



CURIA GENERALIZIA DELLA COMPAGNIA DI GESÙ

36th General Congregation: Promulgation of the Decrees

2017/01

TO THE WHOLE SOCIETY

Dear Brothers in Christ,

The Peace of Christ!

The promulgation of the Decrees of the 36th General Congregation is an important step in the process of discernment of our life and mission as companions of Jesus, a process that began when the 36th General Congregation was convoked. Each one of us, as well as the communities of the Society and its apostolic works, placed ourselves in readiness to discern the call made to us today by the Lord amidst the cry of the peoples of the earth for a more humane life. The Province Congregations were a moment in which the call was heard, with openness of mind and spirit. Their contributions, in conjunction with the numerous postulates received, paved the way for continued reflection to prepare the ground for the communal discernment of the Society of Jesus, gathered in General Congregation.

We have lived an experience of discernment nourished by the preparatory work, the fraternal dialogue with the Holy Father Pope Francis, the personal prayer and reflection of each of the delegates, the community prayer, the Eucharist and the work of the whole assembly. The conviction that our life and mission must be closely integrated in order to truly incarnate the promotion of justice, by striving for reconciliation in all its dimensions as an imperative of our faith, animated all the deliberations during the six weeks of CG 36. The decrees reflect this spirit and the implications that are drawn for our structures of government.

Through this letter, in compliance with the decision taken by the 36th General Congregation in its final session on November 12, 2016, and according to No. 142 of the Formula, I am pleased to promulgate its decrees. They take effect today.

Thus begins the most challenging phase of the process of discernment by the body of the Society of Jesus and those with whom we share the mission. The decrees of GC 36 are an invitation to enter into this phase of making choices in relation to our identity as Jesuits and our way of proceeding in mission. They are an invitation to choose this path, putting ourselves unconditionally at the disposition of the One Who calls us. The success of the Congregation lies in the fruit of our personal conversion, in the necessary changes in the life style of our communities, and in the willingness to be sent to the peripheries or frontiers of the contemporary world to share the joy of the gospel.

Only by confirming that we have placed all our hope in the Lord will we be able to seek and find His will in order to do it, as witnesses of the love of God to all human beings. Mary, our Mother, and her husband Joseph showed to those who are simple at heart the marvellous



manifestation of God in Jesus, the One born through work of the Holy Spirit. We ask them to show us their Son and open our hearts to this wonderful revelation in order that we may place ourselves entirely at His service.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, located to the right of the main text. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Arturo Sosa'.

Arturo Sosa, S.I.
Superior General

Rome, January 6, 2017
Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord
(Original: Spanish)