





Presented at Monteverde, Rome,
June 25, 1990,
the bicentenary year of the birth
of Jean-Claude Colin

Jean-Claude Colin, having been asked to speak of you on this bi-centenary, I have said precious little about your person. But did you really expect me to? Something tells me that speeches about Colin never pleased you very much.

On the other hand, you spent your life fighting for a Society in whose future you believed. You traced it with features marked by your time. Forgive us if at times we are very far from it, but what you wanted we still want today.

This body, which you passionately loved, we intend to bring alive. For this we will be helped by that profound vision which encouraged you: that of Mary support of the Church at the beginning and at the end of time.

But our appointment with you is not at the end of time, it is today; today we need to reweave the web of a life in society which expresses not what

we ourselves want, but what God and Mary wanted and want from you and from us. All during your life you had a certain idea of the Society of Mary.

Help us, after so many changes, to remain in communion with it, to accept that God can speak to us through the poverty of your person and your work.

Help us to understand that a word spoken yesterday may still resonate in hearts today, that a body born yesterday may find within itself the energies of a new youth.

No, Colin, you are not dead. In keeping with your promise, come out of your tomb from time to time to tear up the papers we write about you and bring us back to the love of your Society.

And, while you rest in that tomb, let us repeat the words written there by this Society: *Pater, ora pro filiis*. Father, pray for your sons. Amen.