

Rome, November 5, 2020

*"One cannot think that the sphere of the apostolate is the Church for the clerics and the world for the laity. On the contrary, the one and the other work, in distinct and in their own specific ways, in both the church and in society, in the spiritual as well as in the temporal domain. "(cf. The laity in the mission" ad gentes "and in the cooperation among peoples, Italian Episcopal Conference, February 25, 1990, n.25)*

**RE:** *Elaborating a "Vademecum" of the Xaverian Laity.*

**TO: THE CONTACT PEOPLE OF THE XAVERIAN LAITY**

Dear Friends,

Best regards to everyone. On June 30, 2020, on behalf of the General Direction and the Commission for the Xaverian Laity, I wrote you a letter to announce the opening of a Jubilee Year (July 2, 2020 - July 2, 2021). This was to mark the Centenary of the Testament Letter written by our Founder, St. Guido Maria Conforti, issued on the occasion of the approval of the Constitutions of the Xaverian Missionaries. At present, with great joy and a strong sense of belonging, we are all participating in this magnificent and significant event.

In the same letter, I was also informing you that the General Direction, with the help of the commission set up for the Xaverian Laity, was taking the first steps in view of elaborating a document - for now, called "*Vademecum*" - which would serve as an inspiration and as a reference point for the common identity of the Xaverian Laity whose members are spread all over the world. Among the essential aspects to be included in this document, we have now identified the following: charism and Xaverian spirituality, formation, organization, juridical and economic autonomy, and relationship with the other components of the "Xaverian Charismatic Family." (cf. *Letter from the General Direction to the confreres on the occasion of the Xaverian Jubilee Year 2020-2021*; iQuaderni de iSaveriani n. 114, July 2020, n. 69-72) To this end, the involvement of all the members of the Xaverian Laity is necessary. Thus, to promote the reflection, I include in this letter, the main topics of this document. For each item, I propose some questions to stimulate everyone's consideration, both personally and at the group level.

To accomplish this work, I propose this straightforward method:

- 1.- Each contact person ought to send this letter to all the Xaverian Laity members in his/her Circumscription.
- 2.- Everyone is to reflect on the questions and answers to be given personally.
- 3.- Set a specific time for group sharing. Then, the lay people responsible for the Xaverian Laity at the Circumscription level ought to write down a summary of 4-5 pages containing all the answers to the questions in writing. The questions with the corresponding answers must reach the undersigned (peguero@saveriani.org) by February 28, 2021.
- 4.- Having received the reflections, the Commission for the Xaverian Laity will study them carefully and then proceed to elaborate the first draft of the "*Vademecum*." When ready, it will be sent to the contact person and the Xaverian representatives of the Circumscriptions in view of offering further corrections or suggestions. This could also be done through online meetings.
- 5.- The purpose is to create together a document which the entire Xaverian Laity can refer to. This document is to be presented to the next General Chapter of the Xaverian Missionaries, scheduled for the summer of 2023.

On behalf of the General Direction and the Commission for the Xaverian Laity, I thank you for your courteous attention, and I wish you all the best.

Fraternally,

Fr Javier Peguero Pérez

## TOPICS AND QUESTIONS IN VIEW OF THE DRAFTING OF THE *VADEMECUM*

The Holy Spirit has guided us to share the Xaverian charism in diverse ways. Starting from a reflection on the Testament Letter and your experience, we ask you to provide some indications and suggestions on the traits and contents that could be common and constitutive of the Xaverian Laity throughout the world.

### 1.- Charism and Xaverian spirituality

- a) Which elements of the Xaverian Charismatic Family fascinate you the most and are foundational to your being a Lay Xaverian?
- b) What phrases from the Testament Letter best express your life and vocation as a Lay Xaverian?
- c) Which aspects of the Xaverian charism are most evident in the Xaverian Laity?

### 2.- Organization of the Xaverian Laity

Following Conforti's dream of "making the world one family." (LT 1)

- a) How is your Lay Xaverian group set up at the organizational level?
- b) In what areas does the Xaverian Laity operate preferentially, and through what actions?
- c) How do you imagine the organizational structure of the Xaverian Laity at the global level?

### 3.- Juridical and economic autonomy of the Xaverian Laity

- a) The Xaverian Charismatic Family comprises of men and women religious and laypeople who live their identity in a specific vocation. Which relationships of communion and autonomy (at an organizational, economic, juridical level ...) exist or should be there between these different realities?

### 4.- Formation

- a) On what is your formation journey as a Xaverian Laity based?
- b) How do the lay people re-read the 5 Xaverian essential values present in the Testament Letter, making them the foundations of the Lay Xaverian formation and life?
- c) What stages and directions are conceivable for a cohesive formation journey for the International Xaverian Laity?

### 5.- Interactions between the Xaverian Laity and the other components of the Xaverian Charismatic Family

- a) Regarding the point "*forms and methods of interaction between the Xaverian Laity and the other components of the Xaverian Charismatic Family [...]*" (cf. *Letter from the General Direction to the confreres on the occasion of the Xaverian Jubilee Year 2020-2021*; iQuaderni de iSaveriani n.114, July 2020, n.71-72), how do you live and how could the interaction between the Laity and the other components of the Xaverian Family be realized in the future?
- b) What collaborations are in place, and which ones could be developed?
- c) How can the Charismatic Family be translated into experiences of life or mixed communities?

### 6.- Suggestions from the Xaverian Laity present in the Circumscriptions

- a) What appropriate name should be given to this document called for now "*Vademecum*"?
- b) **What are some** other reflections or other topics to be included in the "*Vademecum*"?