

Rome, May 27, 2008

Your ideas for the 2010 Papal intentions

(Ver más abajo en castellano)

Dear brother:

As you know from the last Newsletter I sent you, we have begun the process to draw up a list of suggestions for the Holy Father's 2010 prayer intentions. I would like this year to have a highly participative process, so we can collect many suggestions and ideas from all over the world.

Let me remind you the steps we take as Apostleship of Prayer to help the Holy Father make his final choice. We start receiving these months here in the Roman AP office all the ideas that come from the National offices, from bishops, from members of the Roman Curia and the Jesuit Curia and from anybody else that wishes to give their opinion. All are welcome. I gather all these in a list, uniting the repeated ones, eliminating the topics that have been recently chosen on previous year's intentions. Then I will invite a group of about 25 people who live here in Rome, representative of different cultures, ages and faith experiences, to a day of discernment. You can find samples of the whole world here in Rome. (This part of the process is new, it will be done for the first time this year.) In moments of prayer and discussion, we take this big list and narrow down to 12 intentions, plus two extras. These 14 suggestions go to Father Adolfo Nicolás, the World Director of AP, who prays on it and does his own discernment. He may change some of the items and then sends this list to the Holy Father as his suggestions for the 2010 intentions. Both the Jesuit General and the Pope consider highly what we suggest, even though they can and do make changes. About a month later, the Pope sends us back his definite list, that are the official Prayer Intentions.

So, all are invited to send in ideas and/or formulations of prayer intentions. I would be pleased if you as National Secretary inform your AP people, especially your closest collaborators, that they too can suggest the Holy Father urgent and important world situations that need global attention and prayer. Maybe you can lead a participative process that involves AP or EYM groups, to draw up a list from your country. You can also forward this mail to anyone who would be interested in participating (answering back to you, then you send me the full list).

Our deadline would be the last days of September, let's say the 25th. October 4th is the D-day (discernment day), and we need a few days prior that to sort and organize the suggestions. If any of the National Secretaries of AP happen to be in Rome this day, or wants to come, you are welcome. I have already invited a few to accompany the group. It will be in Italian, but we can help if some translation is needed.

So, I expect to hear from you.

May the love of His Heart keep guiding you!

Claudio Barriga, sj