# **Pope Francis to the Emmanuel Community**

April 7th 2018

Dear Friends,

I am very happy to receive you during your annual meeting which is taking place in Rome this year. This pilgrimage is a sign of the full participation of the Emmanuel Community in the communion of the whole Catholic Church. It is also the occasion for me to thank you for your fidelity and your attachment to the Successor of Peter, to tell you of my appreciation of your current missionary commitment on all the continents and to encourage you to persevere in the future.

This future is now marked by the recent recognition of the Clerical Association of the Emmanuel Community last August 15th, a structure made timely by the many priestly vocations that Emmanuel's charism has inspired and by a more fruitful evangelisation. Far from isolating the priests from the other members of the Community, both secular or committed in celibacy, I express the wish that this recognition will, on the contrary, vitalize this beautiful communion of the states of life which you have had for more than 40 years in the complementarity of the various vocations. I also invite your Communities to stay even closer to the rich reality of the parish where they live and to willingly integrate into the organic pastoral life of the local Church (see Evangelii Gaudium §29).

The charism of the Emmanuel Community is embodied in its name, Emmanuel - God with us. It is essentially in contemplating the mystery of the incarnation, especially in Eucharistic adoration, that you derive missionary dynamism in announcing the good news to all those to whom Jesus offers his friendship. I encourage you to share with the people of our time, wherever the Spirit sends you, the Mercy of God who has so loved us as to reside with us. This Mercy of the Lord, always present to His people, needs to be proposed with a new enthusiasm and through renewed pastoral action, so that it penetrates the hearts of people and encourages them to find their way back to the Father (see the Bull, Misericordiae Vultus §15) - that wherever your Community is present, the Mercy of the Father should become manifest, especially to the poorest – in heart or body - healing their wounds by the consolation of the Gospel, through solidarity and attentiveness (ibid.).

Dear friends, the Emmanuel Community has shown, since its origins, a real dynamism in announcing the Good News in a lively and joyful way. I urge you to remain rooted in Christ by a solid inner life, trusting in the Holy Spirit, who comes to the aid of our weakness and who heals us of all that weakens our missionary commitment - in keeping to heart the ardent desire of transmitting the joy of the Gospel to those who do not know it or who are far from it by becoming fully involved in this ‘Church in the making’ that I wish for. ‘*The Church counts on you, on your faithfulness to the Word, on your availability for service and on your witness of lives transformed by the Holy Spirit’* (Pentecost Vigil, June 3, 2017).

I give thanks with you for all the progress you have made under the influence of the Holy Spirit who wants us to remain always on the journey. I invite you always to listen to Him since there is no greater freedom than to be guided by the Spirit and to allow Him to enlighten and lead us wherever He wants.

I entrust you all to the intercession of the Virgin Mary, asking her to guide your steps and support your efforts. I give you a Blessing. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Thank you.