

July 2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The summer months are upon us. This is an opportunity to relax and renew ourselves spiritually, physically and psychologically. Early in July we celebrate Independence Day. We are called this day to pray mightily for peace and to work for peace, not only abroad but in our own hearts, homes and communities.

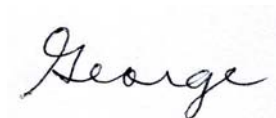
Toward the end of July and into August, the Sunday gospels turn our attention to Jesus, the Bread of Life. The readings from the sixth chapter of John's gospel offer penetrating reflections on change and how Jesus helped his followers understand the change from earthly bread to heavenly bread. He stood at the crossroads of both history and cosmic transformation by his death and resurrection. He now stands with us as bread for the hungry, the friend of the poor and the source of healing and reconciliation.

We must follow him. This has implications for the present instability of the global economy as well. As we recognize more deeply that our global economy cannot (and never could) provide enough for all, the Good News is that if we truly experience one another as sisters and brothers, part of the same sacred body, all will eat and be satisfied.

During this month, the unit superiors of the Society of Mary throughout the world will gather in Rome for the General Leadership Assembly, the meeting held between General Chapters. Let us pray for our brothers as they, along with the General Council, assess the present situation and plan with hope for the future!

Attached are feast days for the month of July.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

George J. Cerniglia, S.M.
Assistant for Religious Life