

MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS

Ave Maria

1st January 2025 – Mary Most Holy Mother of God
Holy Year – Jubilee of Hope

Dear members of the Marian Movement of Priests

The Church offers us the grace of a new Holy Year, which the Pope has called the "Jubilee of Hope". With the Holy Year, the Church offers us abundantly the treasures of God's mercy, especially through the gift of the indulgence and the call to conversion to holiness. It is a great help towards growing in faith, which we live on the path of hope in charity. We are therefore invited to open our hearts to this gift of God and to learn to live in a better way the theological virtue of hope.

Our Mother, in fact, guides us and encourages us to live each year with the intensity of a Holy Year, even if she has emphasized that the Lord, through the Church, gives us a special grace at this time: "This Holy Year becomes the final effort of the divine Heart of Jesus and of my Immaculate Heart to make all of you walk the road of a return to God, in sincere repentance for your sins and with a serious commitment to conversion, such as will lead you to active works of justice and charity, of goodness and giving, for the good of all." (March 25, 1983); "The Lord is at the doors of this generation and, during the Holy Year of his Redemption, He still knocks on the hearts of all, with insistence and love" (December 31, 1983).

Our Lady expects us to live the Holy Year not thinking only of our personal journey, but of the heart of the call that comes to us from her Immaculate Heart: to bring as many people as possible to live the consecration to the Immaculate Heart, to be kept safe in her refuge during the Tribulation and to be an instrument of salvation for all, walking towards the victory of Jesus who will bring back his Kingdom of love, of justice and of peace. She makes alive in us the expectation of the return of the Lord Jesus, which is a fundamental element of our faith, she proclaims him close and wants to make us his instruments to help humanity to be waiting and ready. She revives our hope, strengthens us as Mother of hope, as Mother also generates within us to this theological virtue.

But how does she teach us to live in hope?

We live in the Church and, with a faithful and concrete witness (the prophetic dimension received in Baptism), we are called to point out the Lord as the only Saviour and only goal to a world that has rejected him and no longer wants him, in order to bring humanity back to being the image and likeness of God, to live and be the glory of God, to eternal life. The adversary (the enemy) does not want God to be loved and glorified by us and puts all his strength into preventing the Church from being the light of the world and the salt of the earth, the Light that guides and the Salt that purifies and preserves for eternal life. Then Our Lady offers us the spirit of her Immaculate Heart to heal our faith and sustain our hope, living in both spiritual and corporal charity.

We see how the action of the adversary is ever more brazen and proud: he wants to hit the Church (sometimes even through homilies or teachings of some of us priests) to lead us all to be full of pride in being ourselves (sins included) instead of calling us to conversion to let it be that Jesus live in us, he leads us to pride in a purely earthly and material rather than spiritual and eternal realisation.. The action of the adversary is to subvert the faith, prevent hope and render charity void.

The Immaculate Heart comes to our rescue by bringing back to our souls the beauty of the teaching of the faith and by reviving us in hope, to spur us on: "These are the propitious days for your conversion. They are the days of grace and of mercy, of hope and of expectation. These are the days of preparation for what is now in store for you, for the great events which have been foretold to you." (4 March 1987).

I wish to present for your reflection, therefore, some messages that Our Lady gave to Fr. Stefano Gobbi: you will see that she reminds us that we are in the Good Friday of the Church and we must learn from her how to live in hope the "scandal of the Cross", that is, of the denial of Jesus and of the Church, of her being stripped of her divine dignity and being nailed to earthly and transient realities (such as the wood of the Cross, cf. 11 February 1979); learn from her to keep vigil in hope throughout Holy Saturday, and not be confused or discouraged if the wait is long or if things do not seem to follow our expectations of the triumph of the Immaculate Heart. It is not up to us to know the times and understand the ways of triumph, it is only up to us to act by carrying out what Our Lady asks of us, to live and act in hope as she teaches us, without letting ourselves be stopped by anything, not even by some disappointments that may come from within the Church. Living in hope, as she teaches us, becomes the engine of those spiritual weapons with which she wants us to fight and win her battle, so that Jesus can return to reign and triumph in our hearts as he already triumphs in hers.

"I wish to give a message to the Church to be heard and welcomed by her.

It is a message of trust and of hope..

Notwithstanding the difficulties and the sufferings which the Church is called upon to bear, and the painful hours of agony and of passion which mark the time of her bloody purification, the moment of a renewed splendor and of a second Pentecost is in preparation for her.

My dearly beloved children, never lose confidence and hope. (1 January 1985)

"I am manifesting myself to you in an extraordinary way to urge you to confidence, to hope, to take refuge in me through your act of consecration to my Immaculate Heart". (11 February 1988)

"White flakes of snow are coming down from my Immaculate Heart upon you, children consecrated to me, so that you may bring to all my motherly voice which leads you to hope and confidence". (5 August 1995)

"Never before as today, O Church, have you been so likened to your Crucified Spouse. For you too this is the hour of your agony, of your abandonment, of your painful death on the Cross. But during your Good Friday, there stands at your side your sorrowful mother, who is comforting you and watching in prayer and in the firm hope of your imminent and glorious resurrection". (28 March 1986)

"In these last times let your commitment to live in union of life with your sorrowful Mother become stronger.

This is a long Holy Saturday, which is now about to end. And so, let your prayer become more intense. Do not allow yourselves to become absorbed or taken up by activity and by excessive preoccupation. In the moment of suffering, in the sorrows of the last times through which you are living, I urge you to keep watch with me in assiduous prayer.

In the long Holy Saturday through which you are living, keep watch with me in confidence and in hope. [...] Even though you are still living the pain, the fatigue, the suffering and the death of this long Holy Saturday [...] live with me today in the expectation of this his return". (30 March 1991)

"Today look at me also with immense hope, in the days in which humanity knows the sorrowful experience of being far from God. [...] There have arrived for it the hours of the great trial and of its merciful chastisement.

Then, as Mother, I make myself present in a strong and continuous way, in order to help it in its journey of conversion and of return to the Lord, Thus, to all humanity, I open the door of my Immaculate Heart a safe refuge, wherein it must enter for its salvation. [...]

With immense hope, look to me my little children, so afflicted, wounded and stricken by ther impetuous wind of the great tribulation.

Come to me, all of you my little children. Come to me, because you have need of being consoled, encouraged, protected, defended and saved by your heavenly Mother". (8 December 1996)

"[And still] the Church looks upon this lost humanity with motherly and merciful eyes, and trustingly makes her way to the summit of Golgotha, for her crucifixion and agony.

This is how I find my Daughter today. I am close to her in the painful hour of her Good Friday. With John, who is living again in each of my beloved sons cons, consecrated again to my Immaculate Heart, together let us be willing to help her in this, her agony, [...] let us surround with prayer and hope the bloody moments of her crucifixion.

In the sure expectation of her resurrection, by the work of the Holy Spirit, she will again be completely renewed and know a wondrous splendor. For her too, the Good Friday of her passion will certainly be followed by a joyous Easter and a new Pentecost of grace and of life". (9 April 1982)

As we see, Our Lady teaches us to make fruitful the suffering that the Church is experiencing at this time. Each one of us is a child of Mother Church: we are sanctified in the Church by the Grace that God has entrusted to her, but we are also called to help her in her spiritually sick children. Every sick child makes Mother Church suffer, and in her each one of us suffers. We, although sinners humiliated by our sins, once reconciled are called to be instruments of salvation by responding to the call that comes from the Immaculate Heart. Our Lady says that she wants to save all those sick sinful children of hers through us (cf. February 2, 1982; July 3, 1987). No situation can be considered "hopeless", because the Lord carries out his designs in ways that we cannot understand in all their loving embellishment.

(26 July 1976) "I invite you to live only in trust..

Your time must be measured by trust.

Your time must be measured by trust in the merciful love of the Father and in the action of your heavenly Mother. [...] All the saints and the friends of God lived in this trust.

The Almighty in carrying out his plan in every age, always made use of this trust alone.

Often He realized it even against everyone's expectation, at a moment when no one thought it possible.[...]

And your Mother was called to hope against the very evidence of things and to place her complete trust only in the word of God. Thus she became the Mother of the Word and gave you her Son Jesus.

Now I have announced to you the triumph of my Immaculate Heart and the necessary and painful purification which must precede it. I have also told you that this is the time of the purification and that these are the years of my triumph. But do not search out the moment, scrutinizing the future and counting the years, the months and the days. In this way you would be caught up by anxiety and agitation and would truly waste your time, which is so precious. My beloved sons, my time is not to be measured in this way, but only *by your trust in me*, who am preparing you to be instruments chosen and formed by me to bring about at this time the triumph of my Immaculate Heart".

To live by trust means to walk in a plan that leads to a goal prepared by the Lord, it means to walk and act in hope. It is a trust that does not make us stand still waiting for something to happen or waiting for the world to return to Jesus on its own, but that asks us to act as Our Lady teaches us so that soon everyone will return to Jesus: littleness, courage and abandonment, by way of Cenacles and the offering of oneself, and helping everyone to live the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

It is spiritual action, not inaction. It is not standing still but, in fact, movement forward.

The word that opened the Holy Year is "Spes non confundit", "Hope does not disappoint" (Rom 5:5), and we know that Our Lady leads us to walk to the heights of hope with marvellous fruits of faith and charity, towards the triumph of the Immaculate Heart.

Hope causes us to rejoice at being in a plan of salvation in which we are saved sinners, it leads us to littleness (cf. 8 September 1976). We are saved, we are not judges, we cannot occupy a position that has not been given to us, we cannot live always complaining about things that are wrong in the world or in the Church. Hope lived in littleness asks us not to give in to "human reactions" but to react with "reactions in the Holy Spirit", as Our Lady teaches us: pray, suffer, offer, be silent. And make reparation. Does something make us suffer? Let us react in that way, and possibly with a Cenacle. From this spiritual action a good witness comes about, which has as its fruit the bringing of souls (beginning with our own) to open themselves to God's Grace and to conversion. We do not know the times of God's Grace nor of the triumph of the Immaculate Heart, but we do know what to do. This is what Jesus teaches us, the Church transmits it, Our Lady who always asks for it, explained it well to us in the messages given to Fr. Stefano Gobbi.

In the littleness of the one consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who "works spiritually" in a Cenacle for her maternal plan of salvation, there is the well lived hope that builds up the life of the Church.

Our Lady asks us, therefore, to live this time of the Cross in hope and bearing witness to it, and in this Holy Year we are called to *transmit in the Church the hope of the Mother of Hope*, to be in the Church *the action of the Mother of Hope*, to be *an instrument, a way, a door of hope* in showing everyone the path of the maternal work of the Immaculate Heart and the consolation that she gives us in times of trial.

"I am the Mother of Hope.

This is the theological virtue which must be especially lived in the bloody hours of the purification.

In how many ways my Adversary seeks to bring you to discouragement, in order to make you harmless and to weaken the power of my victorious cohort! Do not be afraid, because Satan has already been defeated by Jesus, and every apparent victory of his prepares a great new a real defeat for him.

[...] if humanity is not returning along the way of love, if rebellion against God becomes greater every day, your trust in the mercy of your Heavenly Father must be all the greater, and you must look to me as the

sign of your hope. [...] The great coldness which covers the world must not discourage you, because each day I am spreading everywhere seeds of life and of resurrection". (1 January 1983)

"For this reason I am asking you to multiply your Cenacles of prayer in the conclusive time of the great tribulation. In this way, you help me to save many of my poor children, who are walking toward their eternal perdition". (15 September 1994)

"Keep watch with me. In hope which, on this day, is about to become certainty.[...]
Keep watch with me. In confidence live with me this Sabbath day.[...]
For this, beloved children, I invite you today to keep watch with me in prayer, in hope and in confidence, on this your long Sabbath, which is about to come to an end". (15 April 1995)

If you men, my beloved children, suffer and pray with me, you will succeed in leading many souls each day along the road which leads to paradise.. You then, o children consecrated to my Immaculate Heart, must be today the instruments of my maternal mercy". (13 August 1982)

"Through your fidelity to the Gospel and your sufferings, you will be able to point out the way of salvation to a vast number of souls". (4 January 1975)

"Thus you will have a part in building, with me each day, new heavens and a new earth, as the most beautiful fruit of the fullness of grace and of mercy, which the immaculate Heart of your heavenly Mother forever gives you.". (8 May 1986)

Dear brothers in the priesthood and dear brothers and sisters: may the words of our Mother guide us to live as she wants this Time of Grace, in which God has placed us to be the cohort of the Immaculate Heart.

don Luca Pescatori 
responsible – coordinator of the M.M.P.

Some news:

Again in 2024 I was able to visit many cenacles in Italy, India (also for the annual retreat of priests and laity), Germany (also for the retreat of priests), Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil (for the annual retreat of the laity and for the priest's Spiritual Exercises), also meeting 10 Bishops and 5 Cardinals.

In 2024, the International Spiritual Exercises for priests were held as always in Collevaleza at the end of June, with the presence of 150 priests and bishops, and some lay people representing their nations.

In the 50th year since Our Lady asked our dear Fr. Stefano Gobbi to pray in Cenacle (January 17, 1974), the Marian Movement of Priests had the joy and grace of seeing the opening of his Cause of Beatification, which took place in Como with the diocesan Bishop, Cardinal Oscar Cantoni. Don Stefano is now considered by the Church as a "Servant of God" and his testimony of faith and priestly life is being examined, in order to propose him – if it is in God's plans – as an example of holiness and intercessor with God and with the Immaculate Heart. The Cardinal of Como approved a prayer that has already been released and can be found on the international website of the MMP: <https://www.msm-mmp.org/en/about-3>

As for the Cause of Beatification of Fr. Nazareno Lanciotti, there is only one last step left that is expected at any moment, we pray that it will come soon and that we can have good news already in these months. Speaking of martyrdom, let us always pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters, who suffer greatly.

For priests: the Jubilee for Priests will be in Rome from 25 to 27 June, consequently the next International Spiritual Exercises - which will be held as usual in Collevaleza - this year will be from Sunday 29 June evening to Saturday 5 July morning. We suggest that priests join diocesan or national pilgrimages to come to Rome for the Jubilee of Priests, and to stay the following week for the Exercises, or at least to buy early plane tickets to Rome, which because of the Holy Year are in great demand and are likely to soon become very expensive. We ask the lay faithful to support priests (also economically) and help them take part.. For information, write to Fr. Florio Quercia, querciaflorio@gmail.com, +39.333.6322248 .

For the laity, I continue to encourage that national, or at least regional, retreats be held in every nation, even if they are of a few people. When the members of the MMP live very far from each other or are unable to hold cenacles in their regions, I encourage them to meet at least on the internet platforms, as has already been happening for some time in some areas of the world: it is not a substitute for family or parish cenacles, it is one more cenacle that connects us and helps us to walk together on this wonderful way of the Immaculate Heart. In the same way, I encourage priests of every nation (or linguistic group at least) to meet through the Internet every month to pray in cenacle, to get to know one another and to support one another with friendship and witness. It is already happening in many nations with good spiritual fruits.

I take the liberty of recommending to you again this year not to fall into the trap of division in the Church, but to be united to the Church and in the Church, to welcome with ever greater heart and maturity our second commitment, that is, to pray with love for the Pope, as Our Lady also asks us in the Act of Consecration, and to live the messages and the Act of Consecration without taking away or adding anything. Only humble prayer is effective, only that keeps us in the way of the Immaculate Heart, opens us to discernment, makes us strong witnesses and leaves us confident that the Lord guides the Church in the time of the Great Tribulation according to His sometimes mysterious plans towards the Purification and the Eucharistic Kingdom of Jesus, in the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.