



# OPUS CHRISTI SALVATORIS MUNDI

Newsletter  
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MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR OF THE THIRD WORLD

Papal Missionary Intention for June:

**That national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimises so many innocent victims.**

*(Intention entrusted to us by the Holy Father at the World Network of Prayer)*

## *A Word from the Magisterium*

### *The Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Magisterium of the Church*

*June is the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesu, a devotion that began through the private revelations of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque. Many of the Magisterial texts refer to this devotion, among which, three big encyclicals stand out: "Annum Sacrum" (1899) by Leo XIII, "Misericordissimus Redemptor" (1928) by Pius XI, and "Haurietis Aquas" (1956) by Pius XII. On the Friday after the second Sunday after Pentecost – which this year will be 23<sup>rd</sup> June – the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated. This feast was instituted by Pius XI in his encyclical "Quas Primas" (1925), in which we read (in no. 21) the following:*

That these blessings may be abundant and lasting in Christian society, it is necessary that the kingship of our Saviour should be as widely as possible recognized and understood, and to the end nothing would serve better than the institution of a special feast in honour of the Kingship of Christ.

#### **The Feasts of the Church**

For people are instructed in the truths of faith, and brought to appreciate the inner joys of religion far more

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effectually by the annual celebration of our sacred mysteries than by any official pronouncement of the teaching of the Church. Such pronouncements usually reach only a few and the more learned among the faithful; feasts reach them all; the former speak but once, the latter speak every year - in fact, forever. The church's teaching affects the mind primarily; her feasts affect both mind and heart, and have a salutary effect upon the whole of man's nature. Man is composed of body and soul, and he needs these external festivities so that the sacred rites, in all their beauty and variety, may stimulate him to drink more deeply of the fountain of God's teaching, that he may make it a part of himself, and use it with profit for his spiritual life.

*These words should be a stimulus for all of us to celebrate this feast well – on 23<sup>rd</sup> June – with due spiritual preparation, in order to receive fruit from this.*

## *News from the Church*

### *History of Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*

Although devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus – which has deep biblical foundations – has existed since the beginning of the Church (Holy Fathers like Saint Ambrose, Saint Augustine, and Saint John Chrysostom already showed this devotion), there is no doubt that the private revelations to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (the same century in which Saint John Eudes founded the Eudist congregation and began the worship of the Sacred Heart) are of great importance. This Vistandine religious experienced several mystical revelations in the monastery of Paray-le-Monial (France), from 1673 until her death in 1690. Jesus appeared to her during the Octave of the feast of Corpus Christi, and He said to her:

*“Behold this heart which has so loved human beings that it has spared nothing, even to exhausting and consuming itself, in order to give them proof of its love, and in return I receive from the greater number nothing but ingratitude, contempt, irreverence, sacrilege, and coldness toward the Sacrament of my love. But what transgresses my Heart most heartbreakingly is that these insults I receive from consecrated persons especially in my service”.*

In another apparition, the Sacred Heart made her great promises for all those who in His honour received Communion on the first Friday of nine consecutive months. He said:

*“I promise you that my all powerful love will grant to all those who will receive Communion on the First Fridays, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance: they will not die in my displeasure, nor without receiving the sacraments; and my Heart will be their secure refuge in that last hour”*

The well known promises of the Lord, linked to the nine first Fridays, are in reality an anonymous and incomplete extract of those found scattered in the writings of the holy religious.

Saint Margaret Mary’s spiritual director, Father Claudio de la Colombière SJ (1641-1682), was one of the first promoters of this devotion, always closely linked to the Company of Jesus. It was through the Jesuits that the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was spread in Spain and Hispanic America. Father Bernardo de Hoyos (1711-1735), beatified on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2010, received a revelation of the Sacred Heart and was converted into the best apostle of this devotion in Spain when he was still a young seminarian of the Company of Jesus.

The Pontifical Magisterium contributed a lot to this spreading. Pope Leo XIII, in his encyclical *Annum Sacrum* from 1899, declared that the whole of humanity must be consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the same Pope realised this consecration on 11<sup>th</sup> June that same year.

As we have just celebrated, last month, 100 years since Our Lady’s apparitions in Fatima, it seems opportune to finish by remembering the words of Pope Pius XII in his encyclical *“Haurietis Aquas”* (1956), dedicated to the Sacred Heart:

*In order that favors in greater abundance may flow on all Christians, nay, on the whole human race, from the devotion to the most Sacred Heart of Jesus, let the faithful see to it that to this devotion the Immaculate Heart of the Mother of God is closely joined. For, by God’s Will, in carrying out the work of human Redemption the Blessed Virgin Mary was inseparably linked with Christ in such a manner that our salvation sprang from the love and the sufferings of Jesus Christ to which the love and sorrows of His Mother were intimately united (Haurietis Aquas, n.124).*

## *The Light of our Charism*

*We continue with our presentation of a document  
by Father Giovanni Salerno from 24/10/1999.*

### **“Listen Child. Meekness, the strength of the Servants of the Poor ”**

(...)

*Meekness, a sweet invitation to listen*

Listen child!... The Servant of the Poor is supported by the authority of God. He knows that “meekness is not born”, and that meekness is a gift of the grace that we must desire and ask for with insistence.

Listen!... This biblical verb is like a door that opens wide before us, in order to introduce us to the school of meekness.

Listen!... It is a persuasive invitation that resounds through the centuries and millennia in the hearts of men who have turned their backs on God, their creator, and walks along the passages of this earth, without direction, without aim, a slave of himself and of others.

*Jesus, our textbook*

Jesus made Himself meek to make meek the rebels. The textbook that teaches us meekness is always Jesus Christ, a book that has never been outdone, and whose central page has a message that has remained intact throughout the centuries: “Learn from Me, who am meek and humble of heart. Because my yoke is easy and my burden light” While we are surrounded by an overwhelming and exhausting tide, and we suffer beneath the weight of ourselves, we are

offered the possibility of relaxing next to a spring, of drinking water... of continuing our journey with restored energy. Following Christ, we are transported to our beginning, and put before the clear horizon of our end.

*Listen with the heart of a child, like Jesus*

Listen child!... We are invited to listen to the Father with the heart of a child, not like some student. That means opening the ears of our hearts, opening ourselves to the love of the Father, imitating Jesus in this way, obedient through love. Jesus Christ is our guide: He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. And the way of Jesus is called obedience, even up to the Cross. The devil proposes other ways to us: prestige, power, personality, a destroying freedom. The only way to be free is through obedience, following the footsteps of Jesus crucified.

*You are not Alone in the Fight*

The life of the Servants of the Poor must be a life of continual and progressive conversion, a way of humility that demands docility to the Word of God, to superiors, recognising Jesus in them, who wakes up His disciples every day, calling them to the fatigue of daily work and the hard battle for faith, destroying their own personal plans. In the following of Christ there is no place for human security... Throw down your weapons!... The help of God is coming.

*“Militia Christi”*

Called to be soldiers of Christ, we must dress ourselves in humility, meekness, and compassion, so that we can be with Christ and with the poor. Often we are prepared to accept the proof of the hands of God, but not the hands of men: we forget that Christ has been humiliated and crucified by men.

*(Will continue)*

## *News from our Homes*

### *Bro. René Abel Achahui Ppacsí*

On 29<sup>th</sup> April Brother René Abel Achahui Ppacsí joined the community of the Missionary Servants of the poor in Andahuaylillas. His is a very special case because he was an intern in the Home of our Sisters, and then in the “City of Boys”, Minor Seminarian, and finally, a brother in our community.

René was born on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1997 in Ocongate (Ppachanta). When he was still very small his parents realised that he was not healthy, and, in order to find a solution, his father took him to Cusco. While they were there they suffered hunger and cold; they also slept in the street since nobody put them up there. There they found our Sisters’ Home, still located in Av. Grau, near to the historical centre of Cusco. It was 18<sup>th</sup> May 2000, and René was 3 years old.

In order to carry out the due medical analysis of the child, he was sent numerous times to Lima. The doctors diagnosed him with a rare disease, hepatomegaly, and had little hope that he would live much longer. But God had other plans for him. With our sisters he managed to recover little by little, learning, as he grew, many things about the Good God, thanks to the affection with which he was surrounded.

But our sisters are able to care for only very young boys, with the exception of those who are severely disabled. And so our little angel, on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2007, left the Sisters’ Home, and moved to the Home directed by the priests in Andahuaylillas, about 45 km from Cusco. And so he began this new stage of his life in the “City of Boys”. It was a new stage in which he never lacked the closeness of the priests, who visited him

often, in spite of the distance and difficulties with travelling.

There he got to know children who, like him, found themselves in the home because of different problems – all the little ones who through different ways, Divine Providence has entrusted to our care.

There he learnt more and more the ways of God, being able to make his First Holy Communion, learning how to make a good confession, and receiving, at the right time, the sacrament of Confirmation.

He grew physically and intellectually, studying in our school “Francisco y Jacinta Marto” and finishing his studies in the centre “Beato José Sánchez del Río” (“Blessed”, because when we opened this centre, the little martyr from the Cristiada still had not been canonised).

There he discovered the call of God, and when he began his fourth year of secondary school, he asked to join our Minor Seminary “San Luis Gonzaga”, when Father Matías Brand msp was superior. He was admitted and was able to finish his studies in December 2016, as a seminarian. He also learnt to play the organ in our chapel, enabling him to play for the masses on feasts and solemnities.

On 29<sup>th</sup> April he began a new stage. Little René is now bro. René, and he continues his preparation, supporting the different apostolates. Thanks to God his parents are not opposed to his decision – in the last few years, numerous boys have wanted to join our seminary, but were not able because of opposition from their parents.

We commend bro René, his vocation, his sanctity, and his perseverance, to your prayers.

#### Missionary Pledge of the Month:

**In this month of June, I promise to spread the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, above all in the prayer groups to which I belong; I will try, at the same time, to spread the charism of the Movement of the Missionary Servants of the Poor TW, getting information on how to send, display, and give out, informative material, above all in those places mostly visited by people in summer.**