



CONGREGAZIONE
PER GLI ISTITUTI DI VITA CONSACRATA
E LE SOCIETA DI VITA APOSTOLICA

Prot.n. I.s. 5276/01

DECREE

"The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world" (Jn 6: 51). With these words the Lord reveals the true meaning of the gift of his own life for all people. He also shows us the intimate compassion that he has for every person. He expresses through a deeply human feeling the saving intention of God for all, that they might obtain true life."

BENEDICT XVI, Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis*, n. 88.

Through a meeting in 1943 between Fr. Godfried Spiekman of the Congregation of the Most Holy Sacrament and the young Antoniette Golsteijn, a plan of Fr. Spiekman became a reality, a plan which was an adaptation to the times of an earlier idea of St. Peter Julian Eymard.

Based on the model of Mary in the Upper Room adoring her Son in the Eucharist, some women began to live their consecration in the world, making their lives the locus and instrument of the revelation of the love of Christ for each person. Their apostolate was carried out through activities proper to the laity and reached out to all people, above all to those who were further away from a sacramental life.

The little group worked from the beginning in the city of The Hague. It received its first approval as a Pious Union on 31 May, 1956 from Bishop Antonio Jansen, then Bishop of Rotterdam. Some years later, with a decree of 8 May 1963, Bishop Jansen erected *Servitium Christi* as a secular Institute of women. From that year the Institute spread into France, Belgium and England. In the following years it expanded not only in Europe but also to other continents.

On 30 March 2001, Bishop Adrian van Luyn, Bishop of Rotterdam, appreciating the valuable contribution which *Servitium Christi* made to the Church and expressing his positive evaluation of this very vital and solid group, asked the Holy See to grant pontifical recognition to the Institute,

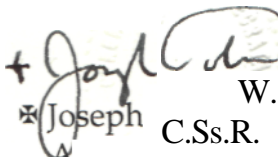
After a careful examination of the life of the Institute, of the Constitutions which govern it and of the other documentation submitted, the Congress of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, meeting on 13 October, 2010, recognized the Institute *Servitium Christi* as worthy of being included among the secular Institutes of pontifical right.

Following the consent of the Holy Father, kindly manifested on 26 October 2010, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, with this Decree, elevates the secular Institute of women *Servitium Christi* to the status of pontifical right with all the rights and obligations deriving from this and approves the revised text of its Constitutions, the prototype of which is conserved in the Archives of this Dicastery.

We entrust the Institute *Servitium Christi* to the protection of Mary, the Eucharistic woman, that each member might integrate in herself the full consecration of life according to the evangelical counsels and the full responsibility of her presence and transforming activity in the midst of the world. Looking at Mary, the woman of the *fiat*, may every consecrated woman be responsive to the voice of the Spirit, attentive to this voice manifested in people's lives and in the events of history. Together with Mary, woman of hope, may each member reflect the life of the Gospel beatitudes, welcoming each person as a sister or brother in Christ.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.
Given at the Vatican, 9 December 2010.

Franc Card. Rode, C.M.
Prefect


+ Joseph W. Tobin
A C.Ss.R.
Archbishop
Secretary