schumann C.P.

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