



To the Reverend
Fr. **Joachim Rego**, C.P.
Superior General
of the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ

On the occasion of the 48th General Chapter of your Religious Family with the theme, *“Here I am, send me (Is. 6:8). The Passion of Christ Source of Life and Mission,”* I extend to you and your confreres my cordial best wishes.

The Chapter event you are about to celebrate is an important moment for the Congregation since you are called to listen to the Holy Spirit, the One who can stir up new pastoral goals to be implemented with joy and renewed vigor in the Church and in the missionary field where He has sent you. Therefore, with a grateful and docile spirit dispose yourselves to take on the innovations He will reveal so that strengthened in faith and enlightened by Him you may make creative choices to face the challenges of the present hour.

“See your neighbor in the side of Jesus-- thus you will love him with pure and holy love.” (Letters, 437) “Let us love our neighbor in God; let us love God in our neighbor.” (Letters, 327) The words of St. Paul of the Cross, a man transfigured by the Passion of Christ, are still a strong reminder to you today to be instruments of mercy among those who are afflicted in body and spirit.

Additionally, be attentive to the exhortation to become "compassionate apostles," dispensers of God's love among the underprivileged, faithful instruments of divine Mercy to heal the wounds of humanity distressed by so much suffering.

Be enthusiastic witnesses of the *Sapientia Crucis* [the Wisdom of the Cross] by disseminating its salvific value. It is through the contemplation of the Crucified that we can know the immense power of the sacrificial love that emanates from the weakness of the Cross. Only in this way do we learn the humble manner of God who gives himself unconditionally in order to be close to man and set him on the path of hope that does not wane-- *Ave Crux Spes Unica* [Hail O Cross, our only hope].

Finally, I renew the invitation offered on the occasion of the Jubilee Celebrations for the Third Centenary of the Founding of your Congregation - July 1, 2021 - that this event may give you new impetus to "deepen the relevance of the Cross in the framework of the many contemporary contexts" and as spiritual heirs of St. Paul of the Cross, "ensure that the Paschal Mystery, the centre of the Christian faith and the charism of the Passionist religious family, is proclaimed and disseminated in response to divine Charity, and that it addresses the expectations and hopes of the world."

With these sentiments, as I entrust each of you to the intercession of St. Paul of the Cross and to St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, I gladly impart to you my paternal Blessing. May the Virgin Mother protect you everywhere. And please do not forget to pray for me.

Fraternally,



Rome, from St. John Lateran, September 29, 2024

Feast of the Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael