

**PONTIFICIO ISTITUTO MISSIONI ESTERE
SUPERIORE GENERALE**

To all the missionaries of PIME

Rome, April 30, 2007

Dear Confreres,

There are only a few days left until the beginning of the XIII General Assembly, which will open with a prayer service this coming Sunday, May 6. The theme of the Assembly, as previously announced, is *Communion and Mission "ad extra" in the Third Millennium*.

The *Instrumentum Laboris* has already been sent to all those who have an active e-mail address and has been posted on our website in the Intranet section. This document of the Preparatory Commission gives us an idea of the topics and the issues that the Assembly will face. At the same time, it can help us to feel the passion for the mission that inflames the heart of the entire Institute.

Recalling how the Apostles gathered in prayer together with Mary in the Upper Room as they awaited the Holy Spirit (see the image on the prayer card), I invite you to intensify your spiritual preparation for the Assembly. The prayer, which you received some time ago, should be said both privately and as a community, especially this week and during the Assembly.

In particular, **I ask you to make Sunday, May 6, a day in which we pray together for the Assembly**, inviting those we know, those we work with, and those we work for to join us in praying: missionary communities, Sisters, parishes, groups, associations, movements, schools...

The members of the Assembly will gather for a prayer service on that day at 5:00 p.m. Italian time in the chapel of the retreat house Jesus the Divine Master in Ariccia (outside of Rome), together with friends who live in the Rome area. The text of the prayer service (in Italian) is included for your information.

I am happy to inform you that a special section dedicated to the XIII General Assembly has been added to the official PIME website so that everyone will be able to read the latest news about the progress of the Assembly. It is my hope that this effort will keep us united and foster our communion in view of the Mission!

May the Lord bless us and bring our good intentions to fulfilment!

Grant, O God of mercy, that this Assembly may make of us, priests and lay missionaries together, a more genuine family of apostles, humble and courageous witnesses of your Love. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church and of all humanity, as well as of our holy missionaries and martyrs who already contemplate Your face. (XIII Assembly prayer)

Fr. Gian Battista Zanchi, P.I.M.E.