

To His Most Reverend Excellency  
Mons. **Filippo Santoro**  
Archbishop of Taranto  
Special Delegate to the *Memores Domini* Lay Association

On the occasion of the Profession that a number of young *Memores Domini* will make on December 4<sup>th</sup> of this year, I would like to send you my cordial greetings, along with my gratitude for what you are doing for the good of this Lay Association, which is currently entrusted to your care. In view of the happy circumstance, I wish to send you the following message, addressed to all of the members of the Association.

Dear brothers and sisters, I write to you as numerous young people, hailing from all over the world, are about to give their lives definitively to the Lord through their Profession. I greet all of the members of the Association, and especially you, dear young people, who are preparing to take such an important step. I know that you have been waiting for this event for a long time, that you come to it with even more desire after the challenges that the Association has lived in recent years. The moment has finally arrived! According to the Association's tradition, the Profession is made at the beginning of Advent. This is beautiful – just as the Lord bursts into history with His coming, in the same way, a newness of life now bursts forth in you.

Like the time of Advent, the promise that you will express will fill your lives with *expectation* and with *hope*. Expectation to encounter the Lord in every gesture, in every daily circumstance, taking as your model the willingness that was in Mary's heart at the Annunciation; but also *hope*, certain of good and of happiness, for you and for the whole world. Fr. Giussani loved to say that with the very form of your life, you cry out to everyone that Christ is the only one for whom life is worth living. Your Profession, therefore, reinforces your missionary presence in the ordinary realities of life, in the various environments of work and of society, in the existential outskirts of the cities and of the many countries from which you hail. You are laypeople and missionaries, in perfect line with the evangelizing mandate received in Baptism.

As I have had the opportunity to demonstrate on various occasions, I have great regard for the charism of the *Memores Domini*, and I am deeply grateful to the Holy Spirit who gave rise to it. In this particular moment for the Association, I want to assure you young people, and all of the *Memores*, that I am closely following the journey that you are making with the guidance of His Excellency, Mons. Filippo Santoro, my Special Delegate, as well as under the paternal solicitude of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life. In these circumstances, dear young people, your Profession takes on a particular meaning: it is a sign of the Lord's predilection for you, but it is also an expression of your renewed trust in the Church, which embraces and accompanies your charism so that, docile to the Spirit and obedient to the Bride, it may bear fruits of apostolate and of holiness in the world. You can therefore recognize and promote that harmonious unity that alone makes witness beautiful and fruitful.

With these sentiments, I entrust your good purposes to the maternal intercession of the Mother of the Church and to the protection of St. Joseph. I send my heartfelt blessing, and I ask you, please, to continue to pray for me.

Francis

Rome, St. John Lateran, November 24, 2021