

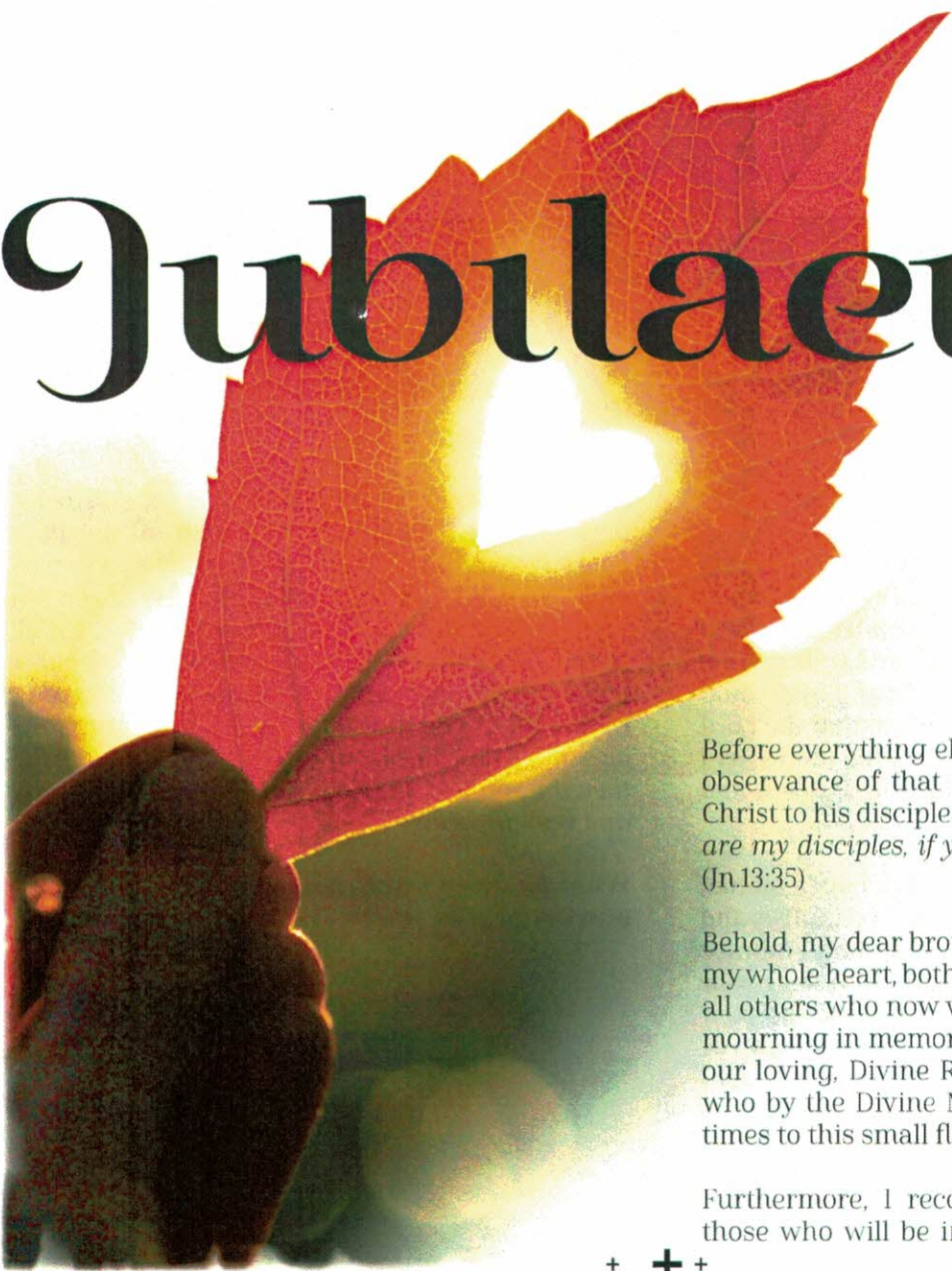
FORMATION AND CATECHESIS

04 + + +

**Spiritual Testament**

**of St. Paul of the Cross**

# Jubilaeum



Before everything else, I strongly recommend the observance of that remembrance given by Jesus Christ to his disciples: *"By this will all know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* (Jn.13:35)

Behold, my dear brothers, what I want of you with my whole heart, both of you here present, as well as all others who now wear the habit of penance and mourning in memory of the Passion and Death of our loving, Divine Redeemer, as well as all those who by the Divine Mercy will be called in future times to this small flock of Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, I recommend to all, especially to those who will be in the office of superiors, that

+ + +





# Jubilaeum

## FORMATION AND CATECHESIS



there always flourish in the Congregation the spirit of prayer, the spirit of solitude, and the spirit of poverty. Let them be sure that, if they will maintain these three things, the Congregation *"will shine like the sun in the sight of God and the nations."* (Mt 13:43).

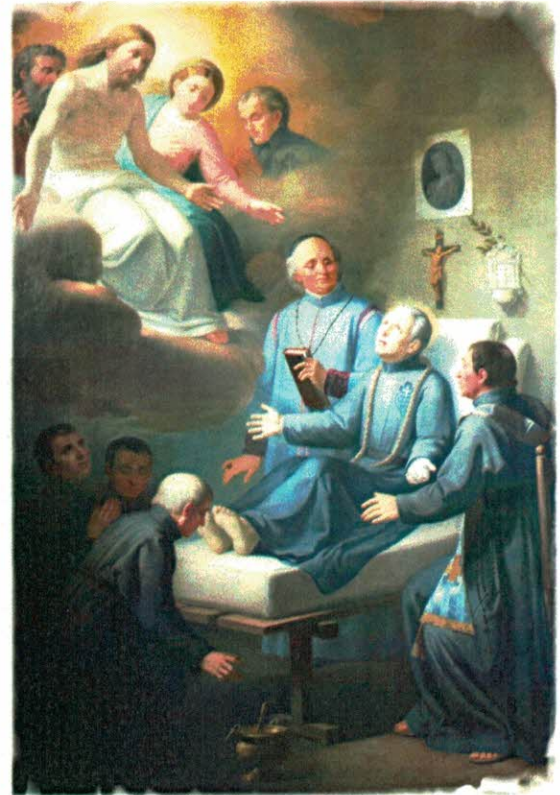
I recommend with special emphasis filial affection to Holy Mother the Church and entire submission to its visible head, the Roman Pontiff. To that end they will pray day and night in their prayers for the Church and for the Supreme Pontiff. They will also strive to cooperate, as much as they are able, for the good of the Church and for the salvation of the poor souls of their neighbor with missions, retreats, and other works that are in accord with our Institute, and promote in the hearts of all devotion to the Passion of Jesus Christ and to the Sorrows of Mary Most Holy.

I recommend in a particular way that they pray with great fervor for our present Holy Pontiff so that the Divine Mercy preserves him prosperously for a long time for the good of his Church and comfort him with the success of his intentions. *"May he desire what is pleasing to God, and carry it out with all his strength."*

Finally, with my face in the dust and with the weeping of my poor heart, I ask pardon from all in the Congregation, those present and those absent, for all my shortcomings committed in my office, which I exercised in order to do God's Will for so many years. Oh, poor me, as I depart for eternity, I leave you only my bad examples. However, I must confess that I never had such an intention, but I always had at heart your holiness and your perfection. Therefore, I once more ask your pardon, and I recommend my poor soul to you so that the Lord may receive me into the bosom of his mercy, as I hope, through the merits of his holy Passion and Death.

Yes, my dear Jesus, I hope, although I am a sinner, that I will be near you and see you in paradise, and at the moment of my death give you a holy embrace to stay united with you forever and to sing your mercies forever and recommend to you the poor Congregation, which is the fruit of your Cross, the fruit of your Passion, the fruit of your death, and pray you to give your blessing to all the religious and benefactors of that Congregation.

You, O Immaculate Virgin and Queen of Martyrs, by the sorrows you experienced in the Passion and



Death of your beloved Son, give us your motherly blessing while I place and leave all under the mantle of your protection.

Behold, my dear brothers, what are the remembrances that I leave with you with all my poor heart. I leave you and I will await all of you in paradise, where I will pray always for the Sovereign Pontiff, for the Church that I love so much, for all of you, for all the Congregation, for its benefactors, and for all those persons for whom I ought to pray. I leave all of you, present, absent, and future, my blessing: *"May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, descend upon you and remain forever."*

**What do these words arouse and suggest to you?**

