

Vatican City, 8 May 2021

Prot. n. 58060/2021

Dear Brothers,

With our whole heart, we join you in giving thanks for the bicentennial of the foundation of your religious Institute, the *Brothers of the Sacred Heart*, which will be celebrated on September 30 in Lyon, France, and in all the Institute's communities, found in 31 countries around the world.

Your Founder, Father André Coindre, and the first Superiors General, confronted with the misery of abandoned or imprisoned young people, were gripped by compassion. They passed down to you the desire to put yourselves at the service of young people, so as to bring them the Love of the Heart of Jesus.

Today, in a world marked by division and injustices, young people often fall victim to a countless variety of forms of violence, which have intensified during the current health crisis. In this context, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, calls us tirelessly back to the brotherhood and kindness with which we must surround each person, giving priority to the smallest and poorest of our brothers and sisters.

We invite you, individually and all together, to follow Christ with generosity and devotion, gentleness and humility, in living out your “motto and shared hope – *Ametur Cor Jesu!*” (RoL 12), in the awareness that, “Hope is bold; it can look beyond personal convenience, the petty securities and compensations which limit our horizon, and it can open us up to grand ideals that make life more beautiful and worthwhile” (Francis, Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, n. 55).

Assuring you of our prayer, we greet you very fraternally and we bless you with all our heart.

João B. Cardinal de Avez

Prefect

+ José Rodríguez Carballo, O.F.M.  
Archbishop Secretary

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To all the BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART

Care of the Rev. Brother Mark Hilton

Superior General