LETTER TO PRIESTS
HOLY THURSDAY 2000*

My Dear Brother Priests!

1. Jesus, “having loved his own who were in the world, loved them to the end” (Jn 13:1). Here in Jerusalem, in the place where according to tradition Jesus and the Twelve were present for the Passover Meal and the institution of the Eucharist, I am deeply moved as I read once again the words with which the Evangelist John introduces the account of the Last Supper.

I give praise to the Lord for enabling me, in this Year of the Incarnation of His Son, to trace the earthly footsteps of Christ, following the paths which he took from his birth in Bethlehem to his death on Golgotha. Yesterday I spent time in Bethlehem, in the cave of the Nativity. In the days to come I will visit various places associated with the life and ministry of the Saviour, from the house of the Annunciation to the Mount of the Beatitudes and the Garden of Olives. Finally on Sunday I will be at Golgotha and the Holy Sepulchre.

Today, this visit to the Upper Room gives me an opportunity to survey the entire mystery of the Redemption. It was here that Christ gave us the immense gift of the Eucharist. Here too our priesthood was born.

A LETTER FROM THE UPPER ROOM

2. From this Upper Room I would like to address this letter to you, as I have done for more than twenty years, on Holy Thursday, the day of the Eucharist and “our” day par excellence.

RESPONSA AD DUBIA PROPOSITA

UTRUM IN INSTITUTIS APUD QUAE MOS EST HABITUM CHORALEM SUMERE, PRESBYTERI SOLA STOLA INDUTI, ABSQUE SCILICET ALBA, MISSAM CONCELEBRARE POSSINT.

R. Negative.

Etenim plene vigere pergunt normae contentae in Institutione Generali Missalis Romani (2000), quae ad habitum celebrationis spectant; scilicet, pro sacerdote celebrante sacrae vestes sunt: alba, stola et casula seu planeta, pro ceteris concelebrantibus saltem alba et stola (cf. n. 81). Vestis ideo alba semper est induenda sive a sacerdotibus religiosis qui habitum choralem etiamsi albi coloris habent sive ab illis qui codem carent, iuxta n. 336 supradictae Instructionis (2000): «Vestis sacra omnibus ministris ordinatis et institutis cuiusvis gradus communis est alba, circa lumbos cingulo astringenda, nisi tali modo confecta sit, ut corpori adhaeret etiam sine cingulo. Antequam vero alba assumatur, si haec habitum communem circa collum non cooperit, amicitus adhibeatur».

Quae normae vigilantiae competentis auctoritatis ecclesiasticae subsunt, speciali tamen modo Episcopi, religiosi enim «subsum potestati Episcoporum, quos devoto obsequio ac reverentia prosequi tenentur, in is quae curam animarum, exercitium publicum cultus divini et alia apostolatus opera respicient» (Can. 678 – § 1).

CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Summarium Decretorum

I. APPROBATIO TEXTUUM

1. Conferentiae Episcoporum

Portogallo: Textus Latinus Orationis Collectae in honorem Beatirum Francisci et Hyacinthae Marto (16 maii 2000, Prot. 660/00/L).

2. Dioeceses

Cebu, Filipine: Textus Latinus Orationis Collectae in honorem Beati Petri Calungsod, martyris (14 mart. 2000, Prot. 251/00/L).


Santa Rosa de Osos, Colombia: Textus Latinus Orationis Collectae in honorem Beati Mariani a lesu Euse Hoyos, presbyteri (16 mar. 2000, Prot. 353/00/L).

1 Decreto Congregationis de Cultu Divino et Disciplina Sacramentorum de re liturgica tractantia a die 1 ianuarii ad diem 30 iunii 2000.