



Cavanis Lay Fraternity
Sacred Heart House, CAVANIS INSTITUTE
Via Col Draga - Possagno (TV)

INVISIBLE MONASTERY 02nd February 2022

Dearly beloved!

As always, there is a time lag between the moment when I prepare this text and the moment when you receive it and then use it in the prayer of the INVISIBLE MONASTERY. Today I am lingering over the account of John of the Wedding at Cana that the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time proposes in continuity with the Solemnity of the Epiphany and with the Baptism Sunday.

The Evangelist John, in recounting the episode at Cana, insists in affirming that it is the beginning of the signs performed by Jesus, through which he "manifested his glory and his disciples believed in him" (v. 11). The beginning is not simply because it is the first sign of a long series; rather, it is the archetypal sign (in Greek 'beginning' is called *arké*), such as to constitute a sort of original mold that gives its form on all the other signs that will follow, until Easter. It is not by chance that this sign takes place in Cana, a small village in Galilee; the symbolic meaning of its name, however, does not escape from the evangelist, who knows well that Cana in Hebrew means "to found", "to create". What Jesus does at Cana is like a new foundation, which brings God's creation to completion, redeeming it from the evil that sin has introduced into history, and truly founds the new covenant between God and his people. Now the wedding is accomplished, God marries humanity!

I believe that also for our FLC it is right to think of a strong moment of restart in order to re-motivate our associative experience and to strengthen a lay identity that is strongly linked to the educational charism of the Cavanis brothers. Therefore, I urge you to accept with great sensitivity and thoughtfulness the invitation that has come to us, on the Lord's Christmas, from our spiritual assistant, Fr. Giuseppe Moni. Sacred Heart House, in Possagno, is ready to welcome us next summer, to return to the sources of genuine lay spirituality, to gather again, also with new faces that in the meantime have entered "to the Cavanis", to ... take stock of the situation, to see each other again, welcome each other and share idealities and perspectives of commitment in our communities of belonging, real or ideal.

It can be, for each of us, and for the whole FLC, our Cana of Galilee, a great moment of re-foundation and restart; let's take this opportunity and let's put it at the center of our prayer and discernment.

From the Gospel according to Saint John (2, 1-11)

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

6 Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. 9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

From the invitation letter of Fr. Giuseppe Moni, spiritual assistant of the FLC, 25.12.2021

"Give me, O God, a heart that listens!" (From the 1st Book of Kings 3:9)

Dear lay Sisters and Brothers, collaborators of Cavanis work in Italy, in cordially greeting you, I am inspired by that biblical verse that you find at the beginning of this letter, because even I myself wish to listen, anew and further, to the Word of God, and to listen to that "specific word" that you are, immediately, each one of you that - from a few or many years, in different titles, with different tasks and experiences and varied educational passion – participate in our Work, that is the transmission of the Cavanis Charism left to us as a precious inheritance by our Venerable Frs. Founders and our common patrimony of action and, even before, of holiness, both in the educational field of the Schools and in that of the Parishes.

Truly, THANK YOU on behalf of the Superiors in charge of the Congregation of the Schools of Charity, but also on my own personal behalf, inasmuch as particularly involved in and fascinated by the human and moral journey of so many of you here in Italy, as well as by the witness that you give to the Institute and by the great love that you have for us. On the institutional level, perhaps the most significant of the experiences (still underway) here in Italy is that of the Lay Cavanis Fraternity (FLC), whose Statute is also available on the Congregation's website (<https://www.cavanis.org/fraternita-laici-cavanis/>). It is significant because it was born from a long gestation and maturation, shared with many religious confreres, following the annual summer

conventions held at Sacred Heart House in Possagno, called "Religious and Lay Together for the Gospel", which have always seen a large participation of our members, both from the schools and from parishes and from the house of spirituality - Sacred Heart House. (institutional/official seat of the FLC).

Let's go to "the point": in the last few months, the Superiors have been asking me to take over this sector, that is, to rejoin the ranks of those who collaborate and commit themselves to spreading the Charism. This is neither a simple nor an easy task; because in the last few years there has been a sort of aggregative fraying, at the various levels, a drop in tension, changing people, ...and even more because of the pandemic that has forced us to review so many aspects of reality; perhaps highlighting our real consistency and Christian maturity and also Cavanis.

However, it may, we feel the need - even with the changes that have been taken place and those still in progress - to return to the sources of genuine lay Spirituality (of which the above texts express a full affirmation/declaration of principle), returning to meet again (God willing), even with new faces that in the meantime have entered "to the Cavanis", to take stock of the situation, to gather again, welcome each other and share idealities and perspectives of commitment in our communities of belonging, real or ideal. THE FINAL PURPOSE of this long letter of mine is to launch the following proposal-invitation to all the Lay who come "for home", that is, who collaborate with our Works, Schools/Parishes, or who, in any case, are linked to the Charism, here in Italy:

SACRED HEART HOUSE in Possagno (TV) is ready to welcome us next Summer, from Thursday afternoon/evening July 14 until Sunday July 17, 2022 (lunch included). By the end of February, however, we need to have the number, at least indicative, of those who can participate the event in July. Please send me your personal confirmation.

Thank you.

Fr. Giuseppe Moni

