



ORDO CLERICORUM REGULARIUM A SOMASCHA

140 Capitulum Generale

COURAGE, FEAR NOT! YOU HAVE OFFERED YOURSELVES TO CHRIST

Concluding Message
of the 140th Ordinary General Chapter
to the Somascan Family

As we conclude this experience of collegiality and synodality which we have lived in the **140th General Chapter of our Order**, let us raise together our praise and prayer to our beloved Father:

- **We bless you, Father**, for the communion we experienced during the Chapter, which has allowed us to rediscover your preferential love. This experience has drawn us closer to the sources of our history, and for this reason we have chosen to regard Somasca, our place of peace, as a cornerstone for both initial and ongoing formation.
- **We bless you, Father**, for the centuries-old heritage of our tradition, preserved by the oldest foundations, which we commit to passing on to future generations. May unity and fidelity to our charism continue to be a story of hope that liberates us from the new expressions of poverty.
- **We bless you, Father**, for your love and blessing, which continue to manifest in our communities through new vocations and clear signs that our captivating history is far from over. We are still building it under the loving and protective gaze of our Father and Founder, Saint Jerome.
- **We bless you, Father**, for the guidance of your Spirit, which has helped us to understand that we must resist the temptation to retreat into the repetitive safety of established models. Instead, we are called to courageously seek new organizational and structural models that embody the novelty of the Gospel message, interpreted through the ever-living history of Jerome.
- **We bless you, Father**, for the joy which you continue to inspire us to proclaim the beauty of our religious life, including through the wise use of new communication channels such as social networks.
- **We bless you, Father**, for the ongoing attraction of the Somascan charism, which continue to inspire lay people across all continents. They desire to join us in its growth and consolidation.
- **We bless you, Father**, for the moments of communion and potential projects we have shared with women's religious families who are inspired by the same charismatic source of our Founder.
- **We bless you, Father**, for the loving and paternal blessing of Pope Francis, who made himself present in our Chapter community with a message that, while revealing his

own vulnerability through his handwritten signature, encouraged us to continue serving the poor in the most authentic spirit of our tradition, always ensuring that their rights are upheld and respected.

Now, Father, with your blessing, confirm the Chapter's decision to celebrate a Somascan Year in 2028. This year will be marked by appropriate initiatives and celebrations, reflecting on the charitable work and spirituality of Saint Jerome, in continuity with the events of 1928, and in remembrance of the first centenary of the proclamation of Saint Jerome Emiliani as the Universal Patron of Orphans and Abandoned Youth.

Let us place our trust in our most gracious Lord and place in Him our unwavering hope, for all who hope in Him shall never be put to shame, but will remain steadfast, anchored upon the solid rock. To receive these holy graces, let us turn to the Mother of all Graces and call upon her, saying: Hail Mary.

The Chapter Fathers

Ariccia, RM, 14 March 2025

97th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Jerome Emiliani as Universal Patron of Orphans and Abandoned Youth.