

I am very happy to be able to be in contact with you in this way, to be in contact with you for this general assembly of the Canadian religious conference. It is really a great joy for me because, even though we are doing it virtually, online, our desire for this communion with you, to be close, is still great and we are making sure that we do it and we feel it in our hearts. So I would like to greet each one of you, those of you who are in the organization, but also all of you who have been walking for the last five months; from what I know, since January, you have been reflecting on what we are feeling right now around the world about consecrated life and this is really a new moment. It's a moment where we feel that there is a change that is going deep.

I was also very happy to see that you were inspired by the text of the New Testament, the disciples of Emmaus, to find in it a background of wisdom on which to base your journey and this is very important for us today. Because the point that gives us so much strength is to really start from the word of God, from the holy scriptures, from what Jesus said and what Jesus did. In a particular way, we want to live prophetically, following the life of Christ.

And I would also like to say that you have taken an attitude that I think is the fundamental attitude before God and before our sisters and brothers, that is the attitude of listening. When we put ourselves in the attitude of listening, we go beyond the things we see at first sight, towards deeper things. And this gives meaning to what we do. Also, by turning outward to listen to others, it definitely gives us more wisdom to understand what we are going through, to take the right direction.

And you are trying to listen with particular reference to certain groups: I liked very much that you said that you seek this relationship with young consecrated persons of 30 or 40 years of age to understand what they feel, what they say about the consecrated life, for us. You also understand that we are in a time when a generation like mine will soon disappear and another one arrives, from another time, with its way of expressing its faith, its way of understanding the call of Jesus to life, to the consecrated life, and which also has its way of entering into contact with this historical reality that we are living at the moment in the Church...

But the thing that gives me the greatest joy in your process, and that makes me give thanks to God, confident that you are on the right track, is the attitude of listening and trusting in the Lord. Even though there are significant signs of concern, challenges - in your heart, the most important thing is your trust in the Lord.

We have in our hearts this feeling of hope and this seems to me the essential thing, that we are still living this period of Easter and this passage of Jesus from death to life, the guarantee for us also of this life that gives us so much hope, gives us so much strength and makes us walk all the faster. It is the hope that God is with us in this sometimes painful passage, and that He is building something new, something great.

I have always thought of consecrated life in this way, because this is how Pope Francis has always oriented us, especially since 2015, on the occasion of the year of consecrated life. We can look again at this whole beautiful history of consecrated life and we can take it back.

Finally, I want to wish you all that these moments of the general assembly be moments of great wisdom, of great joy too, in rediscovering that we no longer move forward in isolation, in a single group, a single charism, but in an Intergenerational, International approach, as a work in common where we move forward fundamentally as the Pope tells us, in this capacity to walk in Synodality.

I truly wish you a time of great light, of great peace and of great journey.

We are very much united with you in prayer, and we will be very happy to hear from you so that we can also walk with you.

Thank you! Greetings to all of you, in union of prayer.