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TO EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU PARTICIPANTS OF THE ART, HUMANISM, AND SPIRITUALITY ENCOUNTER

To celebrate anniversaries with significant people is reason for joy and an occasion to share that which we consider important in our lives. Thus, the Company of Mary celebration of 400 years since its beginning has much to do with young people and their world.

Jeanne of Lestonnac, the foundress, throughout her life experience, has shown us that to serve God and to look for the common good of society is about offering an alternative formation to youth. In her time women had fewer opportunities, thus her pledge to find ways to relate with them and create appropriate pedagogies to help each of them in their integral growth as a person and as an active member of family and society.

Four centuries have passed and the Company continues to believe that youth, without distinction of race, sex, social standing, religion...are called to have a formation that prepares them to contribute with their gifts to the building of a world with greater human sensitivity; where it is possible for all to live with meaning, dignity, equality and justice.

To offer an experience consistent with this objective is our desire. It is the context which defines the purpose for this gathering, this encounter: "art, humanism and spirituality". Your participation, a group of young people from various continents and countries express the universality of the Company and the plurality of this world in the 21st Century. It is also a sign of centered values belonging to young people and how they speak to us of the present and future of a new world.

To all of you, we desire that you enjoy the happiness that you will find and that you drink of the same spring as Jeanne de Lestonnac, Ignatius of Loyola and brother Roger where they found the reason to live, struggle and build. That spring that has its origin in Jesus of Nazareth, the youth that grew in knowledge before God and before all and who passed through our world doing good.

We wish that at the end of this encounter, personally and as a group, you discover the profound depth of the art to live humanly the breath of the Spirit of the Resurrected One.

In the name of all the Company a fraternal embrace and gratitude for celebrating with us 400 years of history.

*Beatriz Acosta Mesa odn
and General Team*

Rome, 7th of April 2007
Easter Celebration

400th Anniversary of the Company of Mary in the world