

Dear Sisters and Brothers

Today we have a special evening.

Yesterday we recalled and deepened the understanding of our charism.

Today, our thoughts go out to those among us who are experiencing suffering and tension in their efforts to live and be faithful to our charism.

All of us have at one time or another experienced misunderstanding, obstacles or lack of support from the institution of the church or parish, even from our pastors.

But this can happen even to us as a System and as an Organism. We, too, can become an obstacle to our charism; we, too, can use the System, the roles in the system, the structure that the Statutes give us to stifle instead of foster the most fruitful realization of our charism.

This is why Pope Francis felt the need to admonish us when we first met him in September 2015: *“But please do not forget that Statutes help to go on the right path, but what does the work is the charism! May you never lose your charism by too closely safeguarding your Statutes, please!”*

What does the work of a personal encounter with Jesus; what does the work of evangelizing the Oikos; what does the work of transforming homes into domestic churches; what does the work of transforming parishes into missionary parishes; what does the work of transforming the Church into a community of missionary-disciples.... is the charism.

However, we must be careful not to allow ourselves to come enter into a conflict or contrast with the Statutes, with the parish, with the Church or the hierarchy. The Statutes, the System, the Body, and our pastors serve us well, as the Pope has told us, we need them because they *“help to go on the right path”*.

Let us remember what St. Paul, the great evangelizer of the Gentiles, taught us, the charism that holds every charism together is charity, the charism of communion.

So, then, the value of this day lies not so much in the speeches we are going to hear - which I have no doubt will be full of wisdom and light - but rather in welcoming into our midst with such esteem, joy and affection, three pastors, three bishops who are very important for us.

First of all, the Archbishop of Milan, Mons Mario Delpini, who accompanies in his diocese the parish community of St Eustorgio, a point of reference for all of us, and hosts the Headquarters of our International Organism;

Msgr. Joseph de Metz-Noblat, Bishop of Langre, France, a very special bishop who is promoting the Parish Cells of Evangelization in his diocese, even nourishing them with his teachings; and finally

His Excellency Mons Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, a great friend of Don PiGi and an important supporter of our charism and our International Organism.

Welcoming them and listening to their words with attention, we want to express how much the Catholic Church is in our heart, how much we love Her, and how much we are determined to always renew our commitment to see the whole Catholic Church that lives in the parishes as a Bride that is *“glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or*

anything like that” (Eph 5:26); parishes flying with two wings: “*they regularly went to the Temple but met in their houses for the breaking of bread*” (Acts 2:46).

Today I want to remember a true pastor and passionate evangelizer, Don Salvatore Tumino, father of the Cells in Sicily, Founder of the Eccomimandame Community in Ragusa, and a personal friend of mine and great example for all of us, today being the 19th Anniversary of his birth in heaven. (Tonight, after our meeting, at 8 pm, on the Youtube channel, the Eccomimandame Community commemorates Don Salvatore).

Let us pray.

Our Father, Who are Rich in Mercy,

We thank you for the Pastors you have given us,
especially those who are so inflamed by the Filial Spirit of Our Lord
that reveal to us the beauty of Your Fatherly Face.

Protect them from discouragement in the face of our frailties.

and renew us in Your Holy Spirit so that we too

may participate in their pastoral mission

in the way we accompany the members of our family

and of our *Oikos*.

May all of us enjoy the beauty and blessing

in being part of Your Family.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.