CONFERENZA MONDIALE
DEGLI ISTITUTI SECOLARI

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Rome, May 11, 2025.

On the Feast of the Good Shepherd.

His Holiness Leo XIV,
Vatican City.

Dear and beloved Holy Father,

It is with great joy that I extend to you – on behalf of all the members of the Secular Institutes – my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your election as Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pontiff to guide the destinies of our Church. The joy that was expressed in St. Peter's Square on May 8 is still felt today in each of our hearts. We have prayed fervently for the Holy Spirit to enlighten our brother cardinals; the Spirit has shown us once again that our God is the God of surprises. Blessed be our ever-faithful and generous God!

The World Conference of Secular Institutes brings together about 190 different Institutes on all continents. We are more than 35,000 members – lay women and men, priests – committed by our charism in the midst of the world to be leaven and light in all spheres. Our commitment as a particular form of consecrated life in the Church invites us to correspond to your own episcopal and now papal motto: *"In the One, we are one"*. You can count on our closeness and fraternal sense of co-responsibility to carry out the mission with you in a great spirit of synodality.

On this day of the Good Shepherd, I raise a prayer to heaven that you may guide the Lord's flock along paths of peace and justice. May our shared commitment to be bearers of the Good News make all of us *"pilgrims of hope"*; thus we will be instruments in the hands of the one Good Shepherd so that the new heaven and the new earth may be established.

Once again, I wish to congratulate you on your election and assure you of the humble prayers of all the members of the Secular Institutes.

In the Risen Christ,

Elba C. Fleita

Elba Fleita
President

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