

Rome, 15 March 2007
Feast of Saint Louise de Marillac

*To the Directors of the Daughters of Charity
Throughout the World*

Dear Brothers,

May the grace and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts now and forever!

I write, first of all, to apologize to each and everyone of you for not having maintained contact by the written word in these years of my service as Superior General and yours as Directors of the Daughters of Charity. For those of you who have sent in written reports, some on a number of occasions, I do want you to know that I have read them with much interest and care. But I have only replied on a very few occasions, when I thought the report might warrant a response.

I find the reports very helpful, especially, for learning about the reality of the Daughters of Charity in the different provinces. This is of particular interest when I am visiting those provinces. In all my travels and visits, I spend at least a day with the Daughters of Charity, sharing with them and giving a mini-conference or having a dialogue. We always celebrate the Eucharist together and I get the opportunity to see some of their works. Usually, too, I have a dialogue with the Visitatrix and her council. Your reports are helpful to me in preparing for these visits. I deeply appreciate the role that each of you is fulfilling and I take seriously your being my representative before the Daughters of Charity of a particular province.

I want to say to all of you that I also value the wonderful and very qualified work that Father Javier Álvarez is carrying out as Director General of the Daughters of Charity. As you know, he is my man in the Rue du Bac before the Mother General and her council. I am quite happy with the role and responsibility that he is exercising there. The Daughters of Charity are too.

In closing, I want to encourage you to feel free to write to me at any time. It does not have to be just the report that you send every two years. If anyone needs to speak with me personally, please send me a note or an e-mail. I will try to get back as soon as possible with a response, which I hope will be uplifting and supportive of you.

Once again, I thank you for your generosity. I hope and pray that your time with the Daughters of Charity is, as one confrere stated in his report, enriching in your own vocation for being faithful to following Jesus Christ, Evangelizer of the Poor.

Your brother in Saint Vincent,

G. Gregory Gay, C.M.
Superior General