

concretization of the Holy Father's decision to place the figure of personal prelatures in the Dicastery for the Clergy, which we filially accept.

The Holy Father encourages us to fix our attention on the gift that God gave Saint Josemaría, so as to live it fully. He exhorts us to safeguard the charism of Opus Dei in order “to further the evangelizing action carried out by its members,” and thus “to spread the call to holiness in the world, through the sanctification of one's work and family and social occupations” (*Motu proprio Ad charisma tuendum*). I would like this invitation of the Holy Father to resonate strongly in each and every one of us. It is an opportunity to go more deeply into the spirit that our Lord instilled in our Founder and to share it with many people in our family, work and social environments.

Regarding the provisions of the *Motu proprio* on the figure of the Prelate, I repeat what I have pointed out to you on other occasions: we give thanks to God for the fruits of ecclesial communion that the episcopacies of Blessed Alvaro and Don Javier have brought about. At the same time, the episcopal ordination of the Prelate was not and is not necessary for the guidance of Opus Dei. The Pope's desire to highlight the charismatic dimension of the Work now invites us to reinforce the family atmosphere of affection and trust: the Prelate must be a guide but, above all, a father.

I also ask you to pray for the work that Pope Francis has asked us to carry out in order to adapt the particular law of the Prelature to the indications of the *Motu proprio Ad charisma tuendum*, remaining – as he himself tells us – faithful to the charism.

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## Letter of October 6th Regarding the Upcoming General Congress

My dear children: may Jesus watch over my daughters and sons for me!

As I already informed you, we are studying in the General Council and Central Advisory how to carry out what the Pope asked of us regarding

bringing the Statutes of the Work into line with the Motu proprio *Ad charisma tuendum*.

In the Dicastery for the Clergy we have been advised not to limit ourselves to considering only what refers to the dependence of the Prelature on this Dicastery and the change from every five years to annual reporting to the Holy See on the Prelature's activities. We should also propose other possible adjustments to the Statutes that seem appropriate in light of the Motu proprio. We have also been advised to spend as much time as necessary without any hurry.

Since this is an initiative of the Holy See, it is not necessary to hold the General Congresses foreseen in order to introduce changes in the Statutes (cf. no. 181, § 3). Nevertheless, with the favorable opinion of the Central Advisory and the General Council, I will convene an Extraordinary General Congress with that precise and limited purpose, which will take place in the first half of 2023.

To prepare for this work of the men and women who will take part in this Congress, it is also important to receive, well in advance, the contributions of those who wish to send specific suggestions. Soon you will receive guidelines on how and when to send these to me, to help facilitate their study.

Keep in mind that it is a question of complying with what the Holy See has indicated, not of proposing any change that might seem interesting to us. Along with the desire to be faithful to our founder's legacy, it is important to keep in mind the good for everyone that the legal stability of an institution entails.

Naturally, the text of the Motu proprio can give rise to other suggestions, apart from what is related to the Statutes, to give new impetus to the apostolic work. We will ask you to send these later, when future Work Weeks are convoked.

Let us entrust all of this effort to the intercession of Saint Josemaría, as we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of his canonization today. Let us ask our Lord that the charism God entrusted to our Father in the service of the Church may bear fruit with renewed strength in the life of each one of us, as Pope Francis has urged us.

## Homilies

### On the Occasion of the Inauguration of the Academic Year at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Basilica of Sant'Apollinare, Rome (October 3, 2022)

After the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, after the rushing wind and the tongues of fire, the first thing the Apostles do is both miraculous and simple: they speak. The first consequence of the coming of the Holy Spirit is the word. The Apostles speak. And they speak not according to their own ideas or according to what people want or expect to hear, but according to what the Holy Spirit gives them power to say.

We do not know exactly what they said at that first moment, but we do know that they spoke the truth, because the Holy Spirit, as our Lord said to the Apostles at the Last Supper, is the “Spirit of truth” (*Jn*16:13). It is He who leads us to the whole truth. It is He who, as we have just read in the Gospel (*Jn* 14:26), teaches us and reminds us of what Jesus himself said. He is the one who leads us to share the truth with others.

In this Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, we are committed to the work of education, which is at the service of the truth. The university exists to communicate the truth, to transmit the truth to a new generation, to spread the truth to others. This university exists to transmit the truths of divine revelation, which we ourselves have received from previous generations.

It is only natural, therefore, that the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit, should guide us in this task. This is one of the reasons why, at the beginning of each academic year, we contemplate these texts from Sacred Scripture and ask, at Holy Mass, that the Holy Spirit may assist us in the