

# *In the Light of the Beatitudes*

## **13.1. The Saints, the authentic face of the Church**

The Beatification of Mother Marie of the Conception, our beloved foundress, Mother Adele de Batz de Trenquelléon, is quickly approaching. Preparations are intensifying in each continent, especially in Agen, the cradle of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, where our future Blessed lived the first twelve years of her intensely religious life.

Why does the Church proclaim that one of her children is “blessed?” What does this beatification add to Mother Adele, loved and venerated by all those who have known and admired her throughout the years? Adele, like all the saints, shows the world the most beautiful face of the Church.

In our current context of globalization, we can say that true globalization is the globalization of holiness. Under each sky, in each culture, in each context, those who have best represented the Church in Her missionary spirit, in Her capacity to *be all to all*, have been the saints of *every language, people and nation*. Women and men, lay people, religious, priests, youth, adults, have given their lives for Christ by living out charity in its fullness. They are the ones who offer the authentic face of the Church. *To understand the Church, one must know the saints, who are the sign and the fruit most ripe and eloquent...The Church must proclaim the saints and must do so in the name of that proclamation of holiness that fills Her and makes Her an image of sanctity to the world.*<sup>1</sup>

The Second Vatican Council, in emphasizing the universal call to holiness, expresses in a succinct and incisive way the profound reason for the cult of the saints and the blessed: *In the lives of those who, sharing in our humanity, are however more perfectly transformed into the image of Christ (cf. 2 Cor 3:18), God vividly manifests His presence and His face to men [and women]. He speaks to us in them, and gives us a sign of His Kingdom, to which we are strongly drawn, having so great a cloud of witnesses over us (Heb. 12:1) and such a witness to the truth of the Gospel.*<sup>2</sup>

The necessity of commemorating the work of God’s people in this way is why the Church encourages the imitation of some of Her sons and daughters. In fact, this process begins at the most basic level; it develops out of the intuitions of the Church’s faithful, from the *sensus fidei* of the people of God who recognize the presence and action of the Spirit in the lives of our brothers and sisters. It is the faithful - the parish, the diocese - who lead the canonization process that eventually leads to the Church’s official pronouncement. It is a movement that begins from the bottom up, not from the top down. This is the reason why the Church places so much importance upon the so-called “reputation of holiness” that surrounds a person in life, and especially in death.

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<sup>1</sup> SARAIVA MARTINS Card. José: *Il significato dei santi oggi in un mondo che cambia*. Congregation for the Causes of Saints 15.03.2003.

<sup>2</sup> LG 50.

## 13.2. The Saint of Agen

We also see this “bottom up movement” in the journey of our Foundress. Called by everyone, “dear Adele”, in her youth, she became known as “the saint of Agen” upon her death by all those who had the privilege of knowing her: her sisters, the local clergy, the workers who frequented the convent, as well as Saint Emilie de Rodat. The Positio that claims the heroicity of her virtue attests to this:

*It is necessary to mention that many people who had contact with her and knew her unreservedly, praised her virtues, her faith, her charity, her spirit of sacrifice her apostolic zeal, prudence, and humility, nomine discrepante;<sup>3</sup> and this agreement by everyone, not just in one stage of her life, but through every stage of her life, is significant to me. They do not say ‘she is a saint;’ they do not say the exact word ‘holiness;’ but they simply describe, without exaggeration, the virtues present in her daily life. That her virtues were considered extraordinary is clearly made known when the Servant of God died. Then she was immediately compared to the Saints... That she was commonly venerated as a woman of extraordinary virtue is proved by the fact that before her body was buried, many asked for relics, such as torn pieces of her dress and hair, as well as rosaries, crosses, etc. that had been touched to her body, like has been done with popular saints. And in addition, it was requested that her biography be written at once. This means that she was esteemed and revered as a saint.<sup>4</sup>*

Who is Adele? I would like to apply the beautiful description made by Pope Francis when he was speaking of the saints.<sup>5</sup> Adele is a person *through whom God has passed*. She can be compared to a church’s stained glass windows, which permit light to enter in an array of colors. Adele has welcomed the light of God and transmitted it to the world.

**Adele...through whom  
God has passed**

The Beatification will not add anything to what Adele has achieved with God; it will not add anything to her reputation of holiness that already exists in the hearts of each one of us, in the bosom of our religious Family and beyond.

The Pope’s Decree of Beatification, along with the official celebration that we will soon have in Agen, will give us the “official seal” to venerate her publicly, to be able to present her everywhere as sister and mother to imitate, an icon of Christ to contemplate, a friend of God to invoke.

But to make her known, first we must know her. However interesting it may be to delve into certain topics present in Mother Adele’s letters, it does not exempt any of us from reading them continuously and broadly. And we must not forget the Positio, the precious work of the great Father Verrier, SM. Each community must have a copy. If one does not exist in your community, you can ask for one from the secretary general. Although this is not a book that you would bring with you to read on vacation, it is above all a mine of precious documents and testimonies to explore. Certainly, there are language limitations: for this reason, the hope is that each Unit will try to have a sister who understands French, the original language of our Founders.

The Positio contains several parts that would be worth translating to make it accessible to all. This is a suggestion that we make to each Unit.

<sup>3</sup> *Nomine discrepante*: Latin: meaning “without opposition”, which is to say, confirmed by everyone.

<sup>4</sup> POSITIO SUPER INTRODUCCIONE CAUSA ET SUPER VIRTUTIBUS de Adele de Batz de Trenquelléon. AMORE AGOSTINO, *Relazione, Risposta al Terzo quesito, VII pag. 33, Città del Vaticano, 20.12.1975.*

<sup>5</sup> POPE FRANCIS, *Solemnity of All Saints, November 1, 2017.*

### 13.3 Blessed Adele de Batz!

Adele will be called Blessed not because she did spectacular deeds in her life, but because she knew how to live through the fatigue and trials of each day, the labors of her time, without losing sight of the way of the Beatitudes.

*The Beatitudes are that new day for all those who continue to bet on the future, who continue to dream, who never cease to be touched and pushed by the Spirit of God.*<sup>6</sup>

The Beatitudes are not exhausted in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:1-12); they penetrate the entire Bible as an interrupted call to joy, addressed to the thirsting hearts of humanity of all times. They are a seed placed within the depths of our hearts; they are a deep yearning that accompanies the life of each person with an uncontainable desire for eternity. They mark the path that leads to the discovery of the precious pearl for which it is worth selling everything. Adele always considered her vocation to religious life to be an extraordinary grace: *Really, what have we done for our divine Master that he should love us with so special a love, that he should call upon us to sell all and to follow him?*<sup>7</sup>

I have asked myself: What beatitudes stand out in Adele's life? By what paths has she reached the fullness of Christ, knowing that *grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift...and he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature personhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ. (Eph. 4:7, 11-13)*

Allow me to offer some of these Beatitudes, knowing that I do not exhaust the list.

### 13.4 Blessed those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with all their heart (Ps. 119:2)

Adele is blessed to have walked the path of the Lord, following in the footsteps of the saints, and following in the footsteps of the Master who was given to God at an early age, *with joy and without reservations*, without saving anything until the end.<sup>8</sup> When you go through Adele's letters, you cannot but be compelled by the intensity of the desire that moved her heart in a continuous search for God, a search for union with Him in prayer, in the Eucharist, in full adherence to His will. There is a "crescendo" of tone in her letters, sustained by a growing confidence in God, by a profound abandonment of her will, by an amazing docility to the Holy Spirit. It is a "crescendo" that unfolds like the path of one who, after climbing up the steep, narrow trails of a mountain, sees the summit emerge. It is a search for God that transforms into a search for the brother or sister to love and serve. To walk along His path has been, for Adele, to meet the poor, the weak, the little ones who need education, and the young who need to know the immense love of Christ.

**To travel along HIS paths has been, for Adele, to encounter the poor, the weak, the little ones...**

Walking along His paths meant, for Adele, to gradually let go of what she had created with her first companions, to accept the purification of her illnesses, and to enter into death consciously, in an extreme act of surrender to Him for whom she had always waited. Blessed are you, Adele, for always having sought Him with your whole heart and walking faithfully along His paths until the end.

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<sup>6</sup> POPE FRANCIS, *The apostolic journey in Chile and Peru*, in *Civiltá Catolica* N° 402, pg. 372.

<sup>7</sup> Letters of Adele 309.5.

<sup>8</sup> Cfr. Letter 104. 6.

### **13.5 Blessed the one who finds refuge in you, in their hearts are pilgrim roads** (Ps. 84:6)

Blessed are you, Adele, for having found strength in the Love of Christ, in his fidelity, and in his Cross which you embraced with courage, knowing that this was to embrace the Bridegroom.

Blessed is Adele for having decided in her heart upon the holy journey; the journey of the heart in which she decided to be His forever, in response to His surrender to her in that first and unforgettable Eucharistic banquet in San Sebastian, where, like the exiles from Babylon, she also tasted the bitter bread of exile.

These years of exile were building blocks in the construction of Adele's personality and spiritual life. On September 27, 1797, Adele was an eight-year-old girl who left her father's home to experience the uncertainties and difficulties of exile. A hasty exit, without even a minimum of preparation, without possibility of a final goodbye to Trenquelléon, without the possibility of taking with her some beloved object as a souvenir of what she left behind. Remember how the baroness had been included by mistake in the list of emigrants, among those who had to leave France under penalty of death. This was an error that was not possible to correct. She went from Nerac to Agen to receive confirmation that they were on the list, and then went quickly into exile without the possibility of being able to pass back by Trenquelléon. There was no time.

Four years of exile was mitigated by Providence, as they met a small group of good, open, and generous people. But still: always the winter of exile. This was a time of reflection, silence, and maturation, transformation for the spring that was being prepared for the life of the young woman who would return to France. She departed as a girl, and she returned as an adolescent. What transformation takes place in the body, in the mind, in the psyche of a girl in this turbulent phase of life that is the passage from childhood to adolescence!

Adele would make her First Communion in San Sebastian, on the way back to France, during the fullness of this transformation. She was like every adolescent, but precociously mature due to the harshness of exile and the wise guidance of her mother.

She carried fire in her heart: desires, dreams, projects filled her mind. In a clear way, Adele could feel an irresistible attraction towards a great Love, towards the total gift of herself.

Adolescence is the age of options, of first decisions. *Adele decided in her heart to follow the holy journey.* It is no longer the Adele who dressed her dolls as Carmelites; it is the Adele who, in the age of her first love, understands clearly that in her life, there will be *only one great love*: love for Christ. And to this love she will remain faithful until death.

**... in her life she would have only one great love: the love of Christ**

Blessed are you, Adele, for having decided in your heart to follow the holy journey!

### **13.6 Blessed are those who honor their mother and father**

Blessed is Adele for having honored her father and mother. A profound, filial affection always animated Adele's relationship with her parents. In the years of exile, Adele had become the confidant and support of her mother, despite her young age. Later, she becomes the inseparable companion of her father: his nurse, his reader, his faithful *Antigone*<sup>9</sup> in the long and painful days of his illness until his death in 1815. Only after fulfilling this filial duty did Adele feel free to follow her vocation.

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<sup>9</sup> POSITIO, *Les Memoires et leurs annexes*, 537

*The just walk in integrity; happy are their children after them! (Prov. 20:7).*

What is true of Adele is this affirmation from the Book of Proverbs. If today we can address Adele as “Blessed,” it is because she had the grace to be the daughter of the “just.” The example and the education she received from her mother modeled the lively and vivacious character of Adele. It was her mother who opened her heart to kindness, compassion, generosity, love of poverty and the poor, the chosen of God, in search of the will of God above all, and before all, *regardless of the cost.*

Blessed are you, Adele, for having honored and loved your mother and your father.

### **13.7 Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it (Lk 11: 28)**

Blessed is Adele for having heard the Word of God and put it into practice. The Word of God occupied a privileged place in her spiritual life, first through the reading of her mother, and then in her personal Rule and religious life. Biblical quotations abound in her letters, both from the Old and New Testaments. During a time when reading the Bible was not so common, for Adele, it had been her point of reference since childhood, thanks to her mother.

The example of Elijah, who recognizes the presence of God in the gentle breeze, gave Adele an opportunity to invite her friends to avoid agitation and preserve peace *as one of the greatest treasures.*<sup>10</sup> The ardor of the Apostles makes her tremble, a trembling that spreads and penetrates the walls of the Chateau to reach her friends: *The Holy Spirit, whom we must have received during the great solemnity we have just celebrated... [has] fired us with the love of God...The heart cannot encompass everything... Have we really received this Spirit of fire and love? Our works must prove it to us. For you know, dear friend, that the Apostles who came out of the Cenacle were totally transformed men. They had been cowards and timid, but now they were eager and ready to confess the faith of Jesus Christ, even at the cost of their lives. Have we undergone a similar change, my dear Agathe? Has our lukewarmness been changed into fire? Our cowardice into fervor? Can we now say with St. Paul, “Who can separate me from the love of Jesus Christ? Will it be torments or death?” No, nothing can separate me from this adorable Master, to whom I have vowed eternal fidelity.*<sup>11</sup>

Blessed are you, Adele, for having heard the Word of God and put it into practice.

### **13.8 Blessed the one concerned for the poor; on a day of misfortune, the Lord will deliver him (Ps. 41:2)**

Blessed are you, Adele, because you have cared for the poor, because you have loved the poor from the bottom of your heart. They have occupied a privileged place in your heart. There has not been a material, physical, or spiritual poverty that has not found in you listening, welcome, response and support. How far from your heart is the great evil of our time that is the “globalization of indifference,” which Pope Francis so often denounces. Accompanying your mother in visiting the poor and sick around Trenquelléon; sending blankets to the prisoners of Nerac; welcoming your little students at the Chateau at any time to teach them to read, write, and take their first steps in the journey of faith; running to welcome the poor man knocking at the door, happy to offer a bowl of soup or a piece of bread; sewing, embroidering, and raising pigs to offer their proceeds to the poor.

Everyone received something from Adele. She had the gift of offering relief, comfort, encouragement, and confidence.

**She had the gift of  
offering relief,  
comfort,  
encouragement,  
confidence**

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<sup>10</sup> Cfr. Letter 8. 3.

<sup>11</sup> Letter 82. 3-5.

Her friends, recipients of so many of her letters, knew this well: young women, novices, sisters, all were eyewitnesses to the charity that burned in her heart like an inextinguishable fire that consumed her body in a short time.

She often invited her sisters to talk about poverty and the spirit of poverty. She lived it in herself, proclaiming with her life: *Long live holy poverty!*<sup>12</sup> And she left as a testament to her daughters: *You always have to give something to the poor: much when you have much, little when you have little.*<sup>13</sup>

Yes, Blessed are you Adele, because you have loved the poor with all your heart.

### **13.9 Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb** (Rev. 19: 9)

Blessed is Adele because she sought and tasted the bread of the strong, for having made in each Eucharist an intimate and fruitful encounter with the Bridegroom. Those who flip through her letters know very well how important it was for her to approach the Eucharist at a time when, in France, frequent communion was not allowed. In this banquet, she found strength, courage, consolation; she would leave renewed and strengthened. From one communion to the next, Adele kept alive her desire to meet the Beloved: “Let us long ardently for the happy moment when we shall approach the holy Table. Let us come to the holy banquet in a transport of love. But, should we be deprived of this heavenly food, we must say with more warmth than ever, “My God, I long for you,” so that the ardor of our desire may compensate for the sacramental Communion of which we are deprived.”<sup>14</sup>

**From one communion to another, Adele kept alive her desire to meet the Beloved**

And though not an expert in psychology, but in the wisdom that the Spirit gives to those who seek it, she knew how important are the last thoughts with which the mind surrenders to the sweet dreams of night. That is why she does not hesitate to suggest to her friends thoughts, motivations, and desires to renew in those precious moments before sleep: “I encourage you to fall asleep Saturday desiring holy Communion.”<sup>15</sup> And: “I suggest that the day you receive my letter you fall asleep in spirit in the blessed Tabernacle while making acts of adoration and love.”<sup>16</sup>

Blessed are you, Adele, for having made the Eucharist your delight and the secret of your strength.

### **13.10 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied** (Mt. 5:6)

Blessed are you, Adele, for having hungered and thirsted for God, for love, for truth. No spiritual path is possible without this hunger and thirst for God. Hunger and thirst accompany the human being from one’s conception and in every moment of one’s growth. We are all hungry for affection, for friendship, to be accepted, esteemed, recognized. And there are those who hunger for success, for power, for well-being, and for pleasure. But blessedness is reserved only to those who hunger and thirst for justice.

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<sup>12</sup> Cfr. Letter 486. 6; 696. 4.

<sup>13</sup> Letter 696.2.

<sup>14</sup> Letter 21. 5.

<sup>15</sup> Letter 26. 5.

<sup>16</sup> Letter 41. 10.

It is the hunger and thirst for God that the Holy Spirit puts in the heart. Hunger and thirst lead the human being to leave, to emigrate if necessary, to face difficulties of all kinds. You cannot ignore hunger and thirst.

Hunger and thirst for God makes the itinerant man, always on the road, continually look for the source of the living water, which never completely quenches his thirst. And this is the gift of the Holy Spirit: keep thirst alive.

Justice, according to the Bible, is to enter into harmony with the will of God, with His works. To be thirsty for justice is to walk towards the will of God, a will that is essentially freedom. Because this is, in short, the will of God for His creatures: to reach the fullness of freedom.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, who “keep watch at his doorposts.” (Prov. 8:34). They will reach freedom, the true end of human life. Freedom and Love can be synonymous. True love, in effect, leads to freedom. God is love and because of this, He is the most Free. To walk on the path of justice is to walk on the path of freedom, to walk on the path of love. “Love God and do what you will,” Saint Augustine says. The path of the human being is ultimately a path from selfishness to love, from slavery to freedom, from the finite to the infinite, from the limited to the Absolute.

Blessed are you, Adele, because you have hungered and thirsted for justice. Because you have hungered and thirsted for God. Because you have entered into harmony with the will of God. Because *doing the will of God was your food*.<sup>17</sup>

### **13.11 Blessed is she who makes her life available to Mary**

Blessed are you, Adele, for having responded to the call of Mary, in consecrating to her your missionary ardor. How joyful you were to be a Daughter of Mary! How hard you worked to increase the number of her daughters! She was the secret of every success: *There is a certain talisman in the Sodality which has the property of uniting hearts; this talisman is the love for Jesus and Mary and devotedness to their glory*.<sup>18</sup>

Being a daughter of Mary in a congregation that belongs to her was, for Adele, a grace, an undeserved gift, and a challenge: *Mary is our Mother, and it is with her help that we hope to achieve the goals of the Institute. We are hers and must therefore have for her the hearts of children, have frequent recourse to her with a confidence inspired by the most loving of Mothers. Devotion to Mary is a sign of predestination, and what a motive that is, to urge us to its practice! Besides, we cannot please our heavenly Spouse except by loving his Mother, whom he loves so much and whom he has made the dispensatrix of his graces*.<sup>19</sup>

Conquering hearts for the tenderest of Mothers was a commitment to which the young Adele and her friends devoted themselves with passion and without reservation. It was not only the title of *Daughter of Mary* that filled Adele's heart with joy. Even more so was the title *Missionary of Mary*.

Working for Mary and with Mary, according to the *alliance* that Fr. William Joseph Chaminade had introduced her to, was the greatest privilege for Adele, a consequence of her religious consecration.

Blessed are you, Adele, for having followed Mary's steps, for having loved and imitated her, for having rejoiced and experienced great comfort in knowing that she was being loved and imitated when, at every hour of every day, in the communities of the Congregation, a sister offered Mary her service.<sup>20</sup> *All in the name of Mary*.

***All in the  
name of Mary***

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<sup>17</sup> Cfr. Jn 4:34.

<sup>18</sup> Letter 324. 4.

<sup>19</sup> Letter 574. 3.

<sup>20</sup> Letter 350.4

Yes, Blessed, or rather, as Blessed Chaminade said, *Blessed, a thousand times blessed, is the one who is faithful to the end.*<sup>21</sup>

### 13.12 Blessed are you, young people

There is a particular group that receives light from the life and mission of Adele: young people. The Beatification takes place in the year in which the whole Church is reflecting and preparing for the Synod for the Youth. Does Adele have something to say regarding this important and vital theme for the future of the Church and the world? Certainly, yes.

Beginning at age 15, Adele would spend 12 years as the leader of the Little Association (from 1804 to 1816), and for another 12 years, she would be the head of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary. Lively, generous, creative, and enthusiastic, she transmitted passion for God and for everything that related to faith.

*Zeal for the Lord devours me*, such could have been said by the prophet Elijah. And nothing could keep Adele from doing everything she could to animate, sustain, encourage, and inflame the members of the Association. She did this through correspondence. And if she had lived 200 years later, her father probably would not have bought her a new desk, as he did one day, but rather a new computer or an iPhone. Adele would have been quick to create a WhatsApp group to better communicate with the Association, and surely she would have created a page on Facebook, and who knows how many more things.

We have solid motivations to define Adele as patron of young people, and patron of social networks. Adele, in her social network, would invite you to join those who ask these questions today:

- How should the **#Church** witness to the Gospel and be credible to young people?
- What style should the Church adopt so that each young person feels like a full **#protagonist** in Her?
- The Church needs the eyes and the sensitivity of young people to faithfully fulfill its mission. In what **#place** could we encounter the young?
- What are the **#proposals** that move the hearts of young people and put them on the road?
- What **#languages** allow us to speak an authentic way of life and communicate joy, presence, and communion?

These are just some of the questions posed in the preparation for the Synod of Bishops on young people to be held in Rome next October.<sup>22</sup>

We can ask ourselves: what would Adele communicate if she had a Facebook page, if she had WhatsApp? How would she use these means? And we, how do we use them? To communicate what? What do the photos and messages I send mean?

The first letter to her friend Agathe tells us very clearly the motivations for communications within the Association. For those of us who always have our phone within reach, it is worthwhile to read this first letter again. Adele invites us today to find young people, to inhabit the digital world in a proactive way by taking advantage of opportunities rather than being blocked by risks.

**Adele invites us to  
inhabit the digital  
world**

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<sup>21</sup> W. J. CHAMINADE: *Letter to the Retreat Masters, August 24, 1839*

<sup>22</sup> The hashtags # are mainly used as tools to allow Web users to more easily find the message related to an argument and participate in the discussion, and bring attention to arguments that are deemed interesting. Basically, they are labels that help link content together. The term derives from "hash," an English word that indicates the pound key (#) and "tag" which means to tag.

Someone once said that the world is migrating from the Gutenberg galaxy to the digital galaxy. You can choose not to emigrate, but can evangelization not do it? Adele would have no doubts about it. What about us?

### **13.13 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. (Lk 12:37)**

Blessed are you, Adele, for you have been vigilant. As we said before, Adele did not do extraordinary things, but she lived the ordinary life in an extraordinary way. We recognize this in the characteristics of holiness well expressed by Benedict XVI:

*What is the soul of holiness? Once again the Second Vatican Council explains; it tells us that Christian holiness is nothing other than charity lived to the full. "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him" (1 Jn 4:16). Now God has poured out his love in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (cf. Rom 5:5); therefore the first and most necessary gift is charity, by which we love God above all things and our neighbor through love of him. But if charity, like a good seed, is to grow and fructify in the soul, each of the faithful must willingly hear the word of God and carry out his will with deeds, with the help of his grace. He must frequently receive the sacraments, chiefly the Eucharist, and take part in the holy liturgy; he must constantly apply himself to prayer, self-denial, active brotherly service and the exercise all the virtues. This is because love, as the bond of perfection and fullness of the law (cf. Col 3:14; Rom 13:10) governs, gives meaning to, and perfects all the means of sanctification.<sup>23</sup>*

And "charity lived to the full" has sealed a life lived in waiting and vigilance. Adele is Blessed because she has been found vigilant. Like the prudent virgins, she went to meet the Bridegroom with the lit lamp: the lamp of faith, of hope, of love. Vigilance has been a feature of Adela. Every day was the vigil of something great. Each year could be the last, each day could have opportunities that would never return, each encounter was expected and lived with restlessness, with desire, with the ardor of the lover; every liturgical solemnity was a *fiesta*, in the true sense of the word.

**Each day was the vigil of something great...**

Make life a vigil! An anticipation. In every occasion. We can imagine how many uncertainties she and her first companions experienced as they began the adventure of a new foundation where the only certain thing was their great young love.

In her constant trust in God, in her habit of living vigilantly, her companions found courage and serenity: *We still have no idea when we shall become definitively the spouses of Jesus Christ, but we peacefully go about our lives almost as though we already were.*<sup>24</sup>

Adele has made her life a vigil, a waiting for the encounter with the Bridegroom: *I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' said the Spirit, 'let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them.'* (Rev. 14:13)

You are Blessed, Adele. You have died in Him, now you live in Him and your works accompany you. Intercede for us so that, like you, we may let His light shine through us, and, through the variety of colors and diversity that differentiates us, He can continue to show HIS FACE.

My hope for all of you is that contemplation of Blessed Adele be an encouragement to walk in the path of daily holiness, as Pope Francis wishes for all believers:

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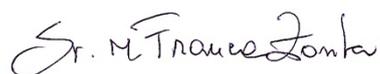
<sup>23</sup> BENEDICT XVI: *General Audience, April 13, 2011*

<sup>24</sup> Letter 309. 3.

*We need a spirit of holiness capable of filling both our solitude and our service, our personal life and our evangelizing efforts, so that every moment can be an expression of self-sacrificing love in the Lord's eyes. In this way, every minute of our lives can be a step along the path to growth in holiness.<sup>25</sup>*

*Do not be afraid to set your sights higher, to allow yourself to be loved and liberated by God. Do not be afraid to let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit.<sup>26</sup>*

Happy anniversary of our Foundation, on May 25.



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*Sr. M. Franca Zonta  
Mother General*

*On June 10, wherever we are, we will all be connected by a deep communion: may it be a solemn day of thanksgiving for everyone.*

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<sup>25</sup> POPE FRANCIS, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, n. 31, LEV, 2018

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, n. 34