

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

## WORSHIP

### **INITIAL MONITION:**

Dear brothers and sisters, welcome to all of us.

We meet here in Pedro Abad, on the Third International Assembly of the ACI Family. As we have done before, we are here again, in the venerated place where God wanted to pour out holiness on a little girl who --by His will-- would be great and universal. We return to her simple beginnings, with a sweet and endearing gaze to try once more to imitate her humility and her generosity. We do it as she liked to do, together with Him, made bread in the Eucharist. Enlightening us with His real and life-giving Presence, gazing profoundly into our hearts.

Here we are, Lord. We are the ACI Family, the Family that united the example and the life of sanctity of that girl from Pedro Abad who, from the heart, said yes to You and served You without doubts and with the greatest generosity. United as the fingers of the hand and attentive to your words of eternal life. We come from many different places and different realities, however, we feel united in heart here in your Presence. We go back to the beginning, to the home that she left for the adventure of the Gospel. Saint Raphaela Mary had the courage to go out and not lock herself in, the courage to break away from the comfort and security of home, the courage to follow Christ wherever He wanted to be served. That is why we want to be Family "going forth", open to the needs of a world broken by sin, in order to repair, serve and love.

**"God in the center, Christ in the center, the Eucharist in the center"**. In this time of prayer, fill our hearts with the endless stream of your merciful love and open our ears to hear your Word in our hearts and, like Raphaela Mary, be willing to say yes to Your will.

### **REFLECTION:**

To adore is to feel that **"God is very great and we are very small, but immensely loved by Him"**. It is to feel the joy of being in the hands of an **"immense God, capable of creating new and great things that amaze us and have to move us to correspond with joy"**.

Today we live in a world where the consumerist egoism drags man to *"an individualistic sadness that springs from the comfortable and greedy heart, from the unhealthy search for superficial pleasures, where isolated consciousness prevails. When the inner life is closed in on one's own interests, there is no space for others, for the poor; the voice of God is no longer heard, the sweet joy of His love is no longer enjoyed, the enthusiasm for doing good no longer pulsates within us."*

Then we fall into the risk of becoming *"resentful, complaining, lifeless"*. Saint Raphaela Mary told us *"That sadness of the devil, and the origin of dryness and darkness"*. However, that is not the option of a dignified and full life, that is not God's desire for us, that is not the life in the Spirit that springs from the Heart of the risen Christ. He allows us to raise our heads and start again, with a tenderness that never disappoints us and that can always restore joy to us.

*The first motivation to evangelize is the love of Jesus that we have received, that experience of being saved by Him that moves us to love Him more and more. But, what love is that which does not feel the need to talk about the loved One, to manifest Him, to make Him known?*

*If we do not feel the intense desire to communicate Him, we need to stop and pray to ask Him to captivate us again. We need to cry out every day, ask for his grace to open our cold hearts and shake our warm and superficial life. Standing before Him with an open heart, letting Him contemplate us, we recognize that look of love.*

*How sweet it is to be in front of a crucifix, or on your knees before the Blessed Sacrament, and simply "be" before His eyes! How good it is for us to let Him touch our existence again and launch us to communicate His new life! So, what happens is that, definitively, "what we have seen and heard is what we announce" (1 Jn 1:3). The best motivation to decide to communicate the Gospel is to contemplate it with love, to linger upon its pages and read it with the heart. It is then that there is no place for sadness, it is when --faced with problems-- "**you do not suffer because what you love is not a burden**".*

***"Even in the sorrows that come from time to time, one must be happy, because they come from the kind hand of the One who loves us more than His life, because one already knows that He lost his life in his day to take it to Heaven."*** Let us dwell on this sweet advice of Saint Raphaela Mary and reflect heartily before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, about His love and our sadness.

**PSALM:**

*God be merciful unto us, and bless us;  
and cause his face to shine upon us; That thy way  
may be known upon earth,  
thy saving health among all nations.*

*Let the people praise thee, O God;  
let all the people praise thee.*

*O let the nations be glad and sing for joy:  
for thou shalt judge the people righteously,*

*and govern the nations upon earth.*

*Let the people praise thee, O God;  
let all the people praise thee.*

*Then shall the earth yield her increase;  
and God, even our own God, shall bless us.  
God shall bless us;  
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.*

**PETITIONS:** Each one can express, freely, the intentions.

**PSALMIC PRAYER. WORDS OF SANTA RAFAELA MARÍA:**

I want to be this year the joy of the Lord. And who will I take as a model?, Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Me, with the smile on my lips, for... where is there greater joy for those who have been chosen by God?

I will receive with joy everything that contradicts me, thinking that I am offered a pearl to adorn my crown. Do not lose faith and joy; on the contrary, may they increase in you more each day, and abandon all setbacks in God. Manifest Jesus with a heart that is happy with everything. Love Him a lot and tell Him so, because He likes it, and be the joy of recreation as it is now.

Leave ourselves in His hands, and feel that I want to sing, that I am, in every way, a fortunate creature, how much I owe the Lord!

Be happy, as the Lord loves us very much, but He wants us to be very perfect and to serve Him with great joy. What a joy and happiness to think that in this life, one can be loved by God.

Tranquility, peace and joy, and great confidence in the One who loves us so much and is so powerful. Make my life a continual act of love. Love always. To make those around us have a happy life, this is true charity.

Put Christ to the adoration of the people. How omnipotent God is! What a joy to have such a great God! And that immense God we will possess in His fullness for all eternity, and now we possess Him in the Blessed Sacrament and He comes every day to our heart. This is a boundless sea.