



FIAT – Newsletter nr. 82 – December 2024

Dear friends of FIAT,

Advent is well underway. This liturgical season is offered to us by the Church to guide us towards the joyous celebration of Christmas and the welcoming of the Christ Child.

May this Advent be a time of deeper union with the Virgin Mary for each of us. Veronica O'Brien, the Servant of God and our foundress, lived this union with Mary intensely, "in EA," dedicating herself wholeheartedly to the service of the Lord and His Church. We are pleased to share that preparations for her Cause of Beatification are currently underway at the diocesan level.

In this Newsletter, we share passages from Cardinal L.J. Suenens' book, *The Hidden Hand of God* (pp. 298–300), which includes reflections written in dialogue with the Servant of God, Veronica, capturing her profound and enduring thoughts.

In his prayer intention for December, Pope Francis invites us to pray that *"the Jubilee Year 2025, which is beginning, will strengthen us in faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope"*. He reminds us that hope is like an anchor: *"an anchor we cast into the sand with a rope to hold on to. We must cling to the rope of hope, even when we feel the anchor is sinking. Christian hope is a gift from God that fills our lives with joy, and it is something we greatly need today—the world needs it so much!"*

In this newsletter, we share passages from Cardinal L.J. Suenens' book, *The Hidden Hand of God* (pp. 298–300), which includes reflections written in dialogue with the Servant of God, Veronica, capturing her profound and enduring thoughts.

We wish you a holy and joyful Christmas, and a Jubilee Year filled with the grace of being pilgrims of hope.

With warm regards,

Cécile Matthys-Ryckaert
On behalf of the FIAT Team



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

+ L.J. Cardinal Suenens



Mary in God's plan

To understand Mary's role and place in Veronica's spiritual life, we must keep in mind that Veronica's constant desire to welcome Mary stems not from a personal choice dictated by sentimental preferences, but from simple obedience to God's plan. We must welcome Mary because she is God's gift to us, because God has willed her to exist for the good and the joy of humankind.

...

True devotion to Mary comes not from below, but from above; it has its source in faith, not in sentiment. It is, first of all, adherence to God, and acceptance of his plan. It is integral to the single-mindedness of our intention with respect to God. For Christian rectitude begins with a voluntary adherence to the plan willed by God; with a decision to be on God's side as he traces the trajectory of his grace as he sees fit. God has chosen to associate Mary with his work of salvation. Through her, he gave his Son to the world. This "order" is unchangeable: God does not withdraw his gifts. Mary's maternal mediation is for all time, for it is part of God's design.

...

Christ always did his Father's will. With immense love, he entered the world in the way chosen for him by the Father. We, as his disciples, must not hesitate to share his feelings for Mary. Since it is God who chose her for his son and for us, we do not need to choose her, but only to receive her as our Mother. To each one of us, God repeats the Angel's words to Joseph: *"Do not be afraid to take Mary to yourself; what she conceived is of the Holy Spirit"*. We must humbly receive this gift from the Almighty.

"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 evangelization tools to economically weak countries. We are grateful for financial support:

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