

REFLECTION | TESTIMONIES | PRAYER

Do not be agraid of holiness ... Do not be agraid to set your sights higher

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The Patrons of Catholic Action

Silvia MONSUAREZ

CA Argentina

In Gaudete Et Exsultate, 3, Pope Francis tells us: "The Letter to the Hebrews presents a number of testimonies that encourage us to "run with perseverance the race that is set before us" (12:1). It speaks of Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Gideon and others (cf. 11:1-12:3). Above all, it invites us to realize that "a great cloud of witnesses" (12:1) impels us to advance constantly towards the goal. These witnesses may include our own mothers, grandmothers or other loved ones (cf. 2 Tim 1:5). Their lives may not always have been perfect, yet even amid their faults and failings they kept moving forward and proved pleasing to the Lord."



Familiarity runs through almost the entire Exhortation and encourages us to live it like this, in the midst of everyday life. That is why some time ago for our last Federal Assembly, held in the Archdiocese of San Juan, arose the idea of resorting to artistic drawing and big-head dolls to bring closer the figures of our saints, blessed and faithful witnesses, especially to the youngest, adolescents, girls and boys. It is a close and up-to-date way, that with affection and respect, will bring us closer the faces of so many faithful witnesses who intercede for us from heaven.

With the help of an artist, Cristian Camargo, who has made religious drawing and caricature his expression of art for evangelization, we began the task of resignifying each one of them to the current context without losing their distinctive features. For example, the rose in Teresita, the cape of Thomas More, the Eucharist of Tarcisius, the smile of Cardinal Pironio and Enrique Shaw, outstanding details in the prints or photographs of some of them.

We believe that this simple way makes possible the encounter with the familiar, close and possible face of the saints of yesterday and today with the use of simple features that encourage us to continue towards the goal. An image of each one and all together, as an expression of the "cloud of witnesses" that encourages our particular march on the path of Catholic Action. A march within the great path of the People of God, which is the Church.

A few lines to highlight Wenceslao Pedernera, beatified by Pope Francis along with his fellow martyrs. He was the first blessed of the Argentine Catholic Action, a father of a family and a worker, who knew how to simply carry the gospel of Christ by committing his life to the working people of the countryside.

"We are all called to be saints, living with love and offering our own testimony in our daily activities, wherever each one is" the Pope tells us and adds later, "Don't be afraid of holiness. It will not take away your strength, life or joy. On the contrary, because you will become what the Father thought when he created you and you will be faithful to your own being". We like to think that this way of expressing these sisters and brothers of ours throughout the centuries, motivates our walk and our longing for holiness. We ask them to intercede for us.

