



# SOCIETAS MARIAE

## Curia Generalis

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Dear Confreres,

Greetings and good wishes.

Two significant events will take place shortly in the life of the Church, first, is the Advent period where we are called to reflect on and celebrate the constant concern of God for his people, originating in his mercy, in his salvation made possible through Jesus; all of which comes to life through the birth of his Son into our world.

During this period of grace I encourage you to focus attention on the spiritual meaning for our day of God's entry into humanity through a prayerful contemplation of the daily liturgical readings.

Flowing from your prayer and reflection I invite you to find concrete ways to reach out to the poor and neglected, following the commanding example of Pope Francis, so that those whose lives you touch feel included and more cherished in a world which at times has to be so painfully alienating.

The second event has a singular importance for all Religious, contemplative and active. The Catholic Church, at the express wish of Pope Francis, is about to begin a long ***Year of Consecrated Life***, beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and concluding on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, the world day consecrated to Religious Life.

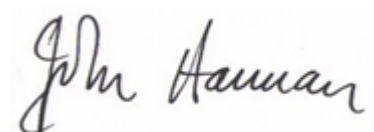
Activities are being organised throughout the dioceses of the world with the active participation of religious. I am inviting each Marist province and district to do the same with a focus on sharing experiences of prayer, service and fraternal life.

Let this be a time to celebrate within our communities with each other, and with other religious all of whom are called to be a sign of Christ's presence, being instruments of his grace and love in our world through "*the pursuit of perfect charity*".

The year of consecrated life also marks the 50th anniversary of ***Perfectae Caritatis***, the Vatican II *Decree on Religious life*, and ***Lumen Gentium***, the *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* – key documents on the nature and vocation of religious in our world.

The purpose of this consecrated year is as stated by Pope Francis to “*gratefully remember the recent past*” whilst embracing “*the future with hope.*” Let us spend time re-visiting these documents, praying through them and re-committing ourselves to their ultimate goal, the glory of God and the salvation of others.

Mary, Queen of the Society of Mary watch over us.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John Hannan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'J'.

John Hannan s.m.  
Superior General