

Support committee to the Little Sisters of Mary Mother of the Redeemer  
C/o Mr Marcel MIGNOT  
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**Le Mans, November 1<sup>st</sup> 2018**  
Solemnity of All Saints

**His Eminence Joao Cardinal BRAZ de AVIZ**  
CIVCSVA  
Piazza Pio XII – 3  
00 193 ROMA – ITALIA

**Subject: support to the Little Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Redeemer**

Your Eminence,

A civilian association of Christian lay persons, named the ASPSM (1), has formed spontaneously by the side of the Little Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, so as to support and assist them in the problems they are currently confronted to with church authorities.

The members of our support committee are laic believers of the Christ, representing the Lord's people in all its diversity. We are neither fanatics, nor "revolutionaries", or moved by some sort of ideology.

Therefore we want to tell you how much we respect the Church through its senior members, of which you are one eminent representative.

We are aware of the fact we are speaking to a successor of the Apostles, whose position is of high-level responsibility, and we do so with confidence, because we know that, above and before anything, we are speaking to a man of God. It is, indeed, what makes this situation so difficult and hurtful i.e. having to defend oneself, not against an enemy from outside the Church that is hostile to it, but having to defend oneself from inside, against brothers and sisters in Christ, with whom we are in deep communion.

Our unique motivation is to support the Little Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, in the steps they have undertaken to make the truth arise in this matter, which primary cause, whether we want it or not, rests on a disagreement regarding the management of their healthcare institutions, and not at all on matters of governance or internal problems, as opposed to what has been unduly propagated, for reasons that are highly disputable, and which it shall be necessary to shed on full light, some day.

Your Eminence, it is now established that the biased presentation you received of the situation of the Little Sisters, together with silent complicities, have not contributed to provide you with the elements indispensable for a transparent and objective reading of this case.

Indeed, for instance, we would have expected the Archbishop of Toulouse to provide you with the necessary perspectives, since its diocese has benefited, for over 60 years, from the presence and the service of the Little Sisters, particularly with priests in difficulty, put in their hands by the bishops themselves, not to mention the large and generous welcome they have always offered to various parish groups and religious organizations, or welcoming and attending to the most vulnerable, in particular by providing end-of-life support to elderly persons and their ever grateful families. Neither The Most Reverend Robert Le Gall, Archbishop of Toulouse, nor any of his predecessors, has ever had to complain about them, no more than in Mayenne, as a matter of fact. The Most Reverend Robert Le Gall, Archbishop of Toulouse, has obviously not seen fit to report the facts that came down to him, nor has he seen fit to intervene by your Dicastery. Although we take note of his decision, we deeply regret it.

Shocked and hurt by the violence of the measures taken against the Little Sisters, we have thus made common cause with them because we know them well, and we have known them for many years.

Yes, Your Eminence, we can express confidence in their total commitment to the service of the Church, in their vivid faith, in the quality of their religious life, known and recognised by all and this in each of their communities.

We know that none of the reproaches held against them correspond to reality and we realise how much these false accusations might be devastating for a religious work, both collectively and individually.

We are extremely shocked and deeply scandalised by the sanctions taken against Mother Marie de Saint Michel, suspected to be responsible for a “governance problem within the Institute”, whilst the objective facts have never been specified or clarified. This counter-witness the Church is offering precisely at a time when horrible moral scandals affecting all the levels of the ecclesiastic hierarchy are being brought to light, only adds to the protest and indignation expressed by a very large part of God’s people.

We would like to draw your attention on the media sensation this affair is turning into. Unexpectedly the written press, but also the television, were interested and looked at the woeful fate of these nuns. Whether in France or abroad, and whatever their orientation, all these media have a unanimous opinion of this injustice: hidden motives lie behind a so-called “problem of governance”. They have all expressed sympathy and great compassion for the Little Sisters, highlighting the inconsistencies of the ecclesiastical hierarchy, and pointing out the question of retrieval of the financial, material and spiritual property of this Congregation.

We have just learned that the Little Sisters, after having exhausted every attempt at dialogue with the ecclesiastical authorities, have had no other choice but ask, each one, individually, to be relieved of their vows by your Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life, in order to put an end to this pressure weighing upon them and that has already lasted far too long.

We consider that all the measures your Dicastery has been taking for over one year constitute a serious misuse of authority with patent harassment, in conflict with Human Rights, and this under the cover of blind obedience you have solicited many a time, jeopardising the righteous conscience of each of the sisters.

Your Eminence, we take the liberty to add to this letter the numerous messages of support addressed to the Little Sisters, and that we have been receiving for several months, as well as all the signatures (2397) of a petition we have designed more as a public call to the decision-making bodies. We also add the very moving testimonies of gratefulness and thank-you statements the Little Sisters have personally addressed to Mother Marie de Saint Michel, who is the General Superior whom they have freely elected for 3 consecutive mandates, from 2000 to 2018.

This strong mobilisation and all these witness statements cannot leave anyone indifferent; they are the living evidence of the truth that restores, de facto, the Little Sisters in their profound identity, in their vocation as nuns in quest of holiness, for themselves and for the world, following in the footsteps of their founder.  
My Lord Cardinal, please be ensured of our deepest respect, as well as the confidence we have in your person.

Respectfully Yours in Christ,

Marcel MIGNOT  
President,  
For the ASPSM Association

**(1) ASPSM: Association de Soutien aux Petites Soeurs de Marie Mère du Rédempteur**

**Attached:**

- Register of messages of support to the Little Sisters of Mary
- List of the 2397 Signatures of the Petition/Call
- Witness statements of the Little Sisters addressed to Mother Marie de Saint Michel

**NB:** in order to give more visibility to our supporting action, we have designed an Internet website, that we invite you to visit, so as to know us better and learn more about / better understand our actions → <https://www.soutienpsm.com/>.