**EUDIST PRAYER FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2020**

 At the end of this month, we will start a new year, according to the rhythm the Church offers us in the liturgy. Despite the state of pandemic afflicting everyone on earth and imposing health restrictions that are painful and seem endless to us, time flies. However this time belongs to God, it is given to us in order to accomplish our own missions in life, in order to continue as a Church the work of the Lord to make this world better and worthy of the salvation granted to us, and for the Congregation to faithfully fulfill its mission in the hearts of all those inspired by the evangelical charism of Saint John Eudes.

 We, associate members of the Congregation, have just been granted a first International Handbook for Associates, a tool which strengthens our community in faith, hope and charity. The time is now given to us to implement it. At the beginning of this time of prayer together, we can recite the prayer that presents our homage to Jesus and Mary and ask that with their blessing, we be confirmed in their love**:**

**“Most loving Heart of Jesus and Mary,** We entrust this Office to Your mercy As it seeks the fruit of cooperation, generosity, and foresight that may be contributed by each person among the Associates, Friends, and Collaborators of your Eudist Family Wherever they are established in the world. From this beginning, our gratitude, our joy, and our confidence rise up to You.

Daughters and sons of our Father through the grace of our baptism,

We walk through our lives on uneven paths

Yet enlightened by the fiery words of love and the vibrant testimony to the Gospel lived out by Saint John Eudes, your worthy servant and our inspiring model.

We pray that his charism will affect the course of our lives

And give shape to our mission in the Church and in our world

So that the Kingdom of love, peace, and justice

Which is so dear to your Heart will settle among all mankind.

This pioneering work which the Holy Spirit entrusted us to implement Associates us to his project of salvation of which he is master, inspiration and guide Using the Beatitudes that Jesus gave us as his own Handbook with the sole purpose of Showing us how to best walk in the ways of his Heart.

We are called to unity in brotherhood, celebration, and prayer,

To the achievement of perfection in our lives

Which are never as worthy and pleasing to You

As when Jesus Himself is formed in us and transforms us into Himself

May you live and reign in us, strengthen us in our trials

Guide us to an ever more perfect imitation of your merciful Heart.

Sustain the efforts of these workers in your Vineyard

To whom we provide tools for their labors

As faithful missionary-disciples of his Word

One in Your Heart, now and forever.”

AMEN

 Prayer time **in the light of the Word of God**

 “*The men of today need witnesses more than masters. And when they follow masters, it is because they are witnesses.* "(Paul VI. Evangelii nuntiandi. 1975).

On the roads we travel, we meet people who inspire us with reasons to better accomplish our mission and to ensure that the time given to us is filled with the Spirit of Jesus. We all know we have a mission to accomplish; we cannot miss the noble ideal that the very nature of associative engagement demands. Let us take the Good Samaritan's example and wonder to what extent he witnesses the compassion that Jesus asks us to exercise.

**Reading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke, 10, 30-37**

Now that the text has been read, here is what we suggest (share if you are in a group):

1. Express the **word** that struck you most while hearing the text (without explanation).

2. Name the **character** in the parable that catches your attention the most, and say why.

3. **Re**read the Gospel text in the light of your personal experience.

4. How is this process expressed in the parable of Saint Luke? How is the Samaritan a “compassionate witness”?

5. How do we make the link between this Samaritan's approach and being a "witness" in the life of my associate family?

**Prayer time with Saint John Eudes**

“*You must make it your practice to see Him in everything, in your devotions and in all your acts, to have no other objective than Him and all His states, mysteries, virtues and actions. He is in all things. He is the being of things that exist: the life of things that live, the beauty of things beautiful, the power of the strong, the wisdom of the wise, the virtue of the virtuous, and the sanctity of the saints. There is hardly any action of your ordinary lives that does not find some counterpart in the actions He performed during His time on earth, so you must keep your eyes on every similar act of His, and imitate it in performing your own. By this means you shall fill up your understanding with Jesus, and shall form and establish Him in your mind, by thus frequently thinking of Jesus, and seeing Him in all things*”. (O.C., I, 273)

Final prayer:

*“Virgin and Mother Mary, You who, moved by the Spirit, welcomed the Word of life totally abandoned to the Lord, help us to say our “yes” urgently, more urgent than ever, to resound the Good News of Jesus. Give us the holy audacity to seek new paths so that everyone may receive the gift of beauty that does not tarnish.*

*Star of the new evangelization, help us to shine through the testimony of communion, of service, of ardent and generous faith, of justice and love for the poor, so that the joy of the Gospel may reach the ends of the earth, and that no periphery be deprived of its light”.*

**(Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, 288)**

With the best wishes for Advent from the Associate Family of Quebec (Canada)