

Re: Information to be conveyed to all the members
of the Ecclesial Family, *Miles Jesu*

Via G. B. de Rossi, 44

00161 Roma

25 June 2007

Dear Member of *Miles Jesu*,

Greetings in the Lord!

I am writing to you directly since it appears that many of you either do not as yet know the situation in which the Ecclesial Family *Miles Jesu* currently finds itself or do not have full and accurate information regarding the intervention of the Cardinal Vicar.

The information to follow is to be conveyed to all members by the existing General Government of the Institute, but since it appears to be urgent for some members who find themselves in very difficult circumstances to be reassured, I am also writing to those of you who may have special reasons for learning of the situation without delay.

All members need to know that the Church authorities (namely, the Vicariate of the Diocese of Rome, which is the competent ecclesiastical authority for *Miles Jesu*) have stepped in to resolve the problems the Institute is experiencing at the present moment, suspending the authority of the existing General Government.

Members also need to know that I have been appointed by His Eminence, Cardinal Camilo Ruini, Vicar of the Holy Father for this diocese, as Canonical Visitor with full authority.

Finally, it is important that all members know that they have the right to make themselves known to me should they wish to share their concerns or inform me of their own situation or of that of the Institute. No permission of a *Miles Jesu* Superior is required for this. Communications will be treated with the utmost respect and confidentiality will be guaranteed. No one has any right to question a member regarding anything that he or she might wish to make known to me. Any breach of this rule will be regarded, as Cardinal Ruini's decree implies, as contrary to the discipline of the Church.

To facilitate such contact, here is how to make yourself known to me, by direct telephone contact or by electronic or other means:

- *Postal Address:*

Via G. B. de Rossi, 44
00161 Roma Italia

- *Tel.:* [39] 06 877 145 14

Fax: [39] 06 877 145 15

Mobile Phone: [39] 338 774 22 08

Skype: 'tonymcs1969'

- *Availability for the next two months:*

- *Dates:* June 25-28; July 3-4; August 7-25

- *Hours:* 9.30-12.50; 15.00-18.00; 20.30-21.30.

Nota bene: Although I shall be away from Rome on the dates other than those indicated above, I shall nonetheless check my e-mails regularly.

The essential elements of the Decree, signed by His Eminence Cardinal Camilo Ruini, Vicar of the Diocese of Rome, and valid from June 18th this year, to be made known to all members of *Miles Jesu*, at whatever stage of commitment they may be, are contained in the following paragraphs:

It is decreed:

[Nature of the Ecclesial Intervention:]

That the Ecclesial family "MILES JESU" be subjected to a canonical visit, *ad inquirendum et referendum* [that is, for inquiring and referring], with provisional suspension of the powers of all the organs of government presently in act, none excluded.

[Reason for, Aim and Scope of the Ecclesial Intervention:]

The inquiry will tend in particular to ascertain the well-foundedness of the alleged violations of canonical discipline, to verify the ways in which the ecclesial Family is being governed and the real functioning of its organs of government, as well as examine the community life of each religious in all its aspects – including the relations between them and with the Superiors – and the administration of goods, in special way those constituting the stable patrimony of the ecclesial Family itself, with the drawing up of a detailed final report to present to the Ordinary of the Diocese of Rome, as well as to the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, for those measures that will be held to be appropriate and necessary.

[The Task and Powers of the Visitor:]

The office of *Visitor* – with all the powers relative to the exercise of the mandate referred to above, even waiving the legitimately approved Constitutions – to rev. Father Anthony McSweeney sss, assisted by a *co-visitor* with functions of public notary for the examination of a disciplinary character ... The visitor will have all necessary faculties for the ordered daily governance of the Ecclesial Family, summing up in himself all the functions and powers that the Constitutions and the legitimately approved particular norms attribute to the suspended organs, limiting himself to ordinary administration. For every important or extraordinary act of government, the visitor will ask the previous consent of the ordinary of Rome.

[The Duties of all members to Comply:]

I invite all the Religious members of "MILES JESU" to collaborate with good will with the clerics mentioned above, keeping to the indications that they will receive in the course of the above mentioned investigation or following it, and to hold themselves to the obligation to welcome with sense of ecclesial responsibility and trust the *Visitor*, facilitating him in the whole investigation in everything, replying with sincerity to the questions posed by him, allowing him access to all the documentation that will be requested by him.

[The Responsibilities of the Current Office-bearers:]

I recall to mind finally that it is not licit to deter the Religious in any way from such obligations, nor to otherwise hinder the visit itself. Any act eventually carried out in violation of the present decree by the above mentioned organs of government is to be considered radically invalid.

(My translation and headings)

With my prayers and best wishes in the Lord,

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Anthony McSweeney, SSS

Canonical Visitor