



Rome, July 3, 2017
Feast of St. Thomas Apostle

Dear Fraternity and the whole Verbum Dei Missionary Family,

Greetings from Rome where I still carry the taste of so many experiences we lived during the days of Jaime's farewell in my heart.

The first thing that comes out from within me is a deep gratitude.

Thanks to God for the "rain of grace" that He has poured out and keeps on pouring on us.

Thanks to Jaime because he was faithful until the end, in spite of his weaknesses, to the project that God entrusted to him. He has been faithful until the end, overcoming adversities and embracing the cross many times. I am thankful for having been able to live close to him his last "triduum", which started on Friday 23rd and culminated on Sunday 25th, when he went to celebrate the Day of the Resurrection of Jesus together with the Holy Trinity and Mary.

The days of the wake, the funeral and the burial of Jaime, were a wonderful experience of collaboration and communion. THANK YOU - all in capital letters - to all those who have made this experience of the Kingdom possible: the welcoming teams of Loeches and Siete Aguas, the media of communication team, the team that organized the prayer shifts in the "Chapel of the Father", the liturgy, the music, the trips to the airport, the cooks, the secretarial work...

Your faces and your names come to my mind, but I dare not mention them one by one, for fear of forgetting someone and also all those volunteers who arrived asking in what they could help and they put themselves to work. However, your Father who sees in secret has witnessed what you, brother or sister, have done. He is the first to thank your efforts, your sleepless nights, your availability and generosity, your patience to forgive what did not go well and your love to overcome the difficulties and unforeseen circumstances that were emerging along the way.

The Trinity and Mary, through Jaime, summoned us to a celebration of eternal life which was at the same time a family event. We were happy to meet friends that we had not seen for some time, as well as brothers and sisters who shared a part of the history of Verbum Dei and they joined us in these special moments.

Now, Verbum Dei, without Jaime's physical presence, we are more aware that we have the "torch" in our hands. We can only carry out this mission and transmit the charism to the future generations, if we are prayerful people and we strive to put into practice the Word we pray, united by the same "ideal and mutual commitment of aspiring to the perfection of love and to spreading this same fraternal love, the vital nucleus of the Kingdom of God, by means of the ministry of the Word" (VDMFC 9; cf Statutes of VDMFA 5).

I ask the Holy Spirit in a special way to rekindle in all of us the gift of God that we have received and to live the mutual commitment "to help each other in the radical following of Christ and to reproduce him in his way of life and in his mission" (VDMFC 9). May each one of us, from the place to which God calls us in the Verbum Dei Missionary Family, go to the root of the Gospel, without watering it down, so that the joy of God overflows in us as in the words of St. Teresa of Avila - God gives Himself totally to those who give themselves totally to Him.

May Mary accompany us, as she did with Jaime, with her tender motherly love, and help us to continue forming evangelizing communities that dedicate themselves to praying, living and proclaiming the living Word of God throughout the world. This will be the best expression of

our gratitude to our founder, Jaime Bonet, and our greatest response of love to Christ who loves us and gives himself for us in each Eucharist.

I bid you farewell renewing my gratitude, and that of whole General Board, for your generous and enthusiastic self-giving these days.

Thank you very much!

United in prayer and mission,

Lucía Herrerías Guerra
President