



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

INVISIBLE MONASTERY

05.2026

“Show Us the Father”

Introduction

The month of May is the month of Mary, Mother and Teacher, so dear to the Founders Mark and Anthony Cavanis, who saw in Her the guardian of the educational vocation. On May 2nd we also remember the beginning of the Institute (Sunday, May 2nd, 1802): a gift that continues to generate life through prayer and educational service.

During the online conference held in March, dedicated to the theme “They, True Fathers of Youth,” Elisabetta Mura – from the Lay Community of Corsico (Milan) – reminded us that the Cavanis charism was born from a radical choice: not simply to be teachers or educators, but fathers. “The Founders understood that education is a form of spiritual and emotional fatherhood.

They realized that the greatest need of young people is not only instruction, but the certainty of being loved, recognized, and accompanied. Consequently, they made a radical choice: they decided to stand beside the young as fathers,



“They left everything and followed Jesus” Lk 5:11

seeing in each one not a problem to solve, but a promise of life.”

The Invisible Monastery unites religious and lay people into one spiritual family, to preserve this vision and this style: to pray that educational fatherhood, the heart of the Cavanis charism, may continue to live within the Cavanis works.



Gospel of the Day (Jn 14:7–14)

Today’s Gospel guides us to contemplate the face of the Father through the Son:

“If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves.

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Reflection

Philip's desire – "Show us the Father" – is the desire of every human being: to see the face that gives meaning to life. Jesus responds with a decisive revelation: whoever sees Him sees the Father. His words and His works are a transparency of the Father's love.



In the Cavanis charism, this becomes an educational style: the educator does not show himself, but allows the Father to be glimpsed through care, closeness, and active goodness. "Young people are the most precious treasure entrusted to our care" (FC).

"Works" speak louder than words: welcome, listening, patience, trust. Jesus promises: "Whoever believes in me will do even greater works." This is the mission entrusted to the Founders and to all the Cavanis: to generate life, restore dignity, and accompany young people so that they may discover the face of the Father within their own story.

For a Mandate of the Invisible Monastery 2026

The commitment of the Cavanis Educational Project is in harmony with Pope Francis' Global Compact on Education: to educate means to unite strengths, create alliances, and generate life. Following the example of the Founders, it invites us to believe that every young person is a seed of the future entrusted to our care. This commitment calls us each day to:

- Walk with young people, as a life choice;
- Safeguard hope, especially among the most vulnerable;
- Educate toward truth, which is also an education in freedom;
- Generate life through daily acts of love;
- Pray together, as one single family.



Prayer for the Invisible Monastery – May 2026

Lord Jesus, Way, Truth, and Life,
grant us a heart that is not troubled, because it
trusts in your presence.

Renew within us the charism of the Cavanis
Fathers,
so that we may educate as they did: with love,
with wisdom, with sacrifice.

Mary, our Mother, teach us to walk with the little
ones and the poor;

may every young person we meet feel
welcomed, protected, and accompanied.

Help us to recognize in them the face of your
Son. Amen.



"They left everything and followed Jesus" Lk 5:11