



DICASTERO
PER GLI ISTITUTI DI VITA CONSACRATA
E LE SOCIETÀ DI VITA APOSTOLICA

Vatican City, September 20, 2023

Prot. n. Sp.R. 3075/23

Dear sisters in Christ,

I cordially greet all the participants of the National Assembly of the *Council of Major Superiors of Woman Religious (USA)*, meeting September 21-24, 2023 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Starting afresh from Christ: Pathway to Eucharistic Revival is the theme you have chosen for your Assembly, in communion with the pilgrim Church in the United States, engaged with the Eucharistic revival of the whole People of God. "Yes, one must start afresh from Christ because it was from him that the first disciples started in Galilee; from him, that throughout history men and women of every status and culture, consecrated by the Spirit in the strength of their call, have started out; for him they have left family and homeland, following him unconditionally, making themselves available for the announcement of the Kingdom and doing good for all (cf. *Acts 10:38*)" (*Starting afresh from Christ*, n. 21).

"The world still does not know it, but everyone is *invited to the supper of the wedding of the Lamb* (Re 19:9)", and "we must not allow ourselves even a moment of rest, knowing that still not everyone has received an invitation to this Supper or knowing that others have forgotten it or have got lost along the way in the twists and turns of human living" (*Desiderio desideravi*, n. 5). Looking at the world in which we live in this way, we are called to make "a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation" (*Evangelii gaudium*, n. 27).

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Dear religious sisters, we too need to accept the Lord's invitation, like the first disciples, to sit at the table with Him. Yes, "we need to be present at that Supper, to be able to hear his voice, to eat his Body and to drink his Blood. We need Him" (*Desiderio desideravi*, n. 11). Let us start afresh from Him, and with Him, with Him alone, and let us make a journey of Eucharistic rebirth, both personal and communal, with the certainty that "in the Eucharist and in all the sacraments we are guaranteed the possibility of encountering the Lord Jesus and of having the power of his Paschal Mystery reach us" (*Desiderio desideravi*, n. 11). Allow space for this encounter so that "the transforming power present in the Eucharist" (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, n. 62) may transform your lives, your community dynamics and missionary projects, and remind you of the call to create communion in the bosom of the ecclesial community (cf. Jn. 17:21); in a word, make you Eucharistic women.

In this journey, let us put ourselves "at the school of the saints", for "in them the theology of the Eucharist takes on all the splendor of a lived reality, it becomes 'contagious' and, in a manner of speaking, it 'warms our hearts'" (*EdE*, n. 62). I especially entrust you to the intercession of the two patrons of the *National Eucharistic Revival*: St. Manuel González and Blessed Carlo Acutis, two great lovers of Jesus Eucharist, who through their lives, through their writings, suggest paths of Eucharistic rebirth, but above all suggest the path to follow to "warm our hearts" by drawing "from what is the first wellspring of Christian spirituality." (*Desiderio desideravi*, n. 61).

With deep esteem I greet you fraternally in Christ, crucified and risen.



João Braz Cardé
Prefect