

December 29, 2016

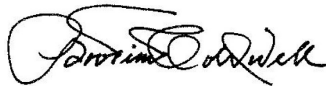
Dear Brother,

At the end of the year we have an opportunity to reflect on the year past and look ahead. Perhaps you work on a personal annual program, make resolutions, or engage in a retreat. Whatever your year-end ritual, the Founder's meditation for December 30 is a tried-and-true starting point: "Union in a community is a precious gem, which is why Our Lord so often recommended it to his apostles before he died" (91.2). Our life of fraternity is a gem we have received in 2016 and a gem we can give in 2017.

Pope Francis officially closed the Year of Mercy and the Year of Consecrated Life in 2016. However, the reflection on the call of Jesus to mercy and to consecration continues. The effort to live the message in an integrated and visible way continues. For this reason, I would like to draw your attention to some resources and events that you may find valuable in this ongoing spiritual work.

There are several references in the *Rule* to responding to the successive calls of God. My humble hope is that these resources and activities give us some nourishment for our shared journey. These resources are available by clicking on the links [on this page](#). They can be printed or read on a screen. They will have a permanent home on the Christian Brothers Conference website so you can return at any time.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Coldwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'T' and 'C'.

Brother Tim Coldwell, FSC
General Councilor