

Prelatura della Santa Croce e Opus Dei

Il Prelato

December 8, 2020
Rome

Dear families, educators, and young people,

I am happy to have this opportunity to greet the participants from all over the world in this International Family Conference on the Jesus-Centered Life.

“A life centered on Jesus.” With this title, you have sought to capture the theme of the lectures of this conference. Putting Jesus at the center of our life means deepening in our contemplative prayer in the middle of the world and learning to intensify our gaze to discover him in our daily activities. *It is to live every instant* – as St. Josemaría told us – *with a lively awareness of eternity* (Friends of God n. 239).

Work is a privileged place to grow in this awareness. Work that – done for love of God– is transformed into an encounter with Christ, and united with his work of redemption is converted into a path to shape the world in which we live. I am sure that through the lectures you will have discovered Jesus as the source, means, and end of the Christian life. As Pope Francis wrote in his trip to the Philippines, “To receive Jesus is to have everything; to give him is to give the greatest gift of all.”

To live centered on Jesus Christ also leads us to place in the center of our lives her whom He gave us as Mother. Today, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, we can go to her knowing that this is the quickest and surest path to Jesus.

Finally, I send my blessing to all the participants in this conference and my congratulations to the Parents for Education Foundation (PAREF), their collaborators Parousia Media and SmartCatholics, and all the groups who have organized this event.

in the Lord,

Josemaría