

## HAPPY ST. BENEDICT MENNI DAY! 24 April 2018

Like every year, on 24 April we celebrate the Feast of St. Benedict Menni, in each and every one of the different areas where our institution is present.



We celebrate this very special day through various initiatives revolving around the figure and legacy of our founder. These are celebrations that help us remember him in a festive atmosphere which strengthens the ties between all of us who are part of the Hospitaller community.

### CELEBRATIONS IN THE SPANISH PROVINCE



The last week of April is a '**Festival Week**', throughout which the 21 centres that make up the Spanish Province organise conferences, tributes to collaborators who are retiring, open days, workshops, concerts, competitions, excursions and sport tournaments, as well as various activities that also include the community facilities that are managed by each centre.

As the focal point of the festival, all the centres hold a Eucharist where users, relatives, collaborators and sisters take part. It is followed by refreshments and to wrap up a very moving day, many of the centres organise a dance for all attendees.

### CELEBRATIONS IN THE ITALIAN PROVINCE



On 24 April, after a solemn Eucharist at the 'Villa San Benedetto Menni' centre, various recreational and sports 'competitions' are held between the different units that make up the centre, all part of what is called the '**St. Benedict Menni Cup**'. This competition represents a sign of unity, beyond the specificity of each department, where the administration and management play the role of the 'judges' regarding the games that are offered.

In this very fun way, they celebrate the Feast of St. Benedict Menni where the entire Hospitaller community gathers to pray, be grateful and even play (Why not?) in order to renew their commitment to the Congregation Mission, driven by the grace and courage of our founder.

### CELEBRATIONS IN THE ENGLISH PROVINCE



On 24 April and the days leading up to it, at our care homes in England residents, collaborators, sisters, volunteers and relatives leave their tasks behind for a few hours to remember our founding father.

They hold a Eucharist together and toast to a wonderful legate that left us. One of the most anticipated moments of the celebration is the '**Hospitaller Lunch**', which is a

**great opportunity to share a wonderful time**, to get to know colleagues and residents a little more, and to thank St. Benedict Menni for having made our reality possible **in a relaxed way**. To wrap up the celebration, various musicians delight them with their artistic and melodious pieces.

### **CELEBRATIONS IN THE FRENCH PROVINCE**



In the *French Province*, 24 April is not a day like the rest! Like every year, at the centres and communities in France and Africa, sisters, collaborators, patients, volunteers, friends and neighbours celebrate the Feast of St. Benedict Menni with the same happiness and fervour.



Everything begins with a Triduum of spiritual preparation with the residents, led by the sisters of the community. On the 24th, the celebration of the Eucharistic brings together the entire Hospitaller community in a lively and

fraternal environment followed by a meal where the exchange is continued. The festivities continue to the rhythm of music, songs, dances, theatrical performances and readings about the founder's life and mission.

**The celebration of the Feast of St. Benedict Menni calls sisters and laypersons who live and share the charisma of hospitality to be witnesses of mercy with respect to people who suffer.**

### **CELEBRATIONS IN THE PORTUGUESE PROVINCE**



At all the centres in the Portuguese Province, it is customary to hold a **Thanksgiving Eucharist as well as a number of commemorative activities**. Specifically, this year in 2018 at the Casa de Saúde Nossa Senhora da Conceição, since 15 April, they have been distributing and posting a series of posters talking about St. Benedict Menni throughout the centre.

Yesterday, 23 April, they held an initiative organised by the Lay Hospitallers group, based on two moments of reflection on the figure of the founding father. The 24th is the crowning moment for the entire Hospitaller Community. There is a celebration of a Eucharist followed by a fraternal lunch where a set of slides are projected about St. Benedict Menni.

### **CELEBRATIONS IN THE DELEGATION OF THE PHILIPPINES**



Each community and centre in the delegation decides on the preparation and activities to celebrate the day of the Feast of St. Benedict Menni. As a common element, a Thanksgiving Eucharist is held on 24 April at all of them attended by patients, sisters, collaborators, benefactors, friends, etc.

Among the various initiatives, this year the sisters of the Pasig community together with the children and parents from the '*Insieme Si Puo*' association and some sisters from the New Manila community have made a very original and creative novena through a small catechism about the life of St. Benedict Menni.

Let's walk together, '**Onward, onward, ever onward!**'  
following the words of our founder who today, yesterday and always must lead our  
lives and our shared mission.