



**MONDAY, October 31 2022**

**Online prayer meeting "Witnesses of holiness, artisans of peace"**

## WELCOME

**Rafael Corso**, *Coordinator IFCA Secretariat*

**Dear friends** of the Catholic Action Foundation Pius XI School of Holiness and of the International Forum of Catholic Action, you are all welcome.

It is a great joy to be able to meet in prayer and reflection on the eve of the Solemnity of All Saints. Companions of the Way, we want to share our sorrows and joys, our joys and hopes; to suffer with those who suffer and rejoice with those who rejoice.

"Witnesses of holiness and artisans of peace", we wish to contemplate the witness of sisters and brothers who have preceded us in service, and to renew ourselves in the request made to us by Pope Francis on our 30th anniversary as IFCA: "Sow in the hearts of all that authentic Christian spirituality is that which is rooted in the desire for holiness and this is a path that begins in the beatitudes and is carried out from Matthew 25; loving and working for our most suffering brothers and sisters".

Let us thank God for allowing us to meet as brothers in the Church, distant geographically, but close in sentiments, united in the same faith and the same mission, ready from our misery and smallness, to be servants of the reconstruction of a wounded world that needs each one of us to be a passionate worker in favour of fraternity and social friendship.

It is in this spirit that we gather today, recalling also the Holy Father's message of November 1st last year, "There is no holiness "without joy", but neither is there holiness "without prophecy". These are "two aspects of the saints' way of life", which show the "way that leads to the Kingdom of God and to happiness". Joy, because otherwise faith becomes "a rigorous and oppressive exercise, and runs the risk to become sick with sadness". While the message "against the current of Jesus" tells us that the "true fullness of life is reached by following him": by emptying oneself in order to "make room for God".

"The way of humility, compassion, gentleness, justice and peace. To be saints is to walk this path".  
"We are saints because God comes to dwell in our lives".

From this certainty that we contemplate today, source of joy and hope, we wish to pray for those who suffer, ... in particular for the victims of wars and scattered hatred in this wounded world, ... we think of each of our countries and continents, ... of our persecuted brothers, of the "martyred Ukraine", of migrants, refugees, victims of trafficking and new slavery, of the poor and

marginalised, those without water, without shelter, without a home, without a family, without faith....

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God".

It is about being artisans of peace, because building peace is an art that requires serenity, creativity, sensitivity and dexterity... To sow peace around us, this is holiness... To accept every day the way of the Gospel, even if it brings us problems, this is holiness".

Friends we entrust ourselves to listening to the Word of God, to the meditation on the theme by Cardinal Baltazar Porras Cardoso, president of the Catholic Action Foundation School of Holiness, Pius XI, to the community prayer in a litany of witnesses of holiness artisans of peace, ... to the whisper of God in silence, and to the petition entrusted to Mary Queen of Peace.

With St. Albert Hurtado, let us ask the Lord to be "Fire that kindles other fires".

**Praised be Jesus Christ!**