

01. Remembering with gratitude



Giovanni Battista Scalabrini

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Pope Francis: Apostolic Letter to all Consecrated People

21 November 2014

I. Aims of the Year of Consecrated Life

1. **Look to the past with gratitude:** ponder the history of your charism. How the founders followed Jesus, read the signs of the times and responded creatively. Remember their fidelity with gratitude and learn from their failures.

In Introduction quotes John-Paul II : *Vita Consecrata* n. 110

“You have not only a glorious history to remember and recount, but also a great history still to be accomplished! Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things.”

Keep Watch

(Letter from the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life 8 September 2014).

quotes Jeremiah 6:16

‘Thus says the LORD:

Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.’

Keep Watch n.10

‘We risk preserving sacralised “memories” that make it harder for us to come out of the *cave* of our comfort-zone. The Lord loves us *with everlasting affection* (see Isaiah 54:8): this confidence calls us to freedom.’

Keep Watch n.18 (quotes Pope Francis)

‘Instead of being just a church that welcomes and receives by keeping the doors open, let us try also to be a church that finds new roads, that is able to step outside itself and go to those who do not attend Mass, to those who have left or are indifferent. The ones who leave sometimes do it for reasons that, if properly understood and assessed, can lead to a return. But that takes audacity and courage’ (Pope Francis in interview with A. Spadaro).

Keep Watch n.13 quotes Pope Francis

‘You are like antennas ready to receive the smallest innovations prompted by the Holy Spirit, and you can help the ecclesial community to take on this gaze of goodness and find new and bold ways to reach all peoples’(Audience with participants at the encounter organised by the Italian conference of secular institutes, Rome 10th May 2014).

Keep Watch n.15 quotes Pope Francis

‘I dream of a “missionary option”, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation ... a constant desire to go forth and in this way to elicit a positive response from all those whom Jesus summons to friendship with himself’(Joy of the Gospel n. 27).

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I. Aims of the Year of Consecrated Life

1. **Look to the past with gratitude:** ponder the history of your charism. How the founders followed Jesus, read the signs of the times and responded creatively. Remember their fidelity with gratitude and learn from their failures.

go aside to ponder

come back to share in small group

share key thoughts with group



Come to set us free



Come to set us free

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell,

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Come to set us free,
come to make us your own.
Come to show the way
to your people, your chosen.

Open our lives
to the light of your promise.
Come to our hearts with healing,
come to our minds with power,
come to us and bring us your life.



You the light
which shines in darkness,
morning star which never sets.
Open our eyes which only dimly
see the truth
which sets us free.



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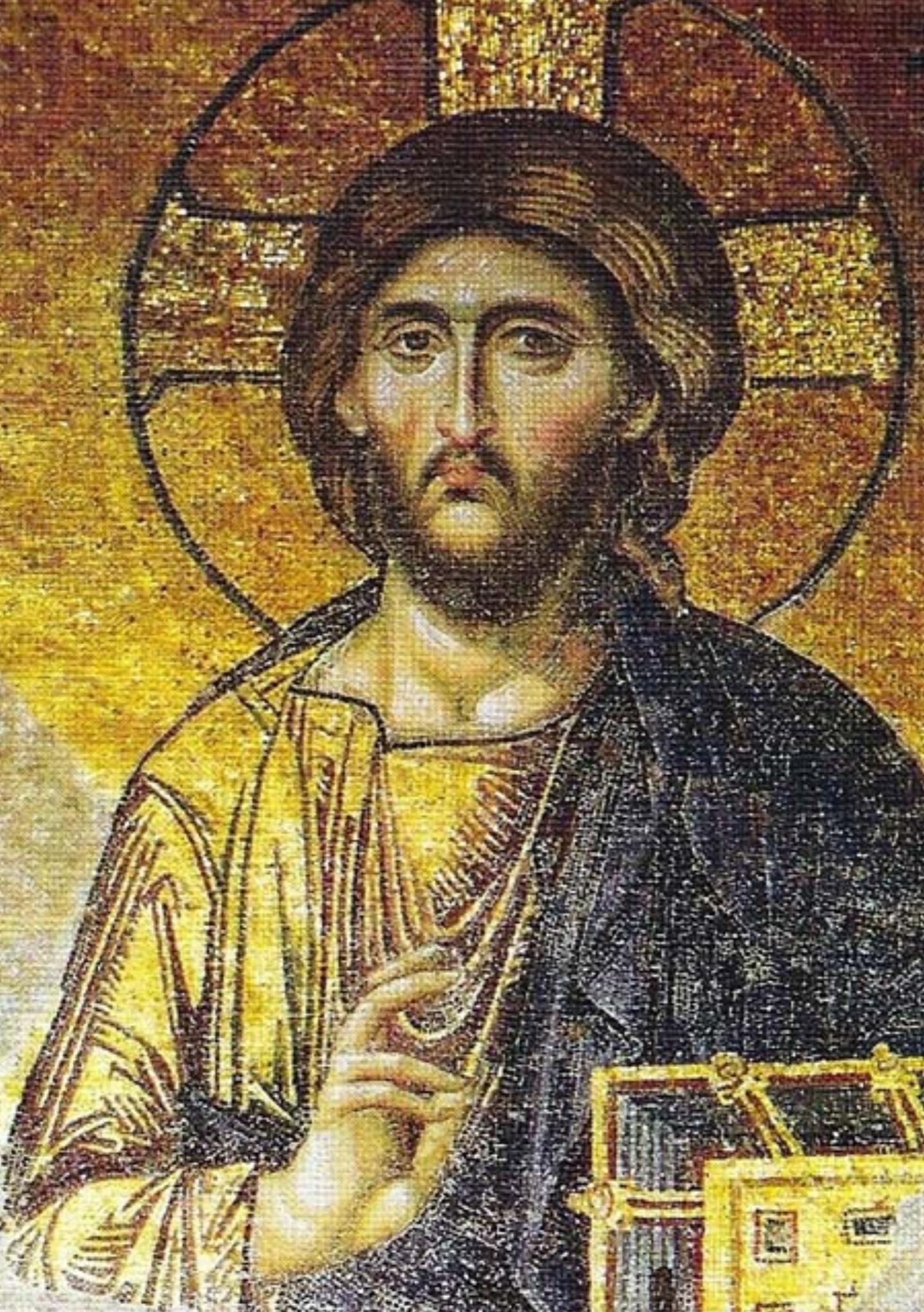


You are hope
which brings us courage.
You are strength
which never fails.
Open our minds
to ways we do not know,
but where your Spirit grows.



Come to set us free,
come to make us your own.
Come to show the way
to your people, your chosen.

Open our lives
to the light of your promise.
Come to our hearts with healing,
come to our minds with power,
come to us and bring us your life.



You are promise of salvation.
You are God in human form.
Bring to our world
of emptiness and fear,
the Word we long to hear.



Come to set us free,
come to make us your own.
Come to show the way
to your people, your chosen.

Open our lives
to the light of your promise.
Come to our hearts with healing,
come to our minds with power,
come to us and bring us your life.