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Andahuaylillas, March 5, 2025 Ash Wednesday

Dear Friends, Laudetur Iesus Christus.

I am writing this letter to you on the day in which we are celebrating the beginning of our Lenten journey, a journey that will lead us to celebrate with overflowing joy the mystery of Easter.

This year is a special Lent because it is part of the jubilee journey of the entire Church, a jubilee year in which our Holy Father Francis invites us to be messengers and missionaries of hope. Indeed, the Jubilee Year, from its biblical foundations in the Old Testament, is a year of grace from the Lord in which many wounds are healed, many walls are torn down, and many injustices are forgiven.

We, as Missionary Servants of the Poor, are also asked to make a special commitment to be an occasion of hope for the many children and poor people whom the Lord places in our path every day. This urgent invitation that God, the Church, and the poor themselves make to us invites us to an even greater commitment in the many different fields in which we have been engaged for years.

In our homes, where many abandoned children continue to arrive looking for a place where they can be welcomed while waiting for the documents for possible adoption;

In our Saint Teresa orphanage where many children, afflicted with illness and various disabilities, meet the Missionary Servants of the Poor Sisters whose arms become instruments of the Mercy of God who suffers in the flesh of the weakest;

In our schools where hundreds of students at the Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto School and students at the Saint Maria Goretti School can receive, free of charge, the training, education, tools, and care necessary to prepare for a dignified future;

In our workshops where technical-professional training is offered, always free of charge, that guides young people towards a future job supported by a very good professional training;

In our missions in the Andes mountains, where many people are accompanied spiritually and materially on their path of development;

In the most recent foundations in Cuba, Mexico, and Ilo, Peru, where the charism of the Missionary Servants of the Poor is spreading in the poorest and most needy areas.

A little over a month ago we celebrated the second anniversary of the death of our beloved Founder, Father Giovanni Salerno, and, as we recall the journey of his life, we are amazed by the great works that the Lord has accomplished thanks to him and that we are now called to continue and to make grow.

In this commitment, we are filled with joy knowing that we are accompanied by you who, with so much love, so much enthusiasm, and so much effort, stand by our side in the daily realization of the works of mercy: "Feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, visiting the sick, clothing the naked..." and as a result of all this, giving dignity as children of God to many people, to many families, to many villages, and to open a better future for them and their children.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for accompanying us. I invite you to transform this Lent into an opportunity to further broaden the horizons of this adventure that we are undertaking together by making our work known to your friends, relatives, and acquaintances, inviting them to get to know us so that they too may be inflamed by the fire of charity.

We, the children we care for, and the poor we serve, commit ourselves seriously and daily

to pray for each and every one of you and for your families, so that the Lord may shower you with jubilee graces. We ask Holy Mary, Mother of the Poor, to protect you from all dangers and to continue to nourish in your hearts the gift of being able to be hands that go out to meet our brothers and sisters in need.

In Christo cum Maria,

Fr. Walter Corsini, msp Vicar General Missionary Servants of the Poor

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For donations, cheques are payable to

Friends of the Missionary Servants of the Poor Benedictine Monastery "Our Lady of Clear Creek" 5800 W Monastery Rd, Hulbert OK, 74441

Thank you for your generosity in thinking of supporting us. We want you to be aware that we are a non-profit organization in the US, and so able to provide a tax refund certificate.

