

My dear children: may Jesus watch over my daughters and sons for me!

During these days, since leaving Rome, I have especially thanked our Lord for the marvel of the Communion of Saints. With the certitude of faith, we know that we are even closer to one another than when we are physically nearby.

When I arrive somewhere, it seems as though all of us there have always been close to one another. And the same thing happens when I leave that place: saying goodbye is simply another way of accompanying one another. We are always in our home and can always carry out the Work and serve the Church in whatever place we may be.

Also in trying moments, we draw strength from this reality that intimately unites us and that is a result of our personal union with Christ.

I recall some words written by Saint Josemaria in the Honduran Consulate, at a time when he could hardly go anywhere: "I am always hundreds of miles away from the place where I am physically present" (30 April 1937). He could say this because he knew he was closely united even with those who weren't physically nearby.

I know that I can rely on the support of your prayer and your joy during this trip to the United States and Canada. I am also accompanying all of you: we are close to one another each day especially in the Holy Mass.

Your Father blesses you with all his affection,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leonardo". The script is cursive and fluid.

New York, 12 July 2019