



TO TAKE CARE!

Rome, 17th March 2020.



**Dear Lay Mennaisians,
Dear Brothers,**

At this time when the whole world is facing the Corona virus which affects its daily life and which mobilises the front page of the media, how can we remain insensitive to the different cries of those who are suffering and who call for help? Many of us are already directly concerned: schools are closed and others are forced to stay at home. What can we do? What does the Lord ask of us in these difficult times? How to interpret this sign of the times and how to respond to it?

To take care! This seems to be the common denominator of what we are experiencing today. The medical profession cares with dedication and selflessness for all those affected by this pandemic. Parents take care of their children with creativity and intuition. Educators continue to feed their students, when possible, using new information and communication technologies. Our pastors, especially Pope Francis, strive to keep the flock by being close with tenderness and compassion.

And we, Mennaisian Family, how to respond to this invitation to take care? Four elements of response: **respect, solidarity, fraternity** and **prayer**.

- By applying the instructions of the authorities of our different countries, this will be our way of caring for, protecting and **respecting** those close to us
- By taking an interest in the most fragile people around us, either by a phone call, or by a small service or any other activity stemming from our creativity, this will be our **solidarity** methodology.
- By taking advantage of this favourable time to spend free time with those who live in community with us, this will be our pedagogy of **fraternity**.
- By raising our hearts and our hands to the Lord to intercede for all the mobilised health personnel and all the educational teams of closed schools, children and young people, families and especially the people affected by this pandemic, this will be the expression of our faith in the strength and effectiveness of **prayer**. May the entire Mennaisian Family entrust this intention of prayer to the intercession of Jean-Marie de la Mennais during the Novena scheduled from the 18th to the 26th March, 2020. May this chain of prayers continue until the end of the pandemic. Let's not be afraid to knock! The Lord will answer!

«If the Lord does not build the house, the builders work in vain; if the Lord does not guard the city, it is in vain that the guards watch» (Ps 126: 1).

And I conclude my message by making mine the prayer of the prophet Daniel that we heard in the first reading of this day:

«Lord, act to us according to your indulgence and the abundance of your mercy. Deliver us by renewing your wonders, glorify your name, Lord » (Dn 3:42-43).

God Alone in time!
God Alone in eternity!

Brother Hervé Zamor, s.g