



CIRCULAR 1/2023

CANOSSIAN LAY ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING TEAM
To the Lay Canossian Coordinators
Provincial Superiors/Father Delegates
Sister Animators/Father Animators

Dear family,

In harmony of spirit and heart with immense joy we walk this year 2023 in a special way, since on 1st March we began to live the preparation for the 250th anniversary of the birth of Saint Magdalene, Daughters and Sons of Charity and Lay Canossians, with the motto:

"Light up life, Magdalene of Canossa, 250 years, gift of love and freedom"

A first step of this journey began in August 2022, when we participated as the International Coordinating Team of the Canossian Lay Association in the XVII General Chapter of the Daughters of Charity (Rome-Italy) in the Day known as **Charismatic Family Day** together with the other invited members Father Francesco Vercellone, Son of Charity, Elena Pietrogrande and Alessandra Fischetti, members of the Lay Canossian Brothers and Sisters. It was a day in which we focused on the contribution that our charism can make in today's world and on what paths to take to grow as a charismatic family.

Already started this year 2023, we think of what we experienced in those days of August 2022, and our hearts widen with joy, remembering that we were in Verona and Venice. What a great gift of the Lord! Walking through the streets that St. Magdalene walked, finding ourselves at the entrance of her palace, contemplating the balconies from where she saw the river and from where she thought, dreamed, prayed for a more just world and more love.

All this challenges us to: How will we as Lay Canossians live this year of preparation? Do we believe, without a doubt, that the first step is to reconstruct our history, our journey of knowledge and formation in the Canossian charism?

How much do we know about our Foundress? How have we known her? What struck us by her history and what passage or passages of her Memoirs have been engraved in our hearts? What made Magdalene light up our lives?

Let's take that personal time to dig deeper. Then we share with the group and together we celebrate our journey as the year of "Grace".

Only in this way, ignited by love, do we take the next step and invite others to tell of this great love, which is already about to turn 250 years old, and which is still alive today, inviting us to love as THE GREATEST LOVE CONTEMPLATED ON THE CROSS.

Formation:

We want to recall the essential and important of the formation journey in our Christian vocation – Canossian. Below we share this year's formation and program:

"Lay Canossians in the footsteps of Mary, Mother, Teacher and Model of virtue"

First stage: the annunciation - icon of obedient faith

Second stage: Mary in the Visitation - Charity that becomes service

Third stage: Mary in Bethlehem – Charity becomes welcome

Fourth stage: Mary at the wedding at Cana - Charity becomes attention

Fifth stage: Mary at the foot of the Cross - Charity becomes gratuitousness

Sixth stage: Mary in the Upper Room – Charity becomes closeness

Seventh stage: Mary woman clothed with the Sun – Charity becomes Intercession

As a Team, we want to share our experience of the journey made with Magdalene in 2022 in Italy. Without a doubt it ignited our lives! We will share with an attachment, attached to each 2023 formation sheet.

"From the hand of St. Magdalene"

1. Magdalene as a girl
2. Magdalene as adolescent
3. Magdalene as a woman of home
4. Magdalene as a friend
5. Magdalene lights up her life: works of charity
6. Magdalene and Our Lady

For the formation sheet of the laity, the various newsletters of Easter, Our Lady of Sorrows and Christmas, we will also attach the sheets of the animators to walk together in the same guidelines for an integration in which being a Charismatic Family is ever deeper and live a significant and testimonial complementarity among the people.

Updating data

In order to have our addresses updated for smooth communication and enable whatsapp groups, we ask you to send as soon as possible the updated data of the Coordinators and Animators of each Provinces or Delegations, detailing: Name and Surname - email address - mobile number - Provinces or Delegations to which you belong, send to the following email address:

laycanossianassociation@gmail.com

This account belongs to the Canossian Lay Association and was created for the purpose of unifying all communications and as a tool for use not only by the current Team, but also by the upcoming International Coordinating Teams.

Wednesday prayer:

We remember this weekly appointment on Wednesday for our Association, uniting ourselves in the prayer for the 7 Hail Mary's, committing ourselves to pray for more vocations throughout the Canossian Charismatic Family and in particular praying together the Prayer of "Canossian Wednesday" on the occasion of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of our Foundress.

Economic administration:

We thank the groups that submitted their contributions during this period. We remind those who have not yet done so of the importance of respecting Article 15 of the International Statute, which states that each Provincial Coordination will establish an annual membership fee for the Canossian Laity. "At the beginning of the calendar year donate ten percent (10%) for the needs of International Coordinating Team." The bank account is as follows:

**Generalate of the Daughters of Canossian Charity
Banca Popolare di Sondrio-AG. 7 of Rome.
Via Baldo degli Ubaldi, 267-00167 Rome
IBAN: IT27E0569603207000007029X52
BIC-SWIFT POSOIT22**

We ask that any deposit be communicated to the following emails:

laycanossianassociation@gmail.com

mariana.litmanovich@canossian.org (New Referent General Councillor, Canossian Daughters of Charity, for the Lay Canossian Association)

The joyful announcement of Easter:

Jesus Crucified "is not here, He is risen" (Mt 28:6)

He offers us the consoling certainty of our hope and urges us to proclaim it with joy.

International Coordinating Team

April - 2023