

Rome, August 28, 2013

Dear confrere, JMJ!

We are about to begin the celebration of the Justinian Year that has to be a propitious time for our sanctification. The Holy Trinity has giving us this time of grace and as such we have to live it. Together we want to commemorate the first one hundred years of Fr. Justin's priestly ordination and of the foundation of the Vocationary, not as a mere memory of past events but as a gift received and transmitted to us, and which must find in the good soil of our hearts that space suitable for bearing fruit to infinity.

I enclose the prayer composed for the Justinian year that must be prayed every day of this centenary year, in each community at the end of Lauds or Vespers or at another time determined by the community. I recommend the faithfulness and perseverance in praying it, avoiding the usual enthusiasm of the beginning for then neglecting it along the way.

The Committee on the Justinian Year has prepared for us some dates for the celebrations in Italy, of which we can already take note. Meanwhile, we remain always in touch with the Committee on any changes or new programs.

The following is already the program in place:

**September 20, 2013 - Beginning of the Year Justinian.**

7:00PM. Solemn Eucharistic celebration of the opening of the Justinian Year in remembrance of the 100th anniversary of the priestly ordination of Blessed Father Justin. The Mass will be celebrated in the Church of the Holy Family in Pianura and will be presided over by our Father General. On that occasion there will be the unveiling, blessing and placement of the new statue of Blessed Justin in the atrium of the Church of Vocationary.

**November 21, 2013 - Commemoration of the delivery of the Rules of the Sisters of Divine Vocations.**

The celebration will take place in San Valentino Torio and will be organized by the Vocationist Sisters probably with celebration presided by the Bishop of Sarno.

**January 18, 2014 - Birth of Blessed Justin and his Baptism day.**

It provides for the celebration of the Eucharist in the parish church of St. George (in Pianura), presided by the bishop of Pozzuoli. This day will be a competition in schools in Pianura on the figure of Blessed Fr. Justin.

**April 30, 2014 - Commemoration of the first beginning of the Vocationary "Pagliarella."**

There will be a vocation program led by juniores of Vocationist Sisters and the young religious of the Vocationist Fathers. There will also be guided tours that will conclude with Eucharistic adoration under the "Pagliarella" until late night.

**May 7/11, 2014 - Commemoration of 3rd anniversary celebration of the beatification and NS of Divine Vocations.**

May 7: We have requested an audience with the Holy Father and a celebration in the afternoon at St. Peter.

May 9/10/11: There will be youth meeting in Pianura.

In the night between May 10 and Sunday May 11, it is confirmed the vigil "Waiting for Mary", at the location of the the Little Lourdes of Pianura, starting at 9PM until the morning of Sunday, when we will conclude with the celebration of the Eucharist, which probably will be presided by our Vocationist bishop, Msgr. Edgar da Cunha, SDV.

**June 2, 2014:** Vocationist weekend gathering, in place yet to be confirmed, will be attended by all branches of the Vocationist family.

**August 2, 2014 - The liturgical feast of Blessed Justin, commemoration of his death.**

During the week previous to this date, it is proposed the pilgrimage of the casket containing the body of our Blessed for the various parishes of Pianura, with prayer programs until late in the day.

On August 2, there will be a procession from the parish of St. George to the Vocationary with a solemn celebration presided or by Cardinal Angelo Comastri, or by the prefect of the Congregation for Religious or by Cardinal Angelo Amato. The invitation will be extended to all the bishops of the Campania region, where Naples is located.

**September 20, 2014 - Closing of Justinian Year.**

Solemn Eucharistic celebration with the priestly ordination of all the Vocationist deacons of the 4 continents where the Congregation is present.

I recommend to the confreres to take note of these events and to give due priority. I confess some concern for some religious who never participate in the celebrations of our family, and this shows a total lack of love for the Founder, for his work and for our Vocationist family. I am referring especially to the participation to events of the Congregation whose dates by now we all know by heart. Unfortunately, in recent years we have felt the absence not only of one or more confrere, but even of entire communities.

Dear brother, let us unite around our common father to learn how to make of our Congregation "*a home and school of communion and holiness*" and to be credible witnesses of the continuation of work entrusted to us. Let us get together around our common father to find in him the boost "to correct deep down in the directions of our hearts", sometimes so far away from a life-style we have freely embraced.

The confreres of the Brazilian Province are already organizing a pilgrimage to Pianura in April 2014. I urge other confreres and the Vocationist sisters living in Italy or in the nations where we are present, to organize pilgrimages to the house of the Father Founder during this year.

I ask too that all the initiatives of the Justinian year, which will be organized in the various countries in which we operate, are communicated to the President of the Commission of the Justinian Year, fr. Salvatore Musella, SDV by emailing him at **salvatoremusella@yahoo.com** or to fr. Claudio De Caro, assigned to communication by emailing him at **claudio.decaro @ live.com**

A fraternal embrace!

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Fr. Antonio Rafael do Nascimento, SDV