



## Convention 2022 General Assembly 6 October 2022

### Intervento della Presidente Anna Maria Tarantola

I am so sorry not being able to be there with you in presence. Unluckily the consequences of the bad fall I had last September are very serious and I cannot travel.

You know what we did in 2021/2022, we had occasions to talk about it in the zoom meetings that took place. The Mission Report gives ample account of the initiatives taken.

I therefore think that it is appropriate to look to the future bearing in mind our mission on the one hand and the context in which we are called to operate on the other.

**Our mission**, we know well, is to spread the social doctrine of the Church in the world with all the tools available but above all with our example, with our lifestyle in the family, social and work environment that must characterize us.

The context in which we are called to operate is characterized by complexity and uncertainty. We have to live with the presence of many crises that have a significant impact on the poorest, most fragile and excluded: persistence of the pandemic that we still do not know well despite the great efforts of scientists (what are the effects in the long term?), Climate crisis, growing inequalities and different kind of poverty, return of inflation, risk of a serious economic crisis, a terrible war of aggression in Europe which is added to the many others that plague our planet, emergence of psychological problems especially in young people, demographic fall. This set of criticalities have changed the global scenario and have affected our expectations by replacing the widespread feeling of strength and expansion we had become accustomed to with a feeling of uncertainty and fear that makes it difficult to see the future.

Faced with this complexity, one feels disoriented and powerless. The risk of discouragement is high. The question I often ask myself and which I hear from some members is but what can we do as a Foundation?

**I believe that the answer can only be to continue with determination, commitment and passion in the pursuit of our mission, using all our skills and competences,**

**working in harmony and sharing.** In this difficult context it is my strong conviction that the CSD compass is more essential than ever to activate the necessary discernment in the analysis and in the search for the best solutions to the many problems we have to face.

Our goal is therefore to continue our work, looking forward, not backward, with clear analysis and constant commitment to make a substantial contribution to the correct management of this epochal change by activating ethics and fairness.

In this perspective it is important to work together as a unified and cohesive team with the common pride of being part of the Foundation.

Our mission cannot be achieved without the convinced and concrete contribution of the groups that are the operative arms of Centesimus .

Since the beginning of my mandate, I have believed and believe in the ability of groups to work effectively all together, under the guidance of the Vatican Foundation, for the spread of the CSD, without personal goals, to attract new members and to be an example in their own territories. activating a different lifestyle than the dominant one as Pope Francis constantly asks us.

The work done by the groups in 2021/2022 was precious, I extend my appreciation and thanks to everyone.

I cannot fail to mention that 2022 was a particularly complex year at the level of internal management: we had to manage the change of the Secretary General and of a resource of the secretariat, the application of the OCM and the Code of Ethics, the organizational changes required by the new Vatican legislation and the impact of market volatility.

Based on the forecasts of the new Vatican Constitution *Preadicate Evangelium* the Foundation is now also subject to the supervision of the Secretariat for the Economy with significant effects also on the methods of preparing our financial statements.

### **Some anticipation on the future activity.**

With reference to **the contents** of our action, as already anticipated, from 2023 onwards we will focus on the major issues raised by the Brothers all: fraternity and social friendship. I remember some of them: the difficulties of the European Union, cultural colonization, the urgent need to overcome the throwaway culture and to pursue a situation in which human rights are truly equal for all, the management of migrants, the broad theme of communication, the invitation to hope.

To focus on the themes of the Brothers all means first of all knowing and understanding this important social encyclical and then deepening its connection to today's society, **exploring the social effects of Christian virtues in every human enterprise**. The webinar of prof. Abela and this year's CSD course had that goal.

It will be important to continue to explore **how to concretely reconcile the global economy and the exponential development of technostructures** with the real world of human communities. As Pope Francis highlighted the ways in which the tumultuous technological development expands and affirms itself, determines the detachment between real power - which is localized in abstract and anonymous places / functions- and responsibility, impacting on social coexistence itself. People and communities that are made up of relationships, traditions, belonging and things in common find themselves marginalized and weakened. It is a theme that we have already begun to address since 2018 but which requires further study of the connected educational, cultural, religious and coexistence problems.

We will also touch on the topic of **how the world of work is changing in the digital age**: the dignity of work, the quantity and quality of work, involving more and more young people. I take this opportunity to invite all groups to proselytize the young people of their communities. We need a strong group of young people from which to draw concrete ideas and proposals.

A relatively new topic for us is the **demographic one**.

Then there is an aspect that is taking on significant, little known and investigated, the loss of the meaning of life that is causing widespread **psychological problems, the difficulty of facing extreme situations, the fall into despair**.

Among the topics I have now listed, the groups will be able to choose the scope of their work keeping in mind the teaching key of the Brothers all.

**On the organizational front**, there are many initiatives that we should / could put in place to make management more effective. We are working on it but the economic constraint requires us to be very cautious.

We should be able to make much more use of the voluntary contribution of our members than has been the case up to now. As I already asked last year, I renew the request to all of you to report to the President and to the SG any availability to provide your skills and some time for the Foundation. We need jurists, budget and communication experts.

Financial problems are essentially connected to external factors and in particular to the performance of the financial markets which impact on the *fair value* of our

invested portfolio. But I must also note that 21% of our members have not renewed the annual fee in 2022. I am aware that the economic situation is difficult for everyone, but if there were other underlying reasons, I ask the representatives to carry out a survey inside their groups and report the reasons for such behavior to the SG.

To address the financial problems we are working on cost containment, the SG will talk about it, and on increasing revenues by looking for new paying members.

We are looking for sponsors willing to support our initiatives in a stable way. It is not a favorable time but we are trying. The help from the groups would be really valuable.

Another area of attention is **communication**. We need to communicate better both internally and externally. On the internal front, during the meetings via zoom with the referees and with the Ecclesiastical Assistants, the need emerged to have more and timely information on the activities of the Foundation both at the Vatican level and at the individual group level. Our information emails and website seem not to be enough. Indeed the sharing of what is done and how it is done has not only an informative purpose but it is a mean of comparison and stimulus to adopt the best practices. We are thinking about how to do it: we received several proposals, including the publication of a Newsletter and / or a wider use of social networks. We would need volunteers who are willing to take care of it.

On the external front, we have approved a communication plan that the SG is adopting. To spread the CSD we must have an impact on society, to have an impact we must do well but also communicate well. On this front too, the contribution of the groups, as the US is already doing, would be very useful.

One last communication. Unluckily the SG, dr. Alberto Borgia, for personal reasons, submitted his resignation which will come into force from the approval of the 2022 budget. We are very sorry. In my personal name and in the name of the whole Foundation, we thank him for his commitment in this complicated year.

I renew my thanks to everyone for what you are doing. I special tanks to the three ladies of the GS.

I now give the floor to HE Msgr. Celli for the meditation.

This will be followed by the presentation of the main results of the 2021 Economic and Financial Situation by dr. Borgia and then the presentation of prof. Marseguerra of the work of the groups.