



DICASTERIUM  
PRO LAICIS, FAMILIA ET VITA

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Vatican City, 12 September 2022

**World Catholic Association for Communication – SIGNIS  
World Assembly of Delegates  
13-14 September 2022**

**Message from Cardinal Kevin Farrell  
Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life**

Dear friends,

Cordial greetings to all of you gathered virtually from all over the world for SIGNIS' World Assembly of Delegates.

As you are well aware, the Holy Father has invited the whole Church, at every level, to embark on a synodal journey that first of all involves a phase of listening and open dialog. You, too, are therefore called to live your World Assembly as part of this synodal journey that involves not only parishes and dioceses, but all lay associations, including your own. My invitation, therefore, is to first of all live your meeting as a moment to truly listen to one another, and including openness, trust and respect for each other.

Remember also that listening to each other is not an end in itself, but is in view of a much deeper listening, one that leads us to understand «what the Spirit says to the Churches» (Rev 2:7). The Holy Father, in fact, reminded us at the beginning of the synodal journey that «the Synod is not a parliament or an opinion poll; the Synod is an ecclesial event and its protagonist is the Holy Spirit. If the Spirit is not present, there will be no Synod» (*Address for the opening of the synod*, 9 October 2021). Therefore, it is necessary for all of you to live your meeting in an atmosphere of prayer, listening to the Word of God and promoting the "openness" to God's grace, the only one that enlightens, advises through the divine gift of counsel, uplifts our minds and helps us little by little to know God's will. In this way you can better understand what your specific call is at this particular moment in history, what the Lord is calling you towards as disciples of Christ involved in the world of communications. The docility to the Holy Spirit, listening to one another and the ecclesial communion that is thus created will also help you elect the people who are to assume the governing positions of your association for the next term.

Recently, in the Holy Mass celebrated with us cardinals on the occasion of the Consistory, the Holy Father invited us to never lose our gaze of wonder towards reality and

in particular the marvelous plan of salvation that was fulfilled through Christ: «in Him we were redeemed; in Him all creation is restored to unity and all of us, near and far, first and last, are destined, through the work of the Holy Spirit, to be to the praise of God's glory» (*Homily during the Holy Mass with the new cardinals of the College of Cardinals, 30 August 2022*). And, the Pope added, we should be overcome by an even greater wonder when we think that in this divine plan of salvation we have all been involved, through the mission that God has entrusted to us. Indeed, the great things God has accomplished through His Son Jesus can reach every person in the world thanks to us, humble instruments in His hands, often inadequate, full of limitations, closed minds and fears. Hence comes the wonder and an act of humility: the treasures of God are entrusted to us, to our littleness! Pope Francis then extended an invitation, which I believe is valid for every baptized person: «Let us return to our initial baptismal wonder! That is what makes the community of believers attractive, first to themselves and then to others: the double mystery of our being blessed in Christ and of going forth with Christ into the world» (*ibid.*).

Dear friends of SIGNIS, the Pope's words pertain to you: you too must cultivate this wonder before God's works and communicate to others, full of admiration, gratitude and joy, the beauty that God inspires amongst us. When God touches people's hearts, so many good works, so much solidarity, so much generosity and so much charity results. You are called to make all this known. Give resonance, give voice to the beauty of the community of believers, to all that happens in it, even among those most humble. You can be missionaries of the good and the beautiful and thus restore hope to the world! Therefore, continue your service with generosity and with always new creative force.

I entrust the work of your Assembly and the service of all Catholic communicators to your patron saints and to the maternal intercession of Our Lady. Rest assured of my closeness in prayer and my blessing.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Card. Kevin Farrell".

Card. Kevin Farrell  
*Prefect*