



Introduction

Rafael CORSO

Coordinator of the IFCA Secretariat, National President CA Argentina

Dear Friends, welcome and thank you!

It is a great joy to meet today to resume the international open meetings, after having gathered extraordinarily around the Patriarch of the Holy Land last January 30th.

Since that date we have had the grace to have successive continental meetings with the brothers and sisters of Africa, Europe and Asia, also with the coordination of Youth and the Pius XI Foundation, Catholic Action School of Holiness and the Dicastery of the Laity, Life and Family, and soon we will have a new ordinary meeting of the Secretariat and the Meeting of the American Continent.

We value these spaces for virtual reality meetings at a time when COVID'19 is still threatening in all its variants and keeps us in varying degrees of isolation, affecting interpersonal links and daily work. Community life in our dioceses, parishes and associations suffers restrictions, the same restrictions that affect working life, health, education, justice and security services, in short, the whole of social life. Pope Francis' call to come out better from this pandemic resounds once again, assuming that it is absolutely necessary to come out together as a human family.

In order to move towards greater freedom of action, a greater effort of equity is required to increase the production, distribution and application capacity of vaccines, ensuring that they reach all the countries of the planet in proportion to their populations at risk and priority agents, and not to fall into the temptation of shortages due to a blockade or economic capacity.

Difficult times demand that we deepen our roots and set out on the road with the joy of the cross and the hope of Easter triumph that is proper to the season of Lent.

Today, on the eve of the celebration of St Joseph, patron of the Universal Church and of IFCA, in this year dedicated to him, we want to come with a confident spirit, to enter into his life, to get to know him more and better, and we will do so with the help of our Assistant General for IFCA, Mgr. Eduardo García, Bishop of the Diocese of San Justo in the Province of Buenos Aires and General Advisor of Catholic Action Argentina following the gift of Pope Francis in his letter Patris Corde of 8 December 2020.

We will also have the opportunity to prepare ourselves for the Inauguration of the year of the "Amoris Laetitia Family", a year that begins tomorrow, March 19th, in which we need families to be the true protagonists, rescuing the reading and integral understanding of the Apostolic Exhortation on its fifth anniversary, rekindling the testimony of the beauty of married love and the family. For this we will have the help of three dear couples from our institution.

2. On the eve of the eighth year of Pope Francis' pontificate, I invite Msgr. Eduardo to pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, his pastoral desires and his health, praying together with filial love the prayer to St. Joseph that he gave us in the letter *Patris Corde*....

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*