

**To Sister Emmanuel**  
**Prioress General of the Monastic Sisters of Bethlehem**

I thank you for the letter you addressed to me on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Monastic Family of Bethlehem, of the Assumption of the Virgin and of Saint Bruno.

I am happy that this event coincides with the revision of your Constitutions, marking a beautiful renewal of charity and communion, in fidelity to the founding charism.

"The innovation introduced by the crisis willed by the Spirit is never an innovation in opposition to what is old, but an innovation which sprouts from the old and makes it always fruitful" (Discourse to the Roman Curia, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020). I form the wish for the future that each monk and each monastic sister, in the silence of his and her contemplation, live an ever greater generosity in the gift of his and her life for the Church and for the world, drawn into an ever deeper and loving encounter with Christ.

Assuring you of my prayers for each and every one of you, and commending the Monastic Family of Bethlehem to the protection of Our Lady of the Assumption and of Saint Bruno, I wholeheartedly impart to you the Apostolic Blessing.

From the Vatican, March 16, 2021

Francis