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OCTOBER 2023

My Dear Brothers in the Clerics Regular Minor,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we journey together in our religious life, I am reminded of the words of Saint Paul that resonate deep within our hearts: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

In the midst of our vocation, it is only natural that we encounter moments of doubt and uncertainty. There are times when we may fear that we are not equipped to lead our religious families, that we cannot provide immediate solutions to the challenges we face. It is in these moments that we may feel inadequate and even incompetent.

However, my dear brothers, let us remember that our faith is our anchor. It is the unwavering belief that God has called us to this path and that He equips those He calls. We are not alone in our struggles; we are supported by the love of God and the fraternity of our community.

Think of our life in community as a gift from God. Yes, it can be challenging at times, but it is in these challenges that we grow stronger. Our differences, our trials, and our disagreements are opportunities for us to learn, to become more patient, and to cultivate a deeper sense of unity.

Consider the early Christian communities in Acts, where they "had everything in common" (Acts 2:44). They faced their own challenges, but they saw their community as a blessing. It allowed them to share burdens, celebrate joys, and support one another in their faith journey.

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Let us, too, see our community life as a blessing. It is a place where we can lean on each other, seek guidance, and find strength together. Through our shared faith, we can overcome any obstacle that comes our way.

My dear brothers, remember that you are not alone in your concerns and doubts. We are a family bound by our love for God and our commitment to our vocation. Together, we can face the challenges of our daily religious life, knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

And in those moments when we falter, when we perceive our faults and failures, let us remember that these are not our definitions, but rather, they are moments of grace and God's saving act. Our shortcomings are invitations to conversion and growth in our faith. They remind us of our reliance on God's mercy and the transformative power of His love.

Take heart, my dear brothers, for it is in these very difficulties that we find opportunities for growth and deepening of our faith. Let us encourage one another, lift each other up, and walk this path together, knowing that God's love sustains us through every trial.

Your unworthy brother,

P. Ted

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