



la carta

JULY 2023



Dear Brothers,

Previously, the main topic of our Lacarta was about a brother who has a different set of values and way of life. A “difficult brother.” The reflection written in the USG – a collection of reflections for all the Superior Generals of various religious communities- gave me a different perspective and a change of heart about a “difficult brother.”

A “difficult brother” is crying for extra love, extra attention, and extra care. We must always remember that good and bad can co-exist in one person and it is sometimes shaped by challenges, circumstances, and experiences. If you notice that a community member shuts himself off or isolates himself, call him back and make him feel that he is not alone. The superior plays a vital role in making sure that none of his brothers gets left behind and to gently, but firmly call the attention of the brother – in person, addressing by their name- to make the brother come back to their original calling in the community.

Our celebration of 435 years is not just statistics. Our community has stood the test of time.

May we be challenged and encouraged to examine our conscience and our living of the ideals of the community life. Let us especially challenge our own individual way of life to see if it is according to our charism of imitating Christ in his paschal mystery. In order to do this, I propose that you reflect on these questions:

- Have I been faithful to my prayer life?
- Have I been promoting a culture of spirituality proper to our charism, adoration, devotions and constant reception of the sacraments?
- Have I been exercised self-discipline as regards my thoughts, words, and actions?



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- Have I used social media responsibly, especially as a way to promote the Church's mission of evangelization? With regard to the use of money— am I transparent and have I given to Cesar what belongs to Cesar and to God what belongs to God? Have we completely and faithfully turned over money for the use of our religious family?
- Have I caused scandal with my words as I speak before my brothers and with those people I serve in the ministry?
- Have I promoted a culture of respect, humility and obedience?
- Have I taken care of my health, or have I abused alcohol and food that resulted to illness or distress?
- Do I humbly leave the decision-making to my present duly elected and appointed superiors?
- Have I loved myself more than others?
- Have I loved and lived my life more for Christ or mainly for myself?
- Have I chosen comfort over making sacrifices and walking the extra mile in order to serve others?
- Have I changed so as to be more Christ like? Or have all the things I have experienced in my life caused me to be far away from Christ?
- Have I been respectful of the thoughts and feelings of our community members?

It is necessary that we continuously challenge ourselves to become faithful religious. This can help us deepen our trust in the Lord who has called us to the religious life, and in this manner, we can better accompany those whom we serve. We know that by embracing the cross, we are also brought to the threshold of new life in the Rising Lord. May we do everything always – AMRG!

Father Ted, crm



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