

conviction that we are not alone: the Queen of the apostles, who accompanied closely the first steps of the Church (cf. *Acts* 1:12-14), never abandons us. “The Master, before ascending to the right hand of the Father, told the disciples: ‘Go and preach to all nations,’ and they had been filled with peace. But they still had doubts. They didn’t know what to do, and they gathered around Mary, Queen of Apostles, so as to become zealous proclaimers of the Truth that will save the world” (*Furrow*, 232).

Do not fail to unite yourselves to my prayer for the twenty-five new priests of the Prelature who were ordained on the 20th in Rome.

Rome, May 25, 2023

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Message of June 3, after the Audience with Pope Francis

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

I want to communicate to you my joy at having been received in an audience today by our Holy Father Francis. During the audience, I conveyed the affection and union of the faithful of Opus Dei with him, and informed him of the work carried out last April during the days of the Extraordinary General Congress. I also told him about the atmosphere during those days, and about the desire manifested by everyone to be faithful to the charism of Saint Josemaría and to be united with the Pope. At the same time, I communicated to the Holy Father that we have begun to work with the Dicastery of the Clergy on the document that resulted from the Congress, for the decision to be made by the Holy See.

With Don Mariano, who was accompanying me, we had the opportunity to tell him about several apostolic initiatives brought forward by people of the Work together with many others in various countries, striving to spread the Gospel message and to serve many people.

The Holy Father expressed his joy at everything he heard and remarked on the good that people of Opus Dei are doing in the world, while

encouraging us to spread our spirit everywhere in service to the Church.

Finally, he gave us his blessing, which he extended to all the people of Opus Dei and to all who are in one way or another in contact with the Work.

Although you already do so, I ask you to pray a lot for the Pope and for his intentions. In this month during which we celebrate the feast of Saint Josemaría, let us also place the work of the upcoming months under his intercession.

Rome, June 3, 2023

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