



ORDO AUGUSTINIANORUM RECOLLECTORUM

GENERALATUS

Prot. N. 1-1/11.14
(in responsione hic numerus referatur)

TO ALL THE RELIGIOUS OF THE ORDER

Dear Brothers:

As we celebrate the Anniversary of the Augustinian Recollection I invite you to thank God who has called us to be Augustinian Recollects and who continues to call us every day to spend time with him in prayer and live with faith our fraternal life. This same Lord sends us to manifest his love in the mission and service the Order offers the Church and the world.

1. Revitalizing the Order

The General Chapter has entrusted us with revitalizing the Order from our charismatic identity in order to boldly meet the challenges of a new evangelization. In order to achieve this new evangelization we need above all to open ourselves to a deep experience of God and humbly discern the will of God in our communities and ministries. We need the strength of the Holy Spirit to move forward with the process of restructuring that we have begun.

As our Constitutions indicate, the first obligation of the Order is the progressive renewal of the structures and activities of the Order. That is why this restructuring should reach the most fundamental elements of our consecrated life and our Augustinian Recollect spirituality. By means of this process we intend to adapt both spirit and structure, so that it remains living and life giving, capable of incarnating the best of individuals as well as communities (*Ordinances* 19).

The restructuring requires conversion and brings us to both personal and community change in order that our life may be in consonance with the Gospel. This is everyone's responsibility. This process pre-supposes a sense of Order, spirit of sacrifice, sincere dialogue and being able to see beyond our personal interests.

The commission entrusted with this process has asked for a first phase to mentally prepare and reflect. Three documents on the revitalization have already been sent out and in the upcoming months four more will be sent out. Careful reading and personal as well as community study of these documents will help us mentally prepare. In the next phases consultation will begin in order to learn the reality of the houses and provinces, and after that proposals for restructuring will be made to the general council in 2014. I have found very gratifying that hope which the process of revitalization already begun has stirred up in many religious, and which I have witnessed participating in assemblies and convocations, especially in the Americas and the Philippines.

2. Directives for the sexenium

With the desire to achieve greater communion in the Order, the general council, issues with the consent of the prior provincials, from the Chapter Ordinances, the plans of the general secretariats and the vocation commission, these directives for the entire Order:

2012: Revitalization: Charism and Constitutions

2013: Revitalization and new evangelization

2014: Revitalization, community and fraternal life

2015: Revitalization and Augustinian interiority

2016: Revitalizing, discerning, and restructuring

I request each province, vicariate and delegation to find the way to adapt and elaborate its plans and programs according to these directives.

3. Centenary of the apostolic letter *Religiosas familias*

The commission entrusted with preparing the Centenary of the apostolic letter *Religiosas familias* has developed an activities plan which begins its preparatory phase today. The Centenary proper however will not begin until September 16, 2012, and will close on Sunday September 15, 2013.

This Centenary Year should not be limited to commemorating a historic event, nor should be merely a source of vain glory. The Order should live it as a providential event that allows us to see the hand of God in history. After the Philippine Revolution (1898) our Order in the eyes of many seemed doomed to die. None the less, by the path of sacrifice and purification, God led it to consolidation as a congregation newly shaped within its own charism. The full authority of the Church, by the apostolic letter *Religiosas familias*, authenticated the renewal that had taken place.

One hundred years later, the cycle appears to be repeating itself. Secularism and the temptation of pessimism once again menace, and once again the Lord calls us to intensify our spiritual life and revitalize our charism. The past century shows us God's will and it guarantees the endeavor upon which we have embarked.

And if in 1912 the process of renewal grew out of a new expression of our charism in a new constitutional text, the present renewal is largely the fruit of the new constitutions approved by the Church and now being distributed to the religious.

The history of the Centenary is clearly a call from God to renew our way of being, as set out for us in the expression of our charism our new constitutions.

The Centenary of this apostolic letter is only a temporal landmark; the centenary's content is renewal as set out for us by our revised constitutions.

Centenary Prayer

Before (1588)

Father and Lord of all,
who gathers all to work in your vineyard.
More than four centuries ago, from among the sons of Augustine,
you called forth the Augustinian Recollects to labor.
Through the power of your grace,
our brothers were outstanding for their dedication and accomplishments.
Many reached sanctity and martyrdom,
and everywhere they left magnificent testimony to their apostolic zeal.

Yesterday (1912)

And 100 years ago the Church solemnly recognized this.
With new distinction and the same burning dream
our Order has continued hard at labor.
We Augustinian Recollects have kept on working,
under the sun and with fatigue.
We have been a spark for each other;
united with You we have found strength.
Together we have celebrated your special love
and the shared honor of serving You.

Today (2012)

Our family story continues today.
The people and circumstances have changed...
But the flame still burns.
The call remains.
Yes. There are problems, confusion and sometimes we fall.
Discouragement lurks.
It might even seem that yesteryear's fire that impassioned our brothers
today lies asleep.
However, your Breath of Life will never stop fanning into life the burning
embers, spreading warmth and light.

Forever

It is always a time of grace and thanksgiving.
We praise You for the privilege of being chosen to be with You.

Thank you for the darkness and the difficulties;
for our weakness and our failures,
that show us the measure of your greatness.

There, between discouragement and hope, we seek renewal,
that is only found in You.

Allow us to remain in your son Jesus Christ:
only there, at his side, will we be able to hear your persisting
summons.

Give us the same eagerness Mary, Mother of Consolation, had.
Make us worthy of our noble line and history.
May we constantly seek to give You more glory,
a zeal for the salvation of all.

And finally, grant us abundantly that sap which is your Spirit,
which gave rise to our Recollection
and has born the fruits of sanctity in so many brothers and sisters.
AMEN

Fr. Miguel Miró
Prior general

Fr. Sergio Camarena
Secretary general

