



BADIA PRIMAZIALE SANT'ANSELMO
Curia dell'Abate Primate

Dear Father Abbot, dear brother in the risen Christ,

In these days when we celebrate the triumph of Christ over sin and death, I wish you profound peace and hope. At the same time, our hearts and minds are turned to the many people who suffer significant pain, loss, uncertainty of the future, sadness, and even death. These are moments when our brothers in our own communities need to see hope, faith, and fraternal love in our eyes and in the words we speak them. Those are the gifts of a Good Shepherd to his flock.

It will not be a surprise to you to know that after consultation with the committee planning the Congress of September 2020, and then the Permanent Council of Abbot Primate, we have decided to postpone the Congress of September 2020. I use the word “postpone” in speaking about the Congress because it would be our hope to have it in September 2021. With the present situation, it is near impossible to know what the situation will be a year from now. Yet, it is our hope that we will be able to meet in September 2021. Here are the dates for the proposed Congress of September 2021.

- 1) Sunday, 5 September 2021: Date for the arrival of New Abbots and Conventual Priors
- 2) Monday and Tuesday, 6-7 September 2021 – Orientation for New Abbots and Conventual Priors
- 3) Tuesday, 7 September 2021 – Arrival of the Abbots and Conventual Priors
- 4) Wednesday – Tuesday, 8-14 September 2021 – Meetings, Presentations, and Papal Audience
- 5) Wednesday, 15 September 2021 – Departure

This also means that the annual meeting of the Synod of Abbot Presidents will take place at another time, yet to be determined. There are many considerations to keep in mind because of the impact on travel, finances, preparations for General Chapters, various events, the need for Visas, and a host of other questions. Please note that we send all information through the Abbot Presidents of your Congregation, and they should be passing all this information to you. It is important that the Abbot Presidents pass on this information immediately to all the communities that belong to their Congregation. We will keep you posted with the information given on our website: www.congressusosb.com .

Today we are celebrating our patronal feast of Saint Anselm. We pray that his wisdom, love of learning, and deep desire for communion with God continue to touch the lives of all the members of our communities. I am pleased to report that we all remain well and without the virus in our community here on the Aventine. Our prayers accompany all of you each day, and we ask your prayers for us.

Fraternally in Christ risen and among us,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abate Gregory". The script is cursive and elegant, with the word "Abate" written in a smaller, more compact style than "Gregory".

Right Reverend Gregory J. Polan, O.S.B.
Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Confederation