

the Tabernacle, then, my child, how abundant the fruits of your sanctity and apostolate will be!” (*The Forge*, no. 835). Let us try, day by day, to make them our life.

Continue praying for the task the Pope has entrusted to us to adapt the Statutes of the Work to what is indicated in the Motu proprio *Ad charisma tuendum*. We have already started to study – in the General Council and the Central Advisory – the best way to carry it out.

On the 15th we will remember the election of Blessed Alvaro. Let us turn to his intercession and try to imitate his fidelity, as Saint Josemaría advised us.

Rome, September 10, 2022

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Message of November 18

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

I give great thanks to God for the days I have spent in Mexico. Once again, I have seen, through the love and care of so many people, that the Work is a true family.

Before Our Lady of Guadalupe, I remembered and tried to make my own Saint Josemaría’s words to our Lady, also on his trip to Mexico: “Now I tell you with my heart enkindled: *monstra te esse Matrem!* – “show us that you are our Mother!” And he continued: “If a small child asked his mother this, we can be sure that no mother would fail to be moved.” This is how we approach our dialogue with our Lord and our Lady: with the trust and naturalness of children.

We are certain that Jesus and his Mother are ready to receive our prayer at any time. Therefore, I encourage you to abandon in their hands the needs of the world and of the Church. Perhaps you remember that Don Javier recounted how, on one occasion, Saint Josemaría asked him: “Are you praying now, my son?” And, without waiting for an answer, he added: “I never stop.”

Let us never stop praying – often without words – with a faith that brings with it “a hope that does not disappoint” (cf. *Rom* 5:5). As the Pope says: “Even if the sky grows dark, a Christian doesn’t stop praying. Prayer goes hand in hand with faith.” When we fail to see the immediate fruit of our prayer, let us continue to turn to our Lord, with perseverance, secure in the love that God has for us (cf. *1 Jn* 4:16).

I especially ask you to pray for the twenty-five new deacons of the Prelature who will be ordained tomorrow in Rome.

Rome, November 18, 2022

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Message of December 15, on the Occasion of Christmas

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

“Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth” (*Lk* 2:14). These are the words the angels sing when announcing to the shepherds that, not far from there, Jesus has just been born in a manger. These same words have led to many popular songs that give a Christmas atmosphere each year to our streets and homes. We can join in that choir, wanting to give all the glory to God and praying for peace in the world.

Our Lord also counts on each one of us to sow peace in the world, beginning with those closest to us. “Peace is never attained once and for all, but must be built up ceaselessly. Moreover, since the human will is unsteady and wounded by sin, the achievement of peace requires a constant mastering of the passions . . . It is likewise the fruit of love, which goes beyond what justice can accomplish” (*Gaudium et spes*, no. 78).

There will be no peace in the world – in this troubled and at the same time hope-filled world – if there is no peace in people. “We have both peace and war within us” (*Furrow*, no. 852), Saint Josemaría said. Therefore, this Christmas we want the angels’ song to resonate, first of all, in our own soul. It is in the depths of our heart where we forge the attitudes