

BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART



30 September 2021

My dear friends,

All who share in the mission of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart,

Today, 200 years ago, ten men committed themselves to God through the vision of Father André Coindre, a priest of the diocese of Lyon, France. That charism involved the formation of young people, in body, heart, mind, soul and spirit. It was about the formation of the whole person. Our founder described it as forming good people of faith, good parents, good workers and good citizens – basically, good people who can contribute to and change society for the good.

Today you are part of that mission, you and more than 100,000 students around the world, in more than 200 schools in more than 30 countries. What began in the city of Lyon in France with a very small foundation serving less than 30 students has touched the lives of millions around the world.

Father Coindre focused on God's inexhaustible love for us and our response. He emphasized that none of us is perfect, and all of us need forgiveness time and time again. And so the challenge is not simply our awareness of all God does for us but also our willingness to share that love and forgiveness with those we encounter every day.

So it is about being in class, or on the playground. It is about the faculty room and conversations with students. It is about the important relationship between teachers and parents. Each relationship is built on compassion, forgiveness, and trust. And that is never easy in a world where relationships can often be about power not trust, about strength not forgiveness, about competition and not cooperation.

That is why Father Coindre's vision remains important 200 years later. His vision of the transformation of our society from within, by each of us, through positive, loving, hope filled relationships is the core of the mission of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. In over 30 countries, we continue to form young people to their fullest potential ... in the hope that they, and you, might change the world.

So let us pray in thanksgiving for the two hundred years of commitment to this vision that has led to this day.

And let us pray that we may each take up our part in this mission - that each of us may experience the love of God through the people around us, and contribute to that experience ourselves by becoming more hopeful, more loving and more compassionate toward each person we meet.

Loved by the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Br. Mark Nelson SC

Superior General