



CONGREGATIO  
PRO INSTITUTIS VITAE CONSECRATAE  
ET SOCIETATIBUS VITAE APOSTOLICAE

Vatican City, March 12, 2020

Prot. n. Sp. R. 2212/19

Your Excellencies,

Dear Consecrated virgins,

In recent months a new virus, capable of infecting entire groups and populations very quickly, is spreading throughout numerous parts of the world causing a contagious disease called COVID-19. In many people it brings only mild symptoms, while for others it causes much greater suffering and, in a very limited number of cases, it can even lead to death.

All of Europe and Italy, in particular, are facing a health emergency that is affecting the country and the continent. We are all called to face this international health emergency with seriousness, calm, and courage, readying ourselves for some sacrifices in our daily lifestyle for the common good: our good and the good of all.

I know that many of you have already made great sacrifices to be present in Rome to celebrate together the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the renewed *Rite of the Consecratio virginum*. The large number of applications over 720 from 61 countries - shows the interest and joy with which you have accepted the invitation to give thanks to the Lord for your vocation.

Nevertheless, the life that God, the source of every other good, has given us, is precious and fragile at the same time. We are called to guard it, and to do our part, knowing that the Lord always watches over each one of us with Fatherly love. It is for this reason - not without regret - we have taken the decision to postpone the international meeting of the *Ordo virginum* scheduled from 28 to 31 May 2020.

As soon as possible, we will contact you to inform you of the date on which our meeting will be take place.

During the Angelus on March 8, Pope Francis asked that "*The season of Lent helps us all to give an evangelical sense also to this moment of trial and pain*". May your caring and discreet presence in workplaces, social communities and

parishes, with the sick, the young and the elderly, be an effective witness to this constant search, in serene obedience to circumstances and a trusting confidence in God's will.

Let our prayer for the whole world, for those who are ill with the coronavirus and for healthcare workers who are caring for them, as well as for civil authorities and all those involved in assisting patients and in containing the spread of the virus, rise to the heavens.

I bless you and greet you, entrusting you to Mary, *Mater et Regina virginum*.

  
João Braz Card. de Aviz  
Prefetto