CONFERENZA MONDIALE
DEGLI ISTITUTI SECOLARI

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Rome, April 22, 2025.

Deepest condolences on the return of Pope Francis to the House of the Father.

The World Conference of Secular Institutes joins believers and non-believers in marking the passing of Pope Francis. It was on April 21 that our beloved pastor and spiritual guide entered into the light of the resurrection when he heard the words of the Gospel: *"Come, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Master"* (cf Mt 25:23).

A man of mercy and welcoming of all people, a man of dialogue and encounter, a man of faith and love, Pope Francis has led the Church on a path of renewal to become a beacon of hope in the midst of the world. It was he who reminded members of secular institutes: "Never lose the momentum of walking the streets of the world, aware that walking, even with an uncertain step or limping along, is always better than standing still, withdrawn in your own questions or sense of security. The missionary passion, the joy of the encounter with Christ that urges you to share with others the beauty of faith, reduces the risk of becoming stuck in individualism." Today, these words retain all their power to inspire us all to become pilgrims of hope!

During these Easter days, we give thanks to the Risen Lord for the joy of the Gospel that this good shepherd inspired. He was the one who insisted, time and again, that we are all brothers and sisters, and that there is room for everyone in the Church. His testimony of joy and gladness will constantly remind us that Christ is alive and that He has loved us!

With the whole Church, we respond to the call with which Pope Francis ended each of his speeches: "Pray for me!" Our prayer is one overflowing with gratitude for this good shepherd! May the Lord give his faithful servant the joy of partaking at the table of the great banquet where the Father will gather all his children.

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