

will provide water to others.”<sup>6</sup> I ask our Lady to teach us to keep and ponder in our heart, as she did, all that refers to Jesus (see *Lk* 2:19), so that we tread and help others to tread—each person where God is calling them—along *paths of contemplation*.

Although the letter I wrote you with the conclusions of the General Congress is still recent, perhaps you missed having a letter from the Father last month. After considering it calmly and consulting the Central Advisory and General Council, it has seemed opportune to me to communicate with you by alternating letters with briefer messages, which will reach you through the Work’s website, now that the Internet is another means for staying united.

During Easter week I will make a brief pastoral visit to Ireland: accompany me with your prayer. And don’t forget to pray for the 31 faithful of the Prelature who will receive priestly ordination on the 29<sup>th</sup> of this month. Finally, I want to thank you for the closeness you have shown me with your letters and prayers. My prayers for all of you accompany you always.

Wishing you a happy Easter, your Father blesses you with all his affection,

Rome, April 5, 2017

Fernando

<sup>6</sup>. Saint Ambrose, *Epistola* 2, 4 (PL 16, 880).

## On the occasion of The Holy Father’s Trip to Fatima (May 10, 2017)

The upcoming centennial of our Lady’s apparitions in *Cova da Iria* and the Pope’s pilgrimage to Fatima awaken once again in our hearts, in a special way, Saint Josemaría’s ardent desire: *Omnes cum Petro ad Iesum per Mariam!* Let us accompany Pope Francis with the closeness that is made possible by prayer. And let us leave in our Mother’s hands the big intentions of peace and conversion that she made known in her apparitions. Let us also entrust to her the unity of the Church and of Christians, so that—all with Peter!—we may sow peace and joy in the world. To the intercession of the soon to be saints Francisco and Jacinta we entrust all those suffering from the physical and spiritual consequences of violence, war, lack of freedom, discrimination, loneliness, poverty. Our Lady recommended the Rosary at Fatima. Let us pray it with the affection and trust of children who have recourse to their Mother’s heart.

Our prayer will be fruitful if the peace and fraternity that imbue our Lady’s messages become more present in an attentive, open and refined love for those God places at our side. Charity isn’t cold good manners. Let us meditate on it slowly: in our home, at work, in

our relationships with everyone, despite our limitations and impatience, can the others recognize in us something of Mary's maternal look?

Rome, May 10, 2017

Fernando