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Rome, June 30, 2020

RE: Jubilee Year: Testament Letter of Saint Guido M. Conforti

TO: The contact people of the Xaverian Laity

Dear Friends,

Best regards to everyone. On July 2, 1921, Saint Guido Maria Conforti wrote the Testament Letter, through which he announced to the Xaverian Missionaries the happy news of the approval of their Constitutions. In this Letter, Conforti reveals, with the language of his time, the essential features of his spiritual experience. Furthermore, he explains his understanding of the missionary charism and finally, addressing "the dear present and future missionaries" (LT 1), he gives them this his writing as "the testament of a father" (LT 10).

The General Direction, fulfilling an orientation of the XVII General Chapter (2017), wants to give particular importance to the first century of the Testament Letter and the first Constitutions. For this reason, it announced a Jubilee Year, **starting on July 2, 2020, and ending on July 2, 2021**. During this year, by renewing our sharing in the Xaverian charism, we want to feel in communion with the entire Xaverian Family. During this Jubilee Year, we invite all (e.g., the Xaverian Missionaries, the Missionaries of Mary, the Lay Xaverians, the Sisters of St. Joseph, our families, friends, and benefactors): to *give thanks to God* for the gift of the Xaverian charism to the Church; to *verify* our response to the gift received; to *commit* ourselves by enfleshing this gift in the today of the Church's mission (cf. Opening Letter of the Xaverian Jubilee Year). Therefore, we invite everyone to take up the Testament Letter. May this Jubilee Year be a *kairós* for all of us. A favorable time to read, meditate, and assimilate this magnificent document, which constitutes, for the children of Conforti, a real jewel of missionary spirituality.

Also, until recently, throughout the world, people led normal lives and carried out daily activities as they routinely did. Then, suddenly, we started talking about the presence of a malignant virus first in China and, subsequently, this virus gradually reached, one by one, almost all nations. It eventually turned into a global pandemic affecting the health of the people causing many victims. It also caused harm to society, causing considerable damage, especially in the economic field. At this moment, the pandemic is present - with greater or lesser intensity - in all the countries where the Xaverian Missionaries are working. It is necessary to take all the safety precautions seriously. However, at the same time, as the evangelist Mark reminds us, we must listen to the words of Jesus addressed to the frightened disciples while walking on water: "*Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!*" (Mk 6:50)

Lastly, the General Direction, with the help of the Commission set up for the Xaverian Laity, is taking the first steps to begin elaborating a document that will serve as inspiration and reference point for the Xaverian Laity. It will address issues dealing with the charism, the Xaverian spirituality, organization, legal and economic autonomy, and relationship with the Xaverian Missionaries. To do this, therefore, the involvement of all the members is necessary. With this message, I want to let you know that on November 5, 2020, a letter will be sent out to all Lay Xaverians and Xaverian contacts to begin reflecting on the points mentioned above and on others that may emerge later.

On behalf of the General Direction and the Commission for the Lay Xaverians, I thank you for your kind attention and wish you all the best.

Faternally

Javier Peguero Pérez