



***MESSAGE OF THE MINISTER GENERAL
TO THE TRINITARIAN FAMILY
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOLEMNITY
OF THE HOLY TRINITY***

B. S. SS. T.

Dear brothers and sisters,
my cordial and fraternal greetings to you all.

In recent weeks, we have experienced profound moments of prayer and unity, following the death of Pope Francis and the subsequent election of the new pontiff. Christ, the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep, continues to guide us through His vicars on earth, offering tender, faithful leadership, gentle presence, and enduring comfort.

Pope Francis has been a great gift to the entire Church and to humanity. It is now up to us to carry forward his legacy, his teachings and his example. His profound magisterium has always resonated deeply with the Trinitarian charism. At the heart of his pastoral mission, he consistently placed the poor, extended closeness and support to prisoners and the sick, defended the dignity of every human person, fought against all forms of slavery, promoted peace, denounced every form of discrimination and religious persecution, and championed religious freedom and interreligious dialogue.



As Trinitarians, we were blessed with two remarkable opportunities to meet Pope Francis: during the 2019 General Chapter and at the Conference on Religious Freedom organized by the International SIT in 2022. These were historic and meaningful moments that will remain etched in our memory. On both occasions, Pope Francis encouraged us to live our charism which he described as “flagrantly relevant”, with authenticity and passion, embracing it with courage and generosity.

I invite everyone to revisit the three important messages Pope Francis has shared with us: his message on the occasion of the 8th centenary of the death of our Founder and the 4th centenary of the death of our Reformer; his address to the participants of the 2019 General Chapter; and his address to those attending the International Congress on Religious Freedom organized by the SIT. These texts are an extraordinary source of inspiration and serve as a compass to guide us into the future. I would like to highlight, in particular, Pope Francis’ initiative in preparation for the Jubilee: the establishment of the “Commission of the New Martyrs - Witnesses to the Faith.” This commission seeks to shed light on countless stories of heroic fidelity to the Gospel, an immense spiritual treasure. These testimonies form what the Pope called a “treasure chest of such generous fidelity to Christ”, from which we can draw strength and inspiration, and rediscover the “the reasons for life and goodness”¹. In the Bull of indiction of the Jubilee, he stated that “the most convincing testimony to this hope is offered to us by the *martyrs*, who, firm in their faith in the risen Christ, were able to renounce their very lives here below so as not to betray their Lord. They are present in all ages and are numerous, perhaps more than ever, in our days, as confessors of the life that knows no end. We need to cherish their testimony to make our hope fruitful”. (*Spes non confundit*, 20).

Pope Francis’ concern for the suffering of persecuted Christians has been a constant throughout his pontificate. During the Via Crucis at the Colosseum in 2015, he spoke of Christians ‘persecuted and crucified before our eyes and often with our complicit silence’. In his latest message for the *Urbi et Orbi* blessing, he once again affirmed his commitment to religious freedom and his closeness to persecuted Christians: “May the Risen Christ, our hope, grant peace and comfort [...] to Christians who in many places cannot freely profess their faith. No peace is possible where there is no religious freedom or where there is no freedom of thought and speech and respect for the opinions of others”.

¹ FRANCIS, Letter of the Holy Father constituting the “Commission of the New Martyrs-Witnesses of the Faith” at the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, www.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/events/event.dir.html/content/vaticanevents/en/2023/7/5/letter-comm-newmartyrs.html

Pope Francis has made numerous and heartfelt appeals against all forms of violence and discrimination that make Christians the most persecuted religious group in the world. As the Pontiff himself has noted: “It is a cause of great sorrow for me to note that Christians in the world suffer the greatest number of such discriminations. The persecution against Christians today is even more intense than in the early centuries of the Church, the number of Christian martyrs is greater than it was then. This happens more than 1700 years after the edict of Constantine, which granted freedom to Christians to publicly profess their faith”².

The Pontiff has been the sole religious and moral authority to consistently draw the international community’s attention to the growing phenomenon of anti-Christian persecution and discrimination. Yet, despite his numerous appeals, they have often gone unheeded. His authoritative and solitary voice has pierced through the veil of indifference surrounding this issue, which continues to grow in scale year after year. In every interreligious encounter, Pope Francis has emphasized the fundamental importance of religious freedom, not only as a foundation for authentic and fruitful dialogue but also as a commitment to reject all forms of violence that exploit religion, and as a vital path toward building peace in the world.

His appeals are a powerful call for the Trinitarian Family to renew and live out the charism of our Founder in this critical moment of history.

Pope Francis has also called us to be signs of hope for those who are discouraged and resigned. These signs of hope are expressed through our commitment to peace, freedom for every person, and works of mercy. Through our dedication, the Trinitarian charism becomes a powerful beacon of hope for the oppressed and persecuted. In a world beset by many crises, none more profound than the crisis of hope, our mission can be a light shining in the darkness for so many. Mercy is the womb of hope; even in the most difficult circumstances, it opens new paths and gives rise to new life.

In continuity with Pope Francis, the new Pontiff has already, on two occasions, emphasized the importance of respecting religious freedom, an essential foundation for fostering peace and the unity of the human family.

While we express our heartfelt gratitude to Pope Francis for accompanying us with his Petrine ministry on our journey as a Trinitarian Family, we also want to assure Pope Leo XIV of our full support and willingness to walk together on the paths of the world, bringing the light of the Gospel especially to those who are challenged and forgotten. With him we aspire to be artisans of ‘disarmed and dis-

² FRANCIS, *Address to Participants of the International Conference on Religious Freedom Under International Law and the Global Conflict of Values* (June 20, 2014), in AAS 106 (7/2014), 547.

arming' peace, builders of bridges, pilgrims and witnesses of hope, leaven for fraternity. Through the Pope, we seek to be united with all our Christian brothers and sisters worldwide, especially those who suffer. We trust that the new Pontiff will provide the guidance and support needed to proclaim to the world the message of peace and freedom that flows from the Gospel and the Trinitarian Rule.

In a few days, the General Chapter of the Order of the Most Holy Trinity and of the Captives will begin, a moment of grace for the entire Trinitarian Family and a powerful sign of communion and fidelity to the charism of St. John de Matha. I ask you to support the Chapter with your prayers, both the proceedings of this Chapter and the time after the Chapter, so that from its programmatic indications, we may draw graces for our mission. The Chapter will open on the day of Pentecost and conclude on the day of Corpus Christi, while at the very center we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity. These liturgical solemnities will not only mark the time of the General Chapter but also indicate the profound meaning of this moment. At Pentecost we celebrate the action of the Holy Spirit who renews and enlivens our religious family. In the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, we celebrate the source and heart of our spirituality and mission: the communion that is realized in love. In Corpus Christi we remember that Christ is the only center of our life and that we as Church are called to be ever more united to the sacrament of the Eucharist, becoming for our needy brothers and sisters the bread for sharing and nourishment of hope. My wish is that this General Chapter may revive our hope, which, of course, is based not on ourselves or our human strategies, but on the gift of the Holy Spirit, whom we invoke every day during this time of preparation, so that He may guide us and above all give us the courage to make the right choices that do not respond to personal interests or partial visions, but are at the service of all. Let us seek in every choice, following the model of our founder, the interest of Christ.

In the great mystery of the Holy Trinity, we contemplate the mystery of God, which is not solitude but a relationship of love. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer stated, "God is not a God "in himself", but a God "for us." The Triune God is manifested in the love that gives itself in Christ and is present in the community through the Holy Spirit." This great mystery "is therefore the source of all the other mysteries

of faith; it is the light that illuminates them" (CCC, 234). May the light of this great mystery help us to be persevering in our Trinitarian vocation, lead us to an ever more generous love and an ever more courageous witness to this mystery that leads us beyond antagonisms, rivalries, divisions, toward a horizon of peace and hope for all humanity.

Trinitarian communion is an invitation for us to cherish and cultivate communion with one another as the greatest gift of our lives. From this communion flows the redemptive and merciful mission entrusted to us. Without communion there is no mission and our fidelity to the charism also dissolves. May fraternal communion always be our strength and support. Only through it can we experience the consoling presence of the Risen One who transforms our lives. It is the only medicine that can heal our wounds and restore joy and hope to our labors. Let us guard it as the greatest treasure of our lives and of our Religious Family. Let us defend it with the weapons of humility, patience and mutual listening. Only in this way can we continue our mission of fidelity to the charism and service to the oppressed man.

To all I extend my wish for peace as I invoke on each one the blessing of God-Trinity through the intercession of our saints.

Rome, June 1, 2025

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord



P. fr. Luigi Buccarello O.SS.T.

Minister General

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