



Barcelona, May 15, 2014

Circular n. 83

**TO THE COMMUNITIES OF THE COMPANY OF MARY,
TO THE LAITY AND MEMBERS OF THE LAITY NETWORK**

This year we celebrate the Feast of the Canonization of Saint Jeanne de Lestonnac in Cataluña. In Barcelona, the first House of the Company of Mary in Spain, we had the opportunity to visit the *Sagrada Family* Basilica, Gaudí's marvelous work. We contemplated the statue of Saint Jeanne on the façade where she is located together with other saints.

Although this statue is so familiar to us, to see it placed up high, belonging to us and to all, leaves us deeply moved. From below, on ground level, we give thanks to God because 65 years ago she was publicly recognized as a woman capable of offering a new way of making the Gospel visible to society and the Church. One year more, we are grateful for her life and her history as an educator. Transcending time and rooted in places and persons of different cultures, this education continues to respond to the needs of the world today in different ways.

In the midst of city traffic, among the people who pass us by and in the silence of those of us who contemplate her, we ask the Lord to help us, as he helped Saint Jeanne, live our present moment with passionate dedication. We ask to be blessed with an evangelical passion that, born within, is transformed into a force capable of turning difficulties into challenges, that puts fatigue into perspective and can recognize all the good that takes place, the good that is always greater than what we perceive and imagine...

Looking at Jeanne placed up high, challenging the passage of time, helps us to embrace the future with hope, the future we are creating with each passing moment. As time slips by without us being able to hold it back, we leave it in the hands of Lord, the master of Life and History. We believe that he continues to guide our path, perhaps unexpected ones, but his, nonetheless.

United in this celebration, we pray that it be an opportunity *to remember with gratitude, to embrace the future with hope and to live today with passionate dedication.*

Beatriz Acosta Mesa odn
and General Team