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“Union is fraternity, it is strength, it is love ...”

Dearest FMA Past Pupils,

While still in the context of the pandemic, **we are celebrating the 113th Anniversary of the Association.** I would like to take a cue from the words of Pope Francis to express my good wishes on this very significant date.

*2021 – says the Pope – is time that must not be lost. And it will not be wasted to the extent that we know how to collaborate with generosity and commitment. In this sense, I believe that **fraternity** is the real remedy for the pandemic and for the many evils that have struck us. **Fraternity and hope** are like medicines that the world needs today, like vaccines.*

This invitation finds strong resonance in the first issue of the Union magazine of 100 years ago: *“Union” is simply called our bulletin, and it seems to us that this is the most suitable and dearest title. Union is fraternity, it is strength, it is love, and all our actions must be informed by these sentiments. They will be all the more intense, the more coordinated they are: and this is precisely the main purpose of our publication.*

Fraternity, brotherhood/sisterhood ... is the most effective care, a breath of life for each one, for our families, for the Association. It is the comfort and relief that we have experienced and continue to feel in this time of insecurity and bewilderment. It is the force that spurs us to action, that animates us with the example of what has been done and what will be done. It stimulates us to participate, to offer our contribution because "we are in the same boat", we are in a family and there is room for everyone.

Now that the Association looks towards a more open and inclusive future, yet nourished more than ever by its roots, we make ours the appeal of Pope Francis: Fraternity is the new frontier of humanity (4 February 2021, First International Day of Human Fraternity).

Best wishes! The Confederal Council also joins me to celebrate this new Anniversary of our Foundation!

With much affection,

Sr. Gabriela Patiño O.
World Delegate