



From Casa Santa Marta, 26 July 2024
Feast day of Saints Joachim and Anne

Distinguished Madam,

I received the kind letter of 12 June, which accompanied the one from the married couple Mrs Hennie and Mr Erik Hendriks Janssen, who are responsible for the Focolare Families, with which they informed me of the important work within the Movement in favour of families who have embarked on a unique path of formation.

Thank you for letting me be part of this exciting experience of faith that is being lived by many couples of various nationalities and religious expressions. I am particularly pleased to know that you are joyfully carrying out your apostolate in various human and social contexts, and with great passion you are striving to create harmony and understanding.

I ask you to convey my spiritual closeness to those who in October will participate in the concluding event of the Course. Convey too the encouragement to continue in their respective countries. I therefore encourage each one to become an instrument of love, manifesting the richness of sincere and loving fraternity; please, first of all, sow the seeds of the Gospel which is good news, so as to be credible in a time torn apart by discord and conflict, where peace now seems an unattainable dream.

Take care of families in crisis, who unfortunately have lost the courage to cherish the beauty of the Sacrament received and the human life offered to them. Therefore, be promoters of a culture of the family, helping young people not to be afraid of marriage and its vulnerability, but to welcome it with confidence as a gift from God through which he continues his work in the world.

Dear families, as you return to your homes, revive the domestic hearth with constant prayer, lend your ear to the voice of the Holy Spirit who guides, enlightens and sustains the journey of life, be open to those who knock at your door so as to be heard and comforted, always offer the wine of joy and share the good bread of communion. May the Holy Family of Nazareth be a source of inspiration and hope in times of trial, so that you may be builders of unity everywhere in the service of the Church and humanity.

With these sentiments, I heartily bless all of you, members of the Work of Mary. And please do not forget to pray for me.

Faternally, Francis

Distinguished Madam
Dr Margaret KARRAM
President of the Focolare Movement
Via Frascati, 306
00040 ROCCA DI PAPA RM