



DEI CC. RR. DI S. PAOLO
BARNABITI

IL PROPOSTO GENERALE

Message from the Superior General to each confrere

Dear confrere,

allow me to speak to you personally, heart-to-heart, about what is happening worldwide. Coronavirus has established itself in the heart of humanity without discriminating, bringing anguish, panic and much suffering and death everywhere. What has happened and is happening is leaving a lacerating and indelible mark on the hearts of many families and in the midst of this reality we too find ourselves as a religious family.

Precisely this makes us understand that we are called to a considerable task not only after the cessation of this event, but also within it in its current development: we are called to be always and in any case light of the world and salt of the earth (cf. Mt 5: 13-14) in a suffering humanity, which asks to regain the meaning of life and therefore to find a hope founded on the Pauline certainty that there is no power in this world that can separate us from the love of God, manifested in Christ Jesus: *“What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Rom 8: 35-39).

We are close to Easter, but it will be a completely different celebration from what we would have expected in a “normal” condition of life. This too can be a reason for reflection, so that this Easter be different not only in the way we will celebrate it, but also for the fruits it could bring if each of us took the opportunity to place our old man in the sepulcher and rise to new life and therefore to a truly and profoundly new humanity.

This renewal also imposes on us a sincere and equally profound and effective adherence and obedience to the decisions taken and made binding both by the civil authority through its laws and decrees, and by ecclesiastical and religious authority with their own laws and norms. No religious has the right to evade their implementation. This is a real opportunity to let one's old man, tied to the logic of good-for-me, die so as to be reborn as a new man won by the logic of good-for-us.

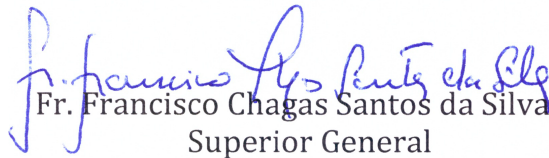
We are also helped by an image offered by the “Bantu” philosophy: *“I am because we are.”* In other words, the protection of my rights is made possible only to the extent that the common good is promoted and safeguarded.

For this reason, I cannot fail to remind you of a threefold compliance, as well as obedience:

- Mandatory compliance with governmental measures;
- Mandatory observance of diocesan directives;
- Compliance with the directives given by the superiors.

Dearest confrere, this is the favorable time to take care of yourself and of those who stand beside you; but it is also the favorable time for prayer and for planning the future that will open once this pandemic ceases, in a perspective of a more human and religious life witness as consecrated persons.

Invoking upon you the protection and blessing of Mary Mother of Divine Providence, Saint Anthony Mary Zaccaria, Saint Alexander Sauli, Saint Francis Xavier Mary Bianchi and our Venerables, we greet you fraternally in Christ


Fr. Francisco Chagas Santos da Silva, B
Superior General

and
General Council

Fr. Robert B. Kosek
Fr. José Heriberto Carvajal Gallardo
Fr. Fabien Muvunyi Bizimana
Fr. Filippo Lovison

Rome, 26 March 2020