

# 1643-2018

*375 years of the Congregation of Jésus and Mary*



Message of the General  
Superior of the Congregation

**"In the year 1643, our Lord and his Most Holy Mother gave us the grace, through an excess of kindness, to begin the establishment of our little Congregation on the 25th of March, the day on which the Son of God was conceived and the Blessed Virgin was made Mother of God."**

Dear sisters and brothers, incorporated, associates and seminarians, and the many friends of the Congregation, with these words our Father John Eudes remembered our foundation 375 years ago. Also, I invite you to celebrate with joy this anniversary. May our praise rise to God as Saint John Eudes wrote in his Memorial: "To the Most Holy Trinity, to the humanity of Jesus Christ, to the fruitfulness of the Virgin Mother, and to the communion of all saints; eternal praise, honor, power and glory, of all creatures, until the end of the ages. Amen". Yes, with John Eudes we thank God because he raised up our little Congregation in the Church. Our Congregation has endured and is now present in North and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. Let us praise God because the Holy Spirit has led our Congregation in the struggles of history, has even revived us, and with incredible faithfulness our God continues to lead us on the current ways of the mission. With gratitude, we adore and marvel at the gift of our little Congregation of Jesus and Mary.

Let us give thanks because God has called us to be members, in our respective ways as incorporated, associates and candidates. But we are all members of the Eudist family, more precisely members of the same charismatic family. Let us thank the Lord because he has called us to serve the Church following Christ in the spirit of Saint John Eudes. We are offered a magnificent spiritual heritage, through which we are integrating into the Congregation. We are indebted to all of our predecessors who have done so much good work in the years past. Our rich history and patrimony are inspiring gifts that compel us to continue the work set before us. And let us thank the Lord for all that he has done in his Church through our Congregation, in ways that only he knows, so that Jesus may be known and loved and formed within all of us. Let us give thanks to the Lord for all the apostolic work done since the foundation, and for the mission we are fulfilling today, with zeal and creativity.

Even as we give thanks, we also must be open to forgiving each other for the times we have been

uncharitable with each other. God's patience and mercy are, thankfully, beyond our capacity to understand. We ask the Lord to send his grace to so many of our members who are in need of his mercy. St. John Eudes was so right to remind us to renounce our sinfulness and in order to experience the liberation of the Spirit through the foundations of the Christian life, with faith and prayer. Help us to live in this freedom so that we may continue serving your Church! Purify our poor Congregation of all that stands in between our mission and us.

With joyful confidence, let us receive the strength of God's grace, in this 4th movement of the Eudist prayer. May divine grace be so strong that it fills us in such a way that there is no space for anything but the ardent desire of the mission. If we commit ourselves entirely to the mission, many obstacles would disappear and given the grace of a happy death we will join the Company of Saints! The first purpose of our foundation, 375 years ago, is to aid our members to live a life of holiness and for the sanctification of the people of God. Let us leave everything behind all that distracts our ability to seek, like Saint John Eudes, all that contributes to the Glory of God.

We pray in the name of your Son, the Man-God, the merciful Father and the Holy Spirit that our Congregation may grow. O Lord bless abundantly each member of our spiritual family. We pray through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, with all the angels and saints, among whom St. John Eudes dwells.

Now, in 2018 for the next 25 year to 2043 we will be preparing to reach our 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Congregation! Wherever we find ourselves at that time, on earth or in heaven, we will always be members of The Body of Christ, having lived with the wonderful grace and pride of being Eudists, disciples of Jesus, in the spirit of St. John Eudes.

I pray that as you move along this yearly pilgrimage towards the Easter celebrations, that it is a time of enlightenment and conversion. This year we will be able to celebrate our foundation twice: on March 25, historical date, and on the day of the Annunciation, postponed to April 9, as St. John Eudes says "the day on which the Son of God was conceived and the Virgin Mary was made the Mother of God." I wish a happy feast of our foundation!

**Fr. Jean-Michel AMOURIAUX, cjm**