



## In the heart of the world with the heart of God

Message of Pope Francis to the CMIS (August 2016) through Card. Parolin

The originality and the peculiarity of the secular consecration takes place when secularity and consecration walk together in unity of life. We can say that today this synthesis is the greatest challenge for secular institutes.

For this reason, formation is of fundamental importance, which must guide the members of Secular Institutes to respond fully to the mission of their respective Institutes, arousing a commitment ever new and profound with the Christ who calls and sends, and at the same time to get involved in the reality of today's world.

What is the humanity before you? People who have lost their faith or who live as if God did not exist, young people without values and ideals, broken families, unemployed, lonely elderly people, immigrants ... "Come to me, all of you who are tired and oppressed, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11.28). By saying this, Jesus shows you the way. How many faces crossed on the street, going to work, or going shopping! How many opportunities do you have to give refreshment, encourage, give hope, bring consolation! It is this life in the world ("in saeculo viventes", says canon 710) which constitutes the "secularity", the common note to all secular institutes.

The commitment to secularity moves with a wide range, on vast horizons. Continuous attention must therefore be paid to the signs of the times: history must be read, understood and interpreted, and it must be inserted into it in a constructive and fruitful way, to leave an evangelical imprint, contributing, according to the various responsibilities, to direct it towards the Kingdom of God. This vocation therefore entails a constant striving to make a synthesis between the love of God and love for men, living a spirituality capable of combining the criteria that comes "from above", from the grace of God, and the criteria that comes "from below", from human history. Growth in love for God inevitably leads to growth in love for the world, and vice versa.

Guided by the Holy Spirit in your actions, bring the logic of God into the world, helping to bring about that new humanity that He wants. It is God who creates the synthesis between secularity and consecration. Thanks to Him we can exercise a prophecy that implies discernment and creativity aroused by the Spirit. Discernment as an effort to understand, to interpret the signs of the times, accepting the complexity, the fragmentation and the precariousness of our time. Creativity as the ability to imagine new solutions, inventing new and more appropriate answers to the new situations that arise. Being the companion of humanity on the move is a theological reality for you. The search for dialogue and encounter, which asks you to become men and women of communion in the world, is an essential part of it. Therefore, you are called in Christ to be signs and instruments of God's love in the world, visible signs of an invisible love that pervades everything and wants to redeem everything to bring everything back to the Trinitarian communion, the ultimate origin and fulfilment of the world.

## **Important points to take into account in the Vocational Youth Ministry from the perspective of consecrated secularity**

- Pastoral workers should grow in the conviction of the value of the vocation to consecrated secularity for the Church today and in the responsibility of knowing how to be mediators of God's call to the youth of our environments.
- To accompany young people to a personal encounter with Jesus and to a progressive relationship of friendship with him through prayer, meditation on the Word, participation in the sacraments, commitment to others, witness that provokes questions, and the enhancement of the Christian mission in different secular areas (family, work, society, education, health care, justice, solidarity, mass media, culture, politics).
- To cultivate the vocational sense of life in the young people and in their animators in an open way, trying to connect their deep dreams and desires with models, concrete and multiple, within their reach, with which they can confront or identify themselves.
- To ensure that young people know the various Salesian vocations of consecration and service, including the consecrated secular vocation with its accomplishments and possibilities.
- That consecrated persons and secular consecrated persons should be aware of and participate in youth ministry initiatives according to their possibilities with their secular specificity.
- To be able to accompany personally with delicate fidelity those young adults who seek "something more" in their lives, helping them to open up perspectives both in their active commitment and in their deepest being; or, in some cases, to inspire people delicately to go beyond and deeper into their lives.
- To be aware that the processes of vocational choices are lived in an intense spiritual life and in personal accompaniment in local environments.

*Conclusions of the First meeting  
on the Salesian Consecrated Secularity.  
Madrid, April 2018.*

### **Fruits of the Silver Jubilee of CDB**

On 20, 21 and 22 September 2019, representatives of CDBs from around the world celebrated in Rome, together with the Rector Major, their 25th anniversary of foundation. What did these memorable days leave in their hearts? The memory of their origins with some of their protagonists; the joy of meeting with a good group of brothers from three continents; sharing with the Salesians and Sisters who followed the Institute closely; the experience of an intense prayer together; the thanksgiving Eucharist celebration with a profession of total commitment presided over by the Rector Major; and the gift of a letter that Don Bosco's ninth successor addressed to them. These fruits are already seen and sowing new seeds in the Salesian Family. Let us thank the Lord.

### **Congress of Mary Help of Christians**

The Congress of Mary Help of Christians celebrated in Buenos Aires on 7-10 November 2019 saw a large presence of VDBs and CDBs, as well as the presence of the World Responsible and the Central Assistant. Both had several meetings with the sisters and brothers from Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay, as well as with their assistants, and Salesians and Sisters from different Latin American countries. A wonderful family experience around Mary.

### **A strenna that will rekindle our secular mission**

The Rector Major has already announced the Strenna for next year: "Good Christians and honest citizens". It is a new incentive to revive the life and mission of VDB and CDB to live their consecration in the world.

### **December 5th. Blessed Philip Rinaldi**

It is the day to be celebrated by the whole Salesian Family, especially the Volunteers of Don Bosco. Together with the first three members and with the help of Sister Felicina, FMA provincial from Piedmont at that time, Fr. Rinaldi founded their Institute. He also founded the Association of Past Pupils of FMA, gave impetus to the Association of Past Pupils of Don Bosco and other lay initiatives. Entering into his spirituality will help us to live the "prayerful contemplation" of Don Bosco, as he called it.