



Institut Séculier Féminin du Cœur de Jésus

Dear friends,

A very happy New Year in the Lord!

We have just lived through a year marked by many hardships among the world, the Church, our loved ones, and ourselves: climate change which has caused many disasters and is driving many people towards immigration; political tensions in various countries; the pandemic, a consequence of human action causing many deaths and an overall increase in poverty.

Our meetings, which were to take place in 2020, had to be postponed due to Covid 19. Today, no one can say with confidence that they can be held in 2021.

When confronted by all of this, what can we do? What should be our attitude? Lord, what do you expect from us in this new year? How can I arouse hope and be a witness to your presence? Let us humbly present ourselves before our Lord to reiterate our desire to follow him and hear his call. Let us renew our consecration. May the Father grant us the grace to surrender ourselves ever more deeply and completely to him!

Only daily and prolonged prayer, even if poor (perhaps even dare I say: especially if it is poor), will deepen in us the ardent desire to do the Father's will and will keep us faithful. I wish to all of us for this year to fulfill his will, that it be our daily food and our joy. It doesn't really matter what form it takes for you, for me... What matters is to fulfill his will knowing that it is a means by which God will make himself present to the world to bring about his kingdom. It is our responsibility and the stakes are high.

Called to live amidst the world, like all men, as citizens of our country and sisters of all, our charity must be attentive, humble and creative without seeking recognition. May we go with eyes open, hearts on the alert, joy slung over our shoulders, and hands outstretched to give and receive. May we make ourselves close to every man and live a generous and trusting fraternity. Let us live as believers immersed in our societies by manifesting the life of God that we have received as a gift at baptism.

To think that the coming year will be free of difficulties and trials would be delusional. This is not the Christian hope. The Christian is called to live in reality. In our lives, in the world, the trials are numerous, sometimes incomprehensible and revolting. The spiritual life is not a path that explains, but a path that welcomes. May the Virgin Mary teach us to welcome all events in the light of the Gospels so that they lead us to a strong, courageous and persevering commitment to the side of Christ.

Climate change, the collapse of biodiversity and the major economic consequences of the pandemic will always be there. BUT the great and good news that sustains all our hope is that the LORD IS HERE! YES HE IS REALLY HERE by our side, he is FAITHFUL. This year opens up as a new chance to live with our Lord and all the men in the heart of the world.

Then, happy New Year !

The General Council

