



CONGREGAZIONE delle SCUOLE di CARITÀ ISTITUTO CAVANIS

J. M. J.

Il Preposito Generale

CIRCULAR LETTER TO CAVANIS INSTITUTE

Dear Cavanis Family

On July 16 we celebrated the 183 years of the canonical existence of our Congregation. An important date so that we can thank God for his constant providence and at the same time look at the personal and institutional level of the quality of our vocation to welcome and educate children and young people. We recall how God led the steps of our Venerable Founders Father Antonio and Father Marcos in discerning His Will, attentive to the context of abandonment and danger in which children found themselves.

Their commitment to institutionalize the charismatic service of youth education was imposed because of the survival of the Work was at stake. Wisely they asked to the advice of experienced people, invited collaborators to join them, and laid out the conditions so that the work would not fall apart after them.

Under divine inspiration, they used every means so that the competent authorities could authorize the creation of a new Religious Congregation where its members would dedicate themselves totally and exclusively to youth. This cost the two brothers priests much suffering, sacrifice, patience and faith (*Positio*, p. 513). Father Marcos, who had traveled to Rome to asked the Pope for the Institute's approval, writes to his brother Antonio: "What reason would make us fear or sadden when we occupied ourselves with the cause of God and tried to fulfill his Holy Will"?

Our Institute has a beautiful history since its origins. At various times, he was able to overcome the most difficult challenges of social, political, religious, cultural and health confusions. With his meager human resources he followed in the footsteps of Our Lord, who, being rich, became poor to make us rich (2 Cor 8:9). From the small and beautiful city of Venice, the zeal that burned in the hearts of Father Antonio and Father Marcos won the four continents, because where the youth is in danger, Cavanis must feel called in question.

Going to deeper waters they found the richness and challenge of cultural diversity. Our Family is on the way out, open to geographical and existential peripheries. Nearly a third of perpetual religious are currently working outside their home country. From the School, as the main means of educating the youth, other ways of accompanying, defending and educating with paternal and maternal love are discovered.

However, we still have a long way to go (1 Kings 19:7). Fidelity to the gift received involves updating our practices and structures: "We must strive to keep the fire alive and not give

in to the temptation to adore the ashes” (Gustav Mahler). Secularism and materialism suffocate the spiritual life in us and encourage abuses against the dignity of the person. Almost two years ago we were blessed with the celebration of the 35th General Chapter, whose proposals remain an open field. These are concrete and valid indications for all territorial parts.

Honoring our Venerable Founders and being recognized as their true spiritual children require us to continue the mission they embraced, inspiring us with their examples of holiness. Our Religious Family was born so that its members have the conditions to be sanctified and to serve according to the charism received. Our consecration can only be lived in community. And the expression is well known: Community, place of forgiveness and celebration.

In building a community of brothers, we have recently received the contribution of Pope Francis' rich encyclical “All Brothers” and an indication of the itinerary for the XVI Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops which aims to deepen dialogue throughout the Church: For a Synod Church: communion, participation and mission. I remember and ask for prayers for the IX Provincial Chapter of Brazil which has as its theme: “Cavanis religious life at the service of fraternity and Christian education of youth”.

A reality that demands special attention from all of us is the northern region of Mozambique, where thousands of families were expelled from their homes, including our religious, by an armed rebel group. Children are the most helpless victims of this tragedy. Let us reflect on the possibility of creating a solidarity fund for the benefit of our mission in Mozambican lands as a concrete gesture for the missionary month of October.

Dear Cavanis Family, it is our duty to carry out the responsibility of the educational mission. As in the Founders' time, God continues to send generous people who share with us the grace of our vocation to serve the little ones. They participate fully according to their state of life and availability. Alone, as religious, it would not be possible to do much. May they receive from Divine Providence all the necessary material and spiritual comfort, especially to be able to overcome this painful moment of the pandemic. May the Mother of the Schools of Charity, the Servants of God Antonio, Marcos and Basilio continue to intercede and accompany us always.

SOLA IN DEO SORS!

Rome, June 21, 2021– *Breve apostolico di Approvazione della Congregazione (1836)*



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