



FIAT – Newsletter nr. 80 – December 2023

Dear Friends of FIAT,

The year 2023 is slowly drawing to a close. We are already well underway in the season of Advent and the feast of Christmas is almost upon us. In this special time of the year, Cardinal Suenens offers us a few words to accompany us on our journey.

May Mary open up our hearts ever more to the light of the Holy Spirit, so that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, may be born in our hearts and families, in the Church and in the world.

As for the Beatification Process of the Servant of God Veronica O'Brien, the work of the team in charge of this process is progressing step by step. Witnesses have been heard by the relevant Tribunal. The Historical Commission has found many archives both in Belgium and abroad. Sorting them chronologically and by subject, as well as reading them, is an immense task, which means that the diocesan phase will still take some time.

United in prayer,
The FIAT Team



“Even today, Jesus is being born from Mary and the Holy Spirit“.

+ L.J. Cardinal Suenens



Merry Christmas
&
A blessed New Year
2024 !

Please note our new e-mail address : info@associationfiat.com
and delete the old address (association.fiat@telenet.be)

Welcoming Jesus, with Mary and in the Holy Spirit

"Could God shine upon us a greater grace than this: his only Son, he makes into a son of man, and in return, he transforms children of man into children of God?"

(Ref. Saint Augustine)

In his book *The Christian at the Dawn of a New Era* (FIAT Association/ISBN 90 78410 06-9), Cardinal L.J. Suenens highlights this link:

«We have learned to enter into the "dwelt-among-us" aspect amid the glory of that Christmas night, and we adore the newly-born Child, with the shepherds and the Magi, as we contemplate the wonder of Mary and Joseph.

But there is the other side of the coin: in order to take us into heaven, heaven itself has come to us. The Incarnation is the prelude to our deification. In Jesus, the only Son of god, we become children of divine adoption.

It is not only heaven which is opening out to allow the Son of God to enter mysteriously into our world, but the world itself is opening out to permit us to enter, in a way that is still veiled but nonetheless real, into the family of the Trinity.

Seen from a heavenly perspective it is the Father, who in and through the Son, sends us the Holy Spirit. That is the key to the mystery which the Angel makes known to Mary: "The power of the Most High will overshadow you". (Lk 1:35). But it is also the key to the mystery of our divinisation which will come about through the same Spirit, the One sent by the Father and the Son, on Pentecost morning of Pentecost. "You will be baptised in the Holy Spirit". This saying balances the words of the angel to Mary at the first Annunciation.

In the eyes of God, the birth of Jesus cannot be separated from the birth of the Church. In both mysteries it is "Jesus Christ, communicated and poured out by the Holy Spirit". (Pps. 85-86).

With the synodal journey, Pope Francis invites the Church, the whole People of God, to commit itself more fully to the proclamation of the good news, which in itself carries a commitment to justice and peace.

P/A Diocesaan Pastoraal Centrum, Frederik de Merodestraat 18 - 2800 Mechelen (Belgium)

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"Whatever the gift may be that you're willing to present to God, do not forget to entrust it to Mary, because grace goes back to the donor through the same channel that brought it. "

(St Bernard, 12th century)

We are very often invited to offer reductions on costs for sending rosaries and various evangelisation tools to economically weak countries. We are grateful for financial support.

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