



SUORE MISSIONARIE DI SAN CARLO BORROMEO (SCALABRINIANE)  
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Subject: Message for the XXV World Day of Consecrated Life

*“THE RADICAL FOLLOWING OF JESUS CHRIST  
AS THE GOSPEL PRESENTS HIM TO US  
IS THE FOUNDATION OF CONSECRATED LIFE.”  
(NC 02).*

*Dear Sisters and candidates,*

The World Day of Consecrated Life that we celebrate today is a propitious occasion to give thanks for the gift of the religious vocation of each Sister and candidate and, at the same time, an invitation to live the joy of *following Jesus Christ*. Therefore, to feel called, graced by the gift of vocation, and loved by Him is a source of gratitude and deep joy.

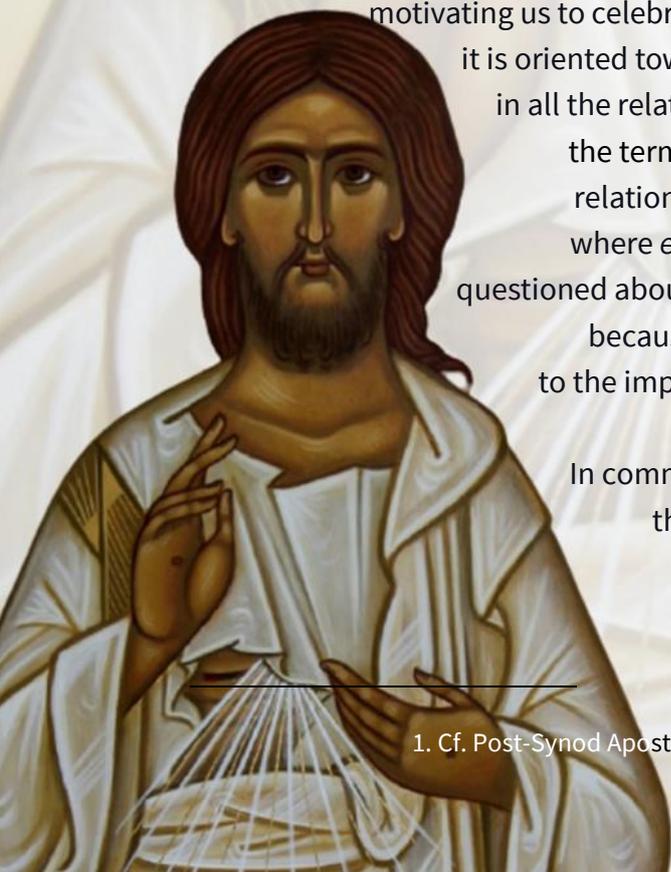
In this jubilee year, *gift and grace* for the entire Congregation, gratitude springs out from our hearts for the beauty of the history lived, walked through, and celebrated during these 125 years of existence in the Church, in the service of migrants and refugees, recognizing the saving presence of God in our pilgrimage as a Congregation. This is a time in which we remember, in an attitude of inner pilgrimage, the "first love" with which Jesus Christ warmed our hearts and thus awakened the will and joy of following the Lord and being at the service of human mobility<sup>1</sup>.

There are countless initiatives taking place in the different areas of the Congregation, motivating us to celebrate intensely this Jubilee Year, which is called Holy because it is oriented toward sanctifying our existence in each of its expressions and in all the relationships we establish. It also evokes the biblical meaning of the term Jubilee (Lev 25:10;12), which helps us find harmony in our relationships by becoming co-responsible with the common house where *everything is interconnected*. In the search to let ourselves be questioned about what God asks of us and humanity interpellates us today, because only in attention to the needs of the world and in docility to the impulses of the Spirit will this Jubilee year become holy, a time of God, rich in graces and transformation.<sup>2</sup>

In communion with all the Consecrated persons, we want to renew the joy of following Jesus Christ in awakening in other young people the vocational project.

1. Cf. Post-Synod Apostolic Exhortation *Vita Consecrata*, from the Holy Father John Paul II, n° 1

2. Pope Francis, Apostolic Letter to consecrated persons, II, n.5



By adopting a new way of understanding the vocational action that reaches all young people, approaching them to *listen, dialogue, understand* their language and perceive the needs and questions that they carry in their hearts through an authentic, creative and effective vocational proclamation. Therefore, we are invited to solidify, at an individual and community level, the *vocational culture*, maintaining perseverance in prayer and welcoming what the Lord says to us: "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Mt 9:38)

Consecrated life is this ecclesial voice, seed of prophetic hope for the world, especially in this time of pandemic caused by the corona virus, where meetings and relationships are established in a virtual way. Pope Francis in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* recalls the importance of being a sign of hope, since it "is deeply rooted in every human heart, independently of our circumstances and historical conditioning. [...]. Hope is bold; it can look beyond personal convenience, the petty securities and compensations which limit our horizon, and it can open us up to grand ideals that make life more beautiful and worthwhile". Let us continue, then, to advance along the paths of hope" (*Fratelli Tutti*,55) *and walk humbly with our God* (Mc 6,8).

Let us turn our gaze toward Mary, *Model of Consecration*, may she bless and protect with her love as Mother, each Sister, and Candidate of the Congregation and may she accompany us in our journey of vocational response and fidelity, so that we may be a prophetic and joyful proclamation of the Gospel.

Dear Scalabrinian consecrated women, feel all embraced. United in communion and prayer, I express my warm gratitude to each Sister and Candidate for the dedication to God, the ray of divine beauty that enlightens the path of human existence.<sup>3</sup>

I wish you a happy celebration for this world day of consecrated life.

Sr. Neusa de Fátima Mariano, mscs  
Sr. Neusa de Fatima Mariano, mscs

General Superior, Councilors and General Secretary

