



ASIAN CONFERENCE OF SECULAR INSTITUTES

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EB/ NL – 10/ 2018

13 March 2018.

Dear Friends,

SECRETARY

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While living in the world the members of Secular Institutes try to make Christ present in the world and are committed to sanctifying it from within. They face a number of challenges when they encounter different people, situations and circumstances. Pope Francis in His homily invited the faithful to ask “the Lord for the grace of discernment so as not to take the wrong path and not to fall into idleness, into rigidity into the closing of the heart”

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This year's theme for the ACSI GA2018 is: "**Within and Beyond Asia: Secular Institutes Living Lives of Hopes and Fulfillment.**" has been aptly chosen and we look forward to sharing of members from the different Secular Institute present for the conference.

Your presence and sharing will enrich the gathering and we look forward to your participation.

BOARD MEMBERS

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May God bless our efforts as we try to be his signs in the world today.

With all good wishes and prayers,
Adelaide, Connie, Lilly, Cecilia and Satira

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Holy Father Francis to the participants in the Italian Conference of Secular Institutes

From 28 to 29 October in Rome, at the Augustinianum Patristic Institute, the Italian Conference of Secular Institutes (CIIS) is gathered, with the patronage of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic life, to reflect on the theme: “Beyond and within. Secular institutes: stories of passion and prophecy for God and for the world”, on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the Apostolic Constitution *Provida Mater Ecclesiae*.

The following is the Message sent by the Holy Father Francis to the participants at the opening of the Conference

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the Apostolic Constitution *Provida Mater Ecclesiae*, the Italian Conference of Secular Institutes, with the patronage of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life, has gathered to reflect on the theme “ Beyond and within. Secular institutes: stories of passion and prophecy for God and for the world”. I address my cordial greeting to you all, wishing you a fruitful conference.

That document of Pope Pius XII was in a certain sense revolutionary: indeed, it outlined a new form of consecration that of the lay faithful and diocesan priests called to live evangelical counsel in the secular life in which they are immersed, on account of their existential condition or their pastoral ministry. The newness and fruitfulness of the Secular Institutes lies therefore in the conjugation of consecration and secularity, practising an apostolate of witness, of evangelization – especially for priests – and of Christian commitment in social life, especially for the laity, to which fraternity is added which, without being determined by a community of life, is in any case true communion. In the wake of *Provida Mater*, you are called today to be humble and passionate bearers, in Christ and in His Spirit, of the meaning of the world and of history. Your passion is born of the ever-new wonder for the Lord Jesus, for His unique way of living and of loving, of encountering the people, of healing life, of bringing comfort. Therefore, your “staying within” the world is not only a sociological condition but also a theological reality, which enables you to remain attentive, to see, to listen, to sympathize with, to rejoice with, to intuit needs.

This means being prophetic presences in a very concrete world. It means bringing to the world, in the situations in which you find yourselves, the world of God that is to be heard. It is this that truly characterizes secular life: knowing how to say that world that God has to say to the world. Where “ to say ” does not mean so much “ to speak ” as “ to act ”. We say what God wants to say to the world, acting in the world. This is very important. Especially in a time such as ours, in which, faced with difficulties, there can be the temptation to isolate oneself in one’s own comfortable and safe environments and withdraw from the world. You too could fall prey to this temptation. But your place is to “stay within”, as a transforming presence in an evangelical sense. It is certainly difficult, it is a road that involves the cross, but the Lord wants to journey it with you. Your vocation and mission is to be attentive, on the one hand, to the realities that surround you, always asking: what is happening? Without stopping at what appears on the surface but going deeper; and at the same time, to the mystery of God, to recognize where He is manifest. Attentive to the world, with your heart immersed in God.

I would like, finally, to suggest spiritual attitudes that may help you on this path and that may be summarized in five verbs: to pray, to discern, to share, to give courage, and to have sympathy.

Pray, to be joined to God, close to His heart. Listen to His voice, before every event in life, living a luminous existence that takes the Gospel in hand and takes it seriously.

Discern, to be able to distinguish essential things from ancillary ones; this means refining that wisdom, cultivating it day by day, to enable you to see what responsibilities it is necessary to take on, and what the priority tasks are. It is a personal but also a community path, and so individual effort is not enough.

Share the fate of every man and woman: even if the world's events are tragic and dark, I do not abandon the fate of the world because I love it, as and with Jesus, unto the end.

Give courage: with the grace of Christ never lose trust, which knows how to see good in everything. It is also an invitation we receive in every Eucharistic celebration: Lift up your hearts”.

Have sympathy for the world and for the people. Even when they do everything to make you lose it, be animated by the sympathy that comes to us from the Spirit of Christ, that makes us free and passionate, that makes us “stay within” like salt and leaven.

Dear brothers and sisters, you are able to be in the world like the soul in the body (cf. Letter to Diognetus, VI, 1), witnesses to the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. This is my wish for you, which I accompany with my prayer and my blessing.

From the Vatican, 23 October 2017

(This Translation is taken with gratitude from the US Conference of SI – newsletter “Mountaineer”.)



SI-Meeting Statement 2017

We, the members of the Secular Institutes in the Philippines (SI-P), who attended the 3rd Secular Institutes-Philippines National Meeting at the Don Boaco Retreat Haus, Lawaan, Talisay City, on November 29, 2017-December 3, 2017, after having listened intently on the update of Angie Dy, SIM, on the CBCP plans and programs for the 2018 Year of the Clergy and Consecrated Persons, and on the talks of our guest speakers: Archbishop Fernando Capalla, DD; Fr. Godofredo Atienza, SDB; and Fr. Joel Sulse, OFM; and after having shared our group reflections on how we can contribute toward a meaningful and spirit-filled celebration of the 2018 Year of the Clergy and Consecrated Persons (YCCP), hereby resolve to do the following:

1. For our Vocation Promotion
 - To participate in the parish, diocesan or national vocation promotion campaign, especially in the Vocation Jamboree to be held in Ozamis City in April 2018.
 - To submit on or before end of January 2018 brochure or vocation material for the SI-P FB Account;

2. For our Formation
 - To include the YCCP theme or topics in our ongoing formation, retreats, recollection and/or other spiritual exercises.
 - To send SI Formator/s to the common formation programs organized during the YCCP.
 - To organize a national SI-P gathering in Manila on November 29-December 2, 2018 as a culminating activity and to celebrate Christmas.
 - To encourage renewal programs, communal discernment, in our respective SIs.

3. For the YCCP Activities
 - To launch the 2018 Year of the Clergy and Consecrated Persons at 630pm, December 2, 2017.
 - To actively participate in the YCCP activities lined up for the year, ie, February 2, 2018.
 - To send 3 participants to the Speakers' Bureau Workshop in Galilee Tagaytay City, January 10-12, 2018
 - To participate in the CBCP-AMRSP-Clergy Joint Retreat in July 2018, if invited.
 - To include in our prayer life, especially the intention of the YCCP.
 - To suggest to our Parish Priest to recognize and award native members of the clergy and consecrated life;
 - a. For our Administration
 - To establish different Commissions who will take care of the various SI-P programs,
 - To register the members of the SI-P with the CBCP Directory within the year.
 - To be represented to the ECMR-AMRSP Board, per invitation of the CBCP-ECMR.
 - To encourage communication among SI members thru Social Media, like the FB Account and the SMS;

4. For our Social Involvement
 - To encourage members of SI-P to be involved in outreach programs, such as in Marawi, EJK Programs in Manila

Signed by the SIs present:

Associates of Notre Dame
Fils de Notre Dame de Vie

Madonna della Strada
Notre Dame de Vie
Regnum Mariae
Secular Institute Daughters of St. Anne
Servitium Christi
Secular Institute of the Missionaries of the Kingship of Christ
Volunteers of Don Bosco

A reminder: Please send in your registration for the ACSI GA 2018 as soon as possible. Participants who would like to go to Hanoi for sightseeing will have to make their own travel arrangements but for your accommodation Rev.Fr.Trung S.J. will help you. This is his email address thomastrungvusj@gmail.com. As it is the rainy season do not forget to carry your raincoats/ umbrellas. No formal sightseeing will be arranged in Ho Chi Minh city as many may like to go shopping or return back home. However Rev.Fr..Trung will arrange for transport from the airport to the place of accommodation and also to reach you to the airport on the day of your departure. We look forward to seeing you all in Vietnam