



To all the members of the Family.

The first year of preparation for the Bicentenary of the foundation of the Holy Family is coming to an end. Together let's take a look at this past year before turning towards the next one.

We have many reasons for thanksgiving.

Thank you to all the members for your participation through reflections, local activities, blog participation, support and contributions to the success of the humanitarian project in Jaffna. If some of you still want to provide financial assistance, it needs to be done before the end of 2017.

Thank you to all the members directly involved in the smooth running of the humanitarian project, thank you for giving us the possibility to follow its progress, thank you also to the participants of the project who accepted to enter this process and to go forward. This project cannot stop at the end of the year. We need to do an evaluation and then study how it can continue with the aim of becoming a self-sustaining project.

We can also give thanks for events that have made life and communion grow in our Family in 2017:

- The election of an International Coordinator of Priest Associates: Benedicto Furo from the Philippines.

- The live-in of Priest Associates in Sri Lanka during which four new members made their commitment. Two newly committed Priest Associates from Pakistan and several others from India participated in this live-in.
- Continental meetings of lay associates that allowed them to share the joys and the difficulties experienced in different countries and future prospects.
- Two sessions of Religious Sisters for the deepening of our spiritual ROOTS. They will initiate a process of animation at local level for the whole Family.
- There are other realities that were lived in a more discrete way in the day to day life.

As we said in our first letter: "The year 2018 will be devoted to a deep spiritual renewal within our Big Family. The Spirituality Team of the Religious Institute has prepared a process of reflection that will be used for this purpose. Two groups of Apostolic and Contemplative Sisters worked with members of the Spirituality Team last September. They will initiate this work with the collaboration of members of all vocations at the local level. We encourage each and every one of you to participate fully in this process.

A year ago, we announced that the restoration of the island created by the Good Father in Martillac was scheduled for the year 2018. It is the ACEM (Association Caisse d'Encouragement Missionnaire) which will make an assessment of the work to be done. It will indicate the most urgent needs and what will be possible to achieve according to the funds that will be available. At the same time, it will be an opportunity for us to dive into the spiritual vision of the Good Father that is present in this island which is dear to us.

In 2018, we will celebrate our feasts: the feast of the Holy Family, the Miraculous Benediction of February 3, Our Lady of All Graces on June 12, the birth of the Founder on October 27 and the anniversary of his death February 8th. Let us take advantage of these opportunities to invite relatives, friends, and neighbors to share our lives and our spirituality. We can ask a few of them to tell us what it

means for them to live with us these special moments and share their answers on the blog.

The Bicentenary team also has the mission of encouraging and helping in the realization of a common presentation of the Holy Family from productions offered by different units (power-point or video). We will let you know later how we will proceed with this work.

Together, let us enter joyfully this period of Advent. May the desire to discover ever more deeply the presence of "God with us" in the little ones, in the poorest of the poor and in the heart of our own fragility increase.

Live communion, celebrate Family ...

Let us sing together "Glory to God and peace on earth to the people God loves"

Let us walk joyfully towards Christmas.

Fraternally,

The Bicentenary Team

November 2017

