CURIA
GENERALIZIA
AGOSTINIANA

VIA PAOLO VI, 25 - 00193 ROMA
Tel. +39 06.680061

The Prior General
Most Rev. Fr. Joseph L. Farrell
To the Brothers and Sisters of the Order

Dear brothers and sisters,

Each year, on November 21, we celebrate the liturgical memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Temple. On behalf of the members of the Augustinian General Curia, I offer best wishes and prayerful support in a special way to our cloistered sisters of contemplative life. This day, referred to as *pro orantibus*, is when the members of the Universal Church are encouraged to pray for those whom the Lord has called to the cloistered and monastic life. Pope Pius XII first instituted this ecclesial worldwide event in 1953 to publicly recognize women and men who give of themselves to this unique calling and who each day, from the various monasteries spread throughout the world, offer prayer and sacrifice unceasingly. Pope St. John Paul II, in 1997, later expanded its celebration and encouraged Catholics to highlight and support this, in many ways, hidden vocation.

Today, we are encouraged to remember in a particular way, "the life of contemplative nuns, engaged in prayer in a very special way, in order to keep the heart constantly turned towards the Lord, in asceticism, and in the fervid progress of spiritual life." They dedicate their lives to "nothing other than a striving to the heavenly Jerusalem, an anticipation of the Eschatological Church, fixed on the possession and contemplation of the face of God." (Cor Orans 158).

We count on the prayers of our Augustinian sisters, who devote themselves faithfully to the life of contemplation and prayer. They bring before the Lord the intentions and needs of so many of us, as well as those of our brothers and sisters throughout the world. In fact, we can say that we depend upon their prayers. Our nuns too, depend upon our prayers. And so I invite all members of the Augustinian family to hold in prayers those who faithfully fulfill the vocation they have received to the contemplative and cloistered life.

Let us pray through the intercession of Mary, whom we contemplate on the Memorial of her Presentation in the Temple, that all those who have been called to the vocation of the cloistered and monastic life may feel the love and support of our Augustinian sisters and brothers around the globe.

Prot. 321/2026

Ordo
S. Augustini

Fraternally,

Joseph L. Farrell
Priore Generale, O.S.A.

Rome, November 19, 2026