



la carta

SEPTEMBER 2023



Dear Brothers,

Peace and blessings upon each one of you. I am writing this letter now as I embark on my next hopeful trip to enter the Islands of Indonesia. I will be accompanied by another religious family, the Clerics Regular Somascans. They will help us to find Indonesian vocations, if God so wills, so as to form them as our own CRM. Many Religious Families in our Church have started a long time ago in Indonesia and now have so many good and holy vocations from this mainly Muslim Country. Within this nation, there are sizable Catholic Christian minorities. Please pray for my safety, health, and the mission for the future of our religious family.

Today, I am moved to share some reflections on the essence and value of our community life as Padri Caracciolini or Adorno Fathers. As members of a religious order, we are beckoned to a life not of solitary contemplation, but one deeply rooted in community. And this communal existence is not just an obligation but a profound gift.

Often, in the face of challenges, it might be tempting to view our communal commitments as burdens. Yet, if we shift our perspective, we can recognize that these very commitments help build our spiritual journey. They allow us to transcend the individual self and experience the expansive nature of divine love. Through shared joys, sorrows, achievements, and challenges, we are given countless opportunities to practice the virtues of patience, understanding, forgiveness, and, above all, charity.

Take a closer look at the image and theology of the Holy Trinity – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – we are offered the most profound and perfect model of community life. Here, in this divine relationship, there is unity without uniformity, distinctness without division. Their oneness, marked by love, mutuality, and self-giving, serves as an inspiration for every religious community.



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St. Anthony the Great, a pillar of monastic wisdom, once declared, “Our life and our death is with our neighbor.” Through these words, he intricately wove the essence of our interconnectedness. Just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit exist in a continual dance of love and relationship, so too are we called to a life deeply intertwined with our brothers and sisters.

Our dear St. Benedict, in his unparalleled wisdom, gave us the Rule, a compass to navigate the waters of community life. He wrote, “Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ, for He is going to say, ‘I came as a guest, and you received Me’” (Rule of St. Benedict 53:1). Every soul that graces our community is an embodiment of Christ, urging us to transcend the letter of the Rule and be enveloped by its spirit. As St. Benedict reminds us, “Place nothing before the love of Christ” (Rule of St. Benedict 4:21). It is this divine love that fuels our actions, our decisions, and our interactions.

Yet, the beauty of our community life does not lie merely in fulfilling the guidelines or the structures. Beyond the letters and the rules is the spirit, the essence, which is the law of love. It's the highest form of Charity, mirroring the Trinitarian love, which is selfless, ever giving, and boundless.

In the rhythm of our daily life, in our prayers, our silences, our shared responsibilities, let us always remember the Holy Trinity. Let their exemplary communion guide us, reminding us that our community life is not a burden but an immense gift. It is a gift where we are invited to mature, to nourish, and to evolve – not just as individuals but as a collective body that represents the living presence of God on Earth. We read in our Constitutions # 71 **“The value of the common life is to be accepted and esteemed by all, for with it we participate in the mystery of the Trinitarian life, and become in the Church and in the world creators and witnesses of that communion of love, expressed in the commandment of Jesus: “This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you” (Jn15:12), and in his prayer: “...that they may be one as you, Father, are in me, and I in you; I pray that they may be one in us”**



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Remember, every individual, no matter how difficult they may seem, is on their own spiritual journey. Each one of us has our own struggles, our own stories, and our own lessons to learn. By practicing charity, we not only aid our brother in his journey but also refine our own soul in the process. In fact, our Constitutions #70 states "The community constitutes the vital surroundings to grow spiritually. It should be founded upon active charity which seeks the wellbeing of the brothers".

I encourage each one of you, when faced with challenges or moments of discord, to take a moment of silent reflection. Invoke the Holy Spirit's guidance and ask for the strength to practice charity. Let your actions be a testament to Christ's boundless love, ensuring that our community remains a beacon of hope, unity, and divine love.

In a world often driven by individualism and self-preservation, our community must stand as a beacon of selfless love and unity. Through our shared life, we not only embody Christ's teachings but also offer a testament to the transformative power of love and charity. I urge each one of you to cherish the gift of our community life. Embrace it, nourish it, and allow it to mature. The gift of community, in its maturity, will yield not just adherence to rules, but an outpouring of divine love, propelling us closer to the heart of God.

As we forge ahead, hand in hand, heart to heart, may the Holy Trinity's light illuminate our path, and may we grow ever deeper in our shared commitment to love, unity, and charity. Maybe in the next Lacarta, I will be able to give you some great news about my journey in Indonesia, keep your prayers up and I will be counting on you... Until our next Lacarta, I hold each one of you in my prayers, asking the Almighty to guide, protect, and bless our sacred community.

With profound love and respect,

Fr. Ted. CRM



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