

*On earth a seed is sown*

5<sup>th</sup> MAY 1956

## Inauguration of the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza

Ladies, gentlemen and brothers of Christ, the *Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza* (Home for the Relief of Suffering) is full. I thank the benefactors from every corner of the globe who have cooperated. This is the creature that the Divine Providence, with your help, has created, and I give it to you, admire it and bless with me the Lord God.

A seed has been sown on the Earth that He will warm with the rays of his love.

A new army made of sacrifices and love will rise in God's glory and comfort the souls and bodies of the infirm.

Do not deny us your aid, help this apostolate of the easing of human suffering. The Divine Charity that knows no limits and is the light of God Himself and the Eternal Life will accumulate for each of you a treasure of graces that Jesus has made us heirs on the Cross.

The Work that you can see today, is at the beginning of its life, but in order to grow and become and adult it needs to be fed and this requires your continuing generosity so that it does not die of starvation, but makes this town famous for its hospital, one which is capable of meeting the most difficult technical challenges together with the most monastic Franciscan order.

A place of prayer and science, where all mankind will find Jesus Christ in a single stable, looked after by a single shepherd.

A step on the road has been taken. Let us not stop the march, let us respond to His call, and create good for all, fulfilling our obligations: by my incessant prayers and as a humble slave of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our aching desire to take to our hearts all humanity that suffers, so that we can present them to the Mercy of the Heavenly Father; you, with the illumination of Grace, with liberty, with perseverance in good, with the correctness of intention.

Onwards with a humble spirit and a heart held high. God bless all who have worked and all who will work in this Casa. You and your families will be repaid many times over in this life and with eternal joy in the next. We ask the help of the Holy Virgin, the Grace of the Seraphic St. Francis in Heaven, Christ's deputy and the Supreme Pontiff here on earth, so that our prayers may be answered.

*The road to travel*

5<sup>th</sup> MAY 1957

## First year of the inauguration of the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza

Blessings be to God. The Work that you saw at the beginning of its life is now celebrating its first year.

The *Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza* (Home for the Relief of Suffering) has already opened its arms to many thousands of suffering bodies and spirits, offering to all, regardless of status, from the most wealthy to the less well-off, ministering to all, in generous measure and using the tools which it has been given by you.

With His rays of love, God has warmed the seed that has been sown. From its birth to becoming the organisational structure it is today, it has had to ask for great charity from its governors and it is to them I wish to express my gratitude. Today, thanks to the Holy Father, the Work is autonomous.

The Supreme Pontiff with provident bounty hopes that it will have an organisational structure which corresponds to the needs it presides over. The Holy Father has granted that the "Casa" will have a new place in the real estate of the Church and that its profits are used for the Congregation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Order of St Mary of the Grace and they will be responsible for its management.

In the *Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza* we pray constantly for the Pope.

From today we will begin again and take the second step. The road we must travel is this: the Work calls for your generosity again, so that it may become a hospital town, technically equipped for even the most specific clinical requirements.

The "Casa" has to increase the number of departments and triple the number of beds. To this we must add two further "Houses", one for men and one for women, where fatigued spirits and bodies shall come to the Lord and shall find relief. An International Centre for study where doctors can perfect their professional culture as well as their Christian training. We must complete work on this Opera, so that it becomes a temple of prayer and science where all mankind can find Jesus Christ, one flock under one single shepherd.

The children of the Work, who reunite in prayer all over the world, according to the Seraphic father St. Francis and according to the instruction and intention of the Pope, will find the communal home of the Prayer Groups here: the priests will find a circle, the men, women and the faithful will find homes here in which they can attend to their spiritual training and their ascent to God, because in it faith, separation and dedication that God's love and the consummation of Christian perfection can be found. Love is the realization and the communication of the superabundant life that Jesus said he had come to give. Let us listen to his invitation "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you: rest in my love". As well as being a Divine teacher, Jesus was also a restoring doctor. He was the author of life, who after his death, rose again.

If this Work was one created only to alleviate suffering it would have been the creation of a clinical model, made by way of your extraordinarily generous generosity. But it is inspired and created to be a spiritual demonstration of God's love through a call for charity. The patient must feel God's love through the sage acceptance his pain and the serene meditation of his destiny with the Lord. In this Work, God's love must strengthen itself within the spirit of the patient and through the love of Jesus Christ, but it will also come from those who assist them in this time of sickness in body and spirit.

Here, patients, doctors, priests shall be reserves of love and when it abounds in one, so it shall be passed to all. The priests and doctors who are devoted to and make up this army of charity directed towards the sick, will feel a burning desire to remain in and a devotion to God's love, because they and all those who assist them shall live within Him, He who is Light and Love.

All humanity will feel the call of this apostolate, from those who are sick to those who feel the inspiration of the spirit. From Jesus they shall have the Glory that God foretold and in him they shall become a single thing "I in them and you in me, until their unity becomes perfect and the world sees that You sent me and that you have loved them as You loved me".

Holiest Mary of the Grace is the Queen to whom each day and many times a day we manifest our love and ask for maternal help, reign sovereign forever in the city that grows around His Temple and help us all. Mary makes love flow from the children to Christ's deputy on earth and one day he will show us Jesus in his splendour and his Glory.

*Prayer sustains the casa*

5<sup>th</sup> MAY 1966

## The tenth anniversary of the inauguration of the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza

My dear children of Italy and the World, to all of you, near and far, peace and blessing from the Lord.

In speaking to you on this solemn and memorable day, my soul is greatly moved by the Divine Providence, which in the last ten years has been so generous and directed towards the *Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza* (Home for the Relief of Suffering).

Looking back on its humble origins and thinking again of how it came from nothing, the miracle of faith and charity to which this Work bears witness before the eyes of the world, becomes all the more important. We give our infinite thanks to God, the Virgin Mary and all who, in whatever way, have contributed to the creation and development of this Work, shall be blessed.

My blessed children, I thank you from my heart for the gift of generosity, for the sacrifices you have made, for your interest and for caring: you are instruments in the hands of God, tools which created this “Casa” in which the souls and bodies of our sick brothers are cared for and cured through the work of priests, doctors, nurses, the social and spiritual care of the entire hospital organisation.

One of my most moving recollections and my thanks also go to those who from the first instant, collaborated in this Work and who now from Heaven, where they have gone to receive their eternal gift for their generous charity, continue to offer us their spiritual help with the *Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza*.

But my mind and paternal thoughts turn particularly to the Prayer Groups who are now found all over the world and are here today on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the “Casa” and for their second International Conference.

They, alone with the “Casa di Sollievo”, are the frontline of this little City of charity, nursery of faith, focus of love, in which Christ himself is present each and every time they unite in prayer and Holy Sacrament under the aegis of their Shepherds and spiritual directors.

It is prayer, this force that unites all good souls and moves the world, that renews conscience, that sustains the “Casa”, that comforts the suffering, that cures the sick, that sanctifies their work, that elevates simple medical assistance, that gives moral strength and Christian resignation to human suffering, that becomes a smile and the blessing of God upon weakness and frailty.

Pray as much as you can, my children, pray always and do not tire, because it is to prayer that I entrust this Work, that which God wanted and continues to grow and prosper thanks to the help of the Divine Providence as well as the charitable and spiritual contributions of all those who pray.

The Almighty and merciful Lord, who accepts for Himself every benefit given to his suffering brothers, will repay them many fold with generous measure and great abundance.

As a pledge of my spiritual recognition and my gratitude, I offer my daily prayers and suffering to all, the remembrance in the Holy Sacrifice of Mass, in which I will present you all at the Throne of His Divine Majesty, begging grace and blessings for all; especially for the suffering in the “Casa” and for all who are sick in this world, who are gathered spiritually in a single family because of their pain or due to their charity, calling upon them to bear with Christian spirit, their suffering in union with Jesus and the Virgin Mary.

Praise be to Jesus and Mary!