



MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE
The Superior General

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L.J.C. et M.I.

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**TO ALL OBLATES LIVING AT VIA AURELIA 290 AND IN THE MOTHER
HOUSE COMMUNITY IN AIX EN PROVENCE**

Dear brothers:

Thank you very much. After all we have experienced during the celebrations for the bicentennial of our pontifical approval, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Indeed, all of us who live in the General House and in the Mother House in Aix have contributed to these celebrations, from welcoming and accompanying our guests to participating in and preparing the events. Some have generously given their time and enthusiasm to organize the events well. We have all participated and helped to the best of our ability. What we have experienced in Rome has also encouraged other Oblates in other parts of the world to celebrate the bicentennial. Many messages expressing this sentiment have come from all our Units. They are an expression of our unity as a family.

I believe that we have all experienced the joy of being Oblates and have taken advantage of these moments to renew ourselves in our Oblate vocation. This was the goal of these celebrations, which on the one hand culminate and on the other hand launch other initiatives that will take place throughout this year with the same goal of renewing ourselves in the charism. It has also been an opportunity to renew our communion with the Church, with the privilege of meeting and greeting Pope Leo XIV personally. For many, as they have told me, it has been like a spiritual retreat. For all, it has been a source of joy that helps us to live our oblation more generously. Surely each of us will take time to reread and meditate on all that has happened and all the messages we have received. It was a time of grace that impels us to be holy missionaries of the poor in apostolic communities.

An invitation. I take this opportunity to invite you, dear brothers, to generosity. As you know, at the 2025 Intercapitular Session, the Major Superiors of the Congregation, together with my General Council, discerned the calls of the Spirit to live our charism today. One of the proposals we are working on is to have a year of animation on the vow of poverty. We will do this for the entire Congregation in 2027, God willing. But now I want to appeal to the personal generosity of each one of us. I would like to invite everyone to voluntarily put into practice one of the proposals of the Intercapitular: to reduce our expenses, perhaps by up to 10% of what was spent the previous year.

This appeal is not only for those of us who work in the general administration and who have the responsibility of managing the budget allocated for our service with the above-mentioned perspective. It is for everyone.

Living in the General House and in our house in Aix, we have a responsibility to think globally, and we know that every small euro saved in our expenses is a benefit for our whole family because it lightens the burden on all the Units and makes it easier for our solidarity funds to distribute more resources for formation and mission. As I say, this is a voluntary, personal appeal, in which each one is called to follow a path of e r discernment. May this journey be made in dialogue with the Lord, guided by the Gospel, and evaluating our life of poverty by meditating on our CC and RR, especially those that tell us what we must avoid and what we must favor in order to live the evangelical poverty to which Christ has called us (cf. CC and RR 19-23).

In making this appeal, I am moved by the conviction that small, repeated gestures can create great results. In fact, it is a call to enter into the Gospel logic in which the poor widow who gives a small coin to the temple treasury has given more than all the others because of the way she did it, giving everything from her heart and out of necessity, the logic of the small grain that bears much fruit or the small mustard seed that produces a huge bush in which the birds come to shelter. The logic of doing these things in secret because only the Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Once again, thank you very much for all that you do each day to live your oblation and support the Oblate mission in solidarity with the entire Congregation and our charismatic family. Thank you also for the small or large efforts that you will make, that we will make, to be able to live the Gospel with joy through a simple life that is a witness to following Christ and helps us to be in more intimate communion with Him and with the poor.

Your brother, pilgrim of hope in communion.



Luis Ignacio Rois Alonso, OMI
Superior General

