

The Message of Pope Francis to the participants in the Congress “The Wisdom of the Cross in a Pluralistic World”



The saving power of the weakness of the Cross

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, sent a message to Fr. Joachim Rego, the Superior General of the Passionists, on the occasion of the International Theological Congress, “The Wisdom of the Cross in a Pluralistic World” held at the Lateran University from 21 to 24 September.

The Pope began by affirming that it was the desire of St. Paul of the Cross, the Founder “to further study the current situation of the Cross within the framework of multiple contemporary contexts.”

He continues: “Contemplating the Crucified One, we see every human dimension embraced by God’s mercy. Through the Cross, his kenotic and compassionate love touches the four cardinal points and reaches the extremes of our human condition, joining in a mysterious way the vertical relationship with God and the horizontal relationship with humanity, in



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a fraternal union that the death of Jesus has definitively made universal.”

He also stated that “the immense saving power unleashed by the weakness of the Cross reveals to theology the importance of an approach that knows how to combine the loftiness of reason with the humility of the heart”, attentive to “the most fragile and concrete conditions of men and women, [...] confidently seeking the precious seeds that the Word scatters amidst the jagged and sometimes contradictory plurality of cultures.”

“The Cross of the Lord, a source of salvation for people of every place and every time, is therefore vibrant and effective also and above all at a crossroads, such as the contemporary one, characterized by rapid and complex changes.”

The Pope praised the aim of “the Theological Congress to study the Sapiientia Crucis in various contexts [...] combining scientific reflection with a series of illustrations that attest to its beneficial impact in different areas.”



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Franciscus



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