



Cavanis Lay Fraternity
Sacred Heart House, CAVANIS INSTITUTE
Via Col Draga - Possagno (TV)

INVISIBLE MONASTERY 02nd January 2025

Dear friends!

Beloved, we greet the New Year in the light of the mystery of the birth of the Child Jesus. The Church, like every human being, expresses a desire for peace on earth. The times we live in are filled with anxiety, it seems that the joy of Christmas is not enough to unravel the cracks and darkness that envelop the human heart.

Our Venerable Fathers, Anthony and Mark Cavanis, daily faced far worse challenges, crosses and illnesses, unspeakable obstacles to their Work, economic difficulties; but from their writings and the letters they exchanged, there emerges an unshakable Faith, pervaded with cheerfulness, a rocky trust in divine Providence that no obstacle could ever break (Ven. Fr. Mark Cavanis).

Fr. Mark exhorts us: “Keep therefore always in mind the maximum *gaudere in Domino (Rejoice in the Lord)*” (Epistolary and Memories III, Letter 392).

When we feel discouraged, when we see the future of our beloved Congregation uncertain, the difficult educations, the failures that undermine our mission, the Founders urge us to “dedicate ourselves with all our heart to taking care of youth in need of education”, in our times, difficult but not so different from the past and living every obstacle in the fullness as the Founders: in a serenity of Spirit and filial abandonment to divine Providence.

“With firmness and with confidence we must gladly sustain every bitter conflict. However strange the fight may be and how overwhelming the pain, we must not lose ourselves” (Epistolary and Memories III).

From the Holy Gospel according to saint Luke (1, 39-46)

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord”.

God fulfills his desire to enter into the history of man and he does so in the most wonderful and extraordinary way possible. He begins by overturning every certainty, every human security, he starts by making sure that the barren and the virgin can rejoice because they are expecting a child.

What marks the episode of the gospel that we have heard is joy.

The joy and exultation of the child that Elizabeth carries in her womb, the very exultation of the barren woman who became pregnant. The joy that explodes in Mary's heart when she raises her cry: "My soul exults in the Lord!"

Perhaps we too need to rediscover, to rediscover joy, to look at history as the field in which God's wonderful deeds take place. Are we still able to enjoy his great project, his great work, which he has designed out of the apparent worthlessness of barren and virgin women?

May the Lord help us to keep the flame of joy in our hearts as we await the One who "makes all things new".

May the joy of Christmas be with you and your families.

Happy New Jubilee Year!

A fraternal greeting
The FLC group of Corsico

