

- To share, according to our ability, in the urgent projects of the bishoprics in poor nations;
- To ask together, at the international level, always giving witness to the gospel, as did Pope Paul VI at the United Nations, for the adoption of economic and cultural structures that do not create poor nations in an ever richer world, but that allow the poor majority to emerge from their poverty.

12. We pledge to share our life, in pastoral charity, with our brothers and sisters in Christ, priests, religious and laity, so that our ministry constitutes a real service. Thus,

- We will strive to "revise our life" with them;
- We will seek out partners so that we can be promoters according to the spirit rather than rulers according to the world;
- We will try as much humanly possible to be present, to be welcoming.
- We will be open to everyone, whichever their religion is. See Mk 8:34f, Acts 6:1-7, 1 Tim 3:8-10.

13. When we return to our dioceses we will present these resolutions to our diocesan priests, asking them to help us with their understanding, collaboration and prayers.

God help us to be faithful



### How to reach the Catacomb Domitilla:

- ☑ Board the **bus 714** from the central bus station Termini and alight at the bus stop Piazza Navigatori (about 20-25 minutes journey), then walk across the road and proceed straight for about 300 metres to reach Domitilla Catacomb.
- ☑ Board the **30 Express bus** from Piazza Venezia or from Piramide for the bus stop Piazza Navigatori, and proceed ahead as mentioned above for **bus 714**.
- ☑ Board the **bus 716** from Piramide for Ballarin, but alight at the bus stop Odescalchi, (near Lago Bompiani circle) and the Catacomb is just 150m away.
- ☒ **Bus 218** from John Lateran stop is NOT recommended.
- ☑ **Metro line B** for Laurentina is another possibility. Alight at Piramide or Garbatella, and board the bus 716.



### Our Working Hours:

🕒 From 9.00 to 12.00 and from 14:00 to 17:00.

We are closed on every Tuesday.

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From the year 2009, Domitilla Catacomb is under the administration of the Divine Word Missionaries (SVDs).

# Double Anniversary of Domitilla Catacomb



Pope Paul VI visited Domitilla  
Catacomb in September 1965  
and on November 16, 1965  
signed the Pact of the Catacombs.

Coming from some 15 countries, forty bishops concelebrated a Holy Mass on November 16, 1965 in the Domitilla Catacomb. In that holy place of Christian dead they signed a document that expressed their personal commitments as bishops to the ideals of the Council under the suggestive title of the *Pact of the Catacombs*. Pope Paul VI, two months before this event, preached in the Catacomb the following: "here the Church was stripped off human capabilities, here it was poor, humble, pious, oppressed and was heroic."

## The Pact of the Catacombs

We, bishops assembled in the Second Vatican Council, are conscious of the deficiencies of our lifestyle in terms of evangelical poverty. Motivated by one another in an initiative in which each of us has tried to avoid ambition and presumption, we unite with all our brothers in the episcopacy and rely above all on the grace and strength of Our Lord Jesus Christ and on the prayer of the faithful and the priests in our respective dioceses. Placing ourselves in thought and in prayer before the Trinity, the Church of Christ, and all the priests and faithful of our dioceses, with humility and awareness of our weakness, but also with all the determination and all the strength that God desires to grant us by his grace, we commit ourselves to the following:

1. Regarding housing, food and means of transportation and everything concerning these things, we will seek to live in accordance with the ordinary manner of our people. See Mt 5:3, 6:33f, 8-20.

2. We renounce forever wealth and the appearance thereof, especially in clothing (expensive fabrics and brilliant colors), and insignia of precious metals (such signs should, in effect, be evangelizing). Mk 6:9, Mt 10:9f, Acts 3:6. Neither gold nor silver.

3. We will not possess either movable or fixed assets, or bank accounts, etc., in our names; and if it is necessary to possess anything, we will place it under the name of our diocese or other social or charitable works. See Mt 6:19-21, Luke 12:33f.

4. Whenever possible we will entrust the financial and material administration of our diocese to a commission of competent lay people conscious of their apostolic role, given that we should be pastors and apostles rather than administrators. See Mt 10:8, Acts 6:1-7.

5. We refuse to be called in speech or writing by names or titles that signify grandeur and power (Your Eminence, Your Excellency, Monsignor ...). We prefer to be called by the gospel name "Father". See Mt 20:25-28, 23:6-11, Jn 13:12-15.

6. In our behavior and social relations, we will avoid everything that could appear to confer privilege, priority, or even preference to the rich and the powerful (for example; in banquets offered or accepted, in religious services). See Lk 13:12-14, 1 Cor 9:14-19.

7. We will also avoid fostering or flattering the vanity of anyone, whoever they might be, when rewarding or requesting donations, or for any other reason. We will invite our faithful to consider their gifts as normal participation

in worship, ministry and social action. See Mt 6:2-4, Lk 15:9-13, 2 Cor 12:4.

8. We will give as much as is necessary of our time, thought, heart, means, etc. to the apostolic and pastoral service to working individuals and groups who are economically weak and underdeveloped, without compromising other people and groups in the diocese. We will support the lay people, religious, deacons or priests, whom the Lord calls to evangelize the poor and workers, sharing their life and work. See Lk 4:18f, Mk 6:4, Mt 11:4f, Acts 18:3f, 20:33-35, 1 Cor 4:12 and 9:1-27.

9. Aware of the demands of justice and charity and their mutual relationship, we will seek to transform the works of "beneficence" into social works based on charity and justice that take everyone into account, as a humble service of relevant public bodies. See Mt 25:31-46, Luke 13:12-14 and 33f.

10. We will endeavor to ensure that those responsible for our government and our public services decide on and implement the laws, structures and social institutions that are necessary for justice, equality and the full and harmonious development of the whole person and all people, and thus

for the emergence of a new social order, worthy of the children of men and women and children of God. See Acts 2:44f, 4:32-35, 5:4, 2 Cor 8 and 9, 1 Tim 5:16.

11. Because the collegiality of the bishops finds its greatest evangelical fulfillment in communal service to the majority in physical, cultural and moral poverty – two thirds of humanity – we commit ourselves:

