

Welcome to each and all of you!

I am happy to welcome you in the name of the Foundation P.B. Noailles.

Given the quality and precision of its purpose, the French State declared the **FOUNDATION P.B. NOAILLES**, as State-approved on the 24 July 2013. Its aim is to bring financial help **to all humanitarian and solidarity activity**, managed directly or indirectly by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux, outside France. As such, it can help to receive and form those who give themselves to this international action. And this is the objective of the session which unites you here in La Solitude.

The recognition of the Foundation P.B. Noailles by the French State is important. It is the act by which the Holy Family Sisters in France can allocate a financial capital to realise a work of general interest and non-profit-making. Humanitarian projects certainly, but carried out in the spirit of the Gospel. Our faith has social consequences since we are calling for peace, justice and the dignity of persons and peoples in all the domains of life, in all the domains of the human condition. To be and do like Jesus Christ!

Because of the universal destination of goods and our commitment in following Jesus, we are all called to a real solidarity with the poor and with those who strive to build a more fraternal humanity founded on justice and love. We bear witness together to the transforming grace of the Gospel lived in the school of our Venerable Founder and Good Father.

The Prophet Jeremiah (29:11) exclaims: « *what a lot of projects in the human heart!* » How many projects in the hearts of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux, fruit of their attentiveness to the needs of the poorest, the neediest persons around them. You with other sisters and other persons who collaborate with you or with whom you work ... see these necessities and you communicate them to the Foundation through the projects you present. You are, in a way, «**the hands of the Foundation**» at work in the field of poverty.

A project is the fulfilment of a dream ... that of the sick to have a care centre nearby, that of parents to offer a future to their children by education, professional formation ... that of children to go to school and not be forced to work to meet the needs of the family, that of a population to have access to drinking water through the sinking of a well ... We know that what the Foundation achieves with you is a drop of water in the ocean of poverty and misery ... But each project is the fulfilment of God's dream, who in creating the world, destined it for all!

In the French term "projet", there is a dynamic, a movement ... even in the word «**pro-jet**» ... A **jet** is a movement, a force, a decision... A project has a beginning and an end because it is limited in time. Once it is started, it disappears before another project... for aa different project ... elsewhere... always in view of the good of the populations where the Holy Family, by its life and mission, is present.

Each project is based on a study of the real necessities, a precise elaboration, a follow up of the work and a verification of its effective realisation. And it is in order to help you to do all this that you are here.

The heart of the project is what is fundamental. It is the reception of the transmission of an inheritance, fruit of the life given by generations of sisters of the Holy Family in France. They gave all their strength, all their energy in the service of the Mission according to the way of Evangelical Life traced out by our Venerable Founder and Good Father.

The financial support given by the Foundation is the fulfilment of their desire to serve God by giving up what they have for the Mission. The Foundation puts into your hands today the fruit of their work and, I would also say, of their privations. It is not only a financial capital that the Foundation places at the service of humanitarian projects! It is a capital of Faith, Hope and Charity! A capital of Life given!

The Foundation Pierre Bienvenu NOAILLES is the canal through which the entire Holy Family is committed alongside of the poorest ... together with all the persons (professional persons who offer their competences... local Churches... parents... young people...) with whom you collaborate in on the spot. Already a big number of projects have been accomplished, others are in the course of realisation and others are still being studied...

Allow me to add something more, that the contemplative sisters share your hope and support all your efforts by their prayer.

May you have a profitable session! Enjoy your work!