CONSTRUCTION
The tower of the Virgin Mary will be completed next year

CHRONICLE
Pope Benedict XVI’s visit to the Sagrada Família

10 years of worship in the temple

THE TEMPLE CELEBRATES ONE DECADE SINCE ITS DEDICATION
10 years as a Basilica

The key to the Basilica of the Sagrada Família that we received 10 years ago

When spending a few days at the home of some good friends, receiving the keys to the home of your valued hosts is a sign of trust. On the 7th of November, it was 10 years since I had the honour of receiving from the hands of Pope Benedict XVI the key to what had just been declared Basilica of the Sagrada Família in Barcelona. I interpreted it as a sign of trust from the Holy Father towards all those who made up the Episcopal Council of the Archdiocese of Barcelona at the time: its president, Cardinal Lluís Martínez Sánchez, the episcopal vicar and myself, then general secretary and chancellor. In the early years, said Episcopal Council was in charge of the liturgical celebrations of this temple, with the efficient and competent coordination of Mr Esteve Camps. Upon receiving the keys, I thought of Jesus, when, despite seeing the apostles’ limitations, he trusted them and called them friends, as the evangelists tell us. The Pope also showed his trust by visiting us in our home and giving us this key, not to close doors but rather to open this new ecclesial home for the assembly of the faithful, for the celebration of the sacraments, for prayer and to welcome all men and women of good will who, often blindly, seek meaning in their life and can find it on the path of beauty that leads to God the creator.

And so, 10 years have passed since the decision to propel the great evangelising and catechetical possibilities of this project, the result of the structural genius and deep Christian faith of Antoni Gaudí. Pope Benedict XVI, with his contemplative eyes that examined everything captivated by the fascinating interior transept of the temple, summarised it in an exemplary way in his homily when he told us that Gaudí carried out his work, inspired by three books: the book of nature, the book of Sacred Scripture and the book of the liturgy. In the beautiful celebration of that 7th of November, 2010, the gifts of God in nature were present thanks to the fact that Gaudí made the Sagrada Família a hymn of the creatures in stone. The Word of God was also present, thanks to the readings proclaimed and his commentary through the teaching of the Holy Father. Finally, the liturgy was made present in a ceremony that earned the praise of “small” donors, our “great” Basilica will be able to grow and be completed.

I conclude these memories noting that that same afternoon, a moving event took place at the charity Nen Déu. There I witnessed how those scrutinising eyes of Benedict XVI were captivated by the fascinating interior transept of the temple, summarised it in an exemplary way in his homily when he told us that Gaudí carried out his work, inspired by three books: the book of nature, the book of Sacred Scripture and the book of the liturgy. In the beautiful celebration of that 7th of November, 2010, the gifts of God in nature were present thanks to the fact that Gaudí made the Sagrada Família a hymn of the creatures in stone. The Word of God was also present, thanks to the readings proclaimed and his commentary through the teaching of the Holy Father. Finally, the liturgy was made present in a ceremony that earned the praise of “small” donors, our “great” Basilica will be able to grow and be completed.

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A long-awaited visit

At the end of 2010, specifically on the 7th of November, Pope Benedict XVI presided the dedication ceremony of the Sagrada Familia and declared it a Minor Basilica. It was a day of worship and citizen participation that, for many Barcelonans, meant they could discover the interior of the temple. The then Archbishop of Barcelona, Cardinal Lluís Martínez Sistach, concelebrated the mass together with the Holy Father and the other cardinals, in a ceremony that was watched from outside the temple by thousands of worshippers in images that presented the interior of the temple to the world in all its beauty. Since then, the Sagrada Familia has become a Basilica, and has been opened to worship.
The Sagrada Familia, basilica

Dr Santiago Bueno Salinas

Becoming a basilica is not a generic title for a Catholic temple, but rather a special distinction that directly links a church to the authority of the Holy Father. Since the 16th century, popes have granted this title to several churches, which stand out due to the importance and the solemnity of their worship.

C anons 1205 to 1239 of the Code of Canon Law regulate sacred places in the Catholic Church, and distinguish between churches, oratories and chapels, according to the access rights of the faithful, from more to less. Thus, in churches, access must be free for all Catholics (cc. 1214, 1221). Chapels are for private access only, while oratories are positioned somewhere in the middle, the sacred place is established for the use of a particular community, but the superior may allow access to other Catholics (cc. 1233). Also, canons 1230-1234 differentiate sanctuaries as a subtype of the first group, churches.

The Code of Canon Law promulgated in 1917 (no longer in force) decreed in canon 1180: “No church can receive the title of basilica unless through its apostolic concession or by immemorial custom, and the privileges for one chapter or another will be taken into account”. Likewise, the current Code of Canon Law (from 1983) does not mention basilicas. This is because the title of basilica was not considered to derive from universal canon law, but from the local law of the Church or diocese of Rome; in other words, basilicas derive from the local law of the Church or diocese of Rome. Indeed, from the 16th century onwards, popes granted the title of basilica to various churches that stand out due to the importance and solemnity of the worship that is celebrated there. In any case, cathedrals are always basilicas in their own right.

In Rome, Saint John Lateran (which is the authentic cathedral of Rome), Saint Mary Major and Saint Paul Outside the Walls are major basilicas. The current canonical regulation of basilicas is found in the decree Domus Ecclesiæ of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments approved by Saint John Paul II on December 9, 1989; the previous regulation was from 1968.

Requirements for awarding the title

To grant the title of basilica (minor), the Holy See requires that the church be dedicated by the expected liturgical rite; that it be recognised as an example of liturgical and pastoral activity, and that the sacraments are celebrated with correct preparation, faithful to liturgical norms and with the active participation of the people of God. For the celebrations to be worthy, the basilica must have adequate dimensions and have a sufficiently large presbytery, in which all the elements of the liturgical celebration (altar, pulpit, seat of the celebrant, ... ) can have their rightful place according to current liturgical norms; the candidate church must have certain renown and devotion to the diocese (due to the purpose of its construction, the veneration of a saint, relic or image...), also taking into account its historical importance and its particular architectural and artistic value. The basilica must have a sufficient number of priests to ensure liturgical celebrations, and it must also have altar boys, a choir and adequate attention to sacred music and song.

Once the title is granted, the basilical church is bound by law to ensure compliance with the aforementioned requirements, and, in addition, it must also show a series of external signs that recall the special bond of communion of that temple with the Roman Church and the Chair of Saint Peter. Among the external signs, a shield, the umbraculum or conopeum, and the tintinnabulum may be used. The shield is specific to the basilica and can be placed on the main door. The umbraculum or conopeum is traditionally made up of vertical stripes in the ancient pontifical colours (yellow and red) and also bears the emblem of the basilica, which is usually placed somewhere visible and, in the most solemn celebrations, in the presbytery.

The tintinnabulum consists of a vertical support with a bell, made with certain craftsmanship and also with signs typical of the basilica; its purpose is to call the Christian assembly and, together with the conopeum, they go ahead of the clergy in processions.

Solemnity of worship

To remember the link with the Roman Church, the regulations also insist that in basilicas, at least the creed and the Lord’s Prayer may be sung in Latin, so that foreigners feel welcome. The Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter (February 22), the Solennity of Saints Peter and Paul (June 29), and the anniversary of the election or the beginning of the pastoral ministry of the pope should also be celebrated in a special way.

Finally, basilicas enjoy some privileges over other churches, such as a certain right of precedence (but not over the cathedral), and the rector of the basilica can wear a black silk muslin with red borders, trims and buttons over the habit or cassock.
From the celebration of the first mass in the Saint Joseph chapel until 2010, the liturgical and celebratory life of the Sagrada Familia was concentrated in its crypt, except on rare occasions when a celebration took place inside the temple, but always with a punctual and provisional tone.

On the 7th of November, 2010, with the dedication of the Sagrada Familia and its promotion to the category of Basilica by Pope Benedict XVI, the life of the temple changed radically. The liturgical life of the crypt continued to be very much alive and growing, but the Basilica began to embrace the celebrations for which Antoni Gaudí had envisioned it. His dream was beginning to come true. That day, as Gaudí had wished, not only did people come from all over to enjoy the Sagrada Familia, but the church also reached homes around the world with the magnificent television broadcast of the celebration. A church for everyone and everyone within this splendid church!

It was the beginning of a journey in which the Sagrada Familia has been moving forward with increasing momentum. In the first mass that was celebrated after the dedication, that of Thanksgiving on the 18th of December, 2010, the Basilica was filled with worshippers from all corners of the archdiocese with an immense desire to celebrate the experience.

07/11/2010
Pope Benedict XVI opening the main door of the Basilica for the first time.
The plan was for the entire archdiocese to participate in the celebrations of the Sagrada Familia and, therefore, several Masses were organised for different areas: the various pastoral zones passed through, the donors of the Diocesan Common Fund participated, the Brotherhoods and Sisterhoods were welcomed.

The Sagrada Familia has been called “the cathedral of the poor”, and it is clear why, also after its dedication, as one of the most multitudinous celebrations that it has hosted was a Mass that brought together Cáritas volunteers from all over Catalonia, and also the celebration of the 75 years of life of Càritas of the archdiocese of Barcelona.

Aware of the immense catechetical potential of the Basilica, numerous Eucharists have been dedicated to the catechists and the children who participate in the catechesis of the parishes and, of course, also to their parents.

It only makes sense that a growing basilica like the Sagrada Família should be in tune with young people who are also in a stage of growth. Eucharists were celebrated with youths from all over Europe, who came to Barcelona as a preliminary step to participating in World Youth Day in Madrid in 2011. A truly international and joyous celebration, typical of youngsters.

And, since 2017, the Basilica has hosted the beginning of Lent of Cardinal Joan Josep Omella with the youth of the archdiocese in the celebration called “Sent la Creu” (“Feel the Cross”).

During these years, the Basilica has been the right space for ordination celebrations. The ordination of bishops Sergi Gordo and Antoni Vadell (09/09/2017) was celebrated, and 30 priests and 27 deacons have been ordained, mostly from the seminary of Barcelona.

The anniversary of the dedication of the Basilica has always been celebrated in a festive manner. In the first years, around seven hundred singers gathered to accompany the Masses, allowing us to experience the peculiar sound that Gaudí devised with such a large number of singers at such a height. Human castles were also built inside the transept in one of these celebrations, announcing the central towers of the Basilica that, at that time, were rapidly growing upwards.

In 2015, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the dedication, the blessing of the sacristy of the Basilica was performed by Cardinal Lluís Martínez Sistach (8/11/2015). It was a very significant moment because, although not much can be seen, it is an essential element of the preparation of the celebrations in the Basilica.

For the Eucharists, all the proper liturgical furnishings are in place. Some items were offered as gifts: Pope Benedict...
XVI himself began with the chalice and chasuble, and the golden dalmatics on the day of the dedication, and then came the golden chalice of Mr Pallerols, a personal friend of Pope Francis. Later, the Gaudi-inspired chasubles were made for the big celebrations, as well as those used in the rest of the Masses. All of this is kept in the sacristy.

The transept vaults have hosted, during this time, very important diocesan events, such as the farewell of Cardinal Luís Martínez Sistach when he became emeritus, and also the welcoming Mass of the new archbishop of Barcelona, Monsignor Joan Josep Omella, both in late 2015. The farewell of Bishop Sebastià Talavull was also celebrated here, when he was appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Mallorca.

International celebrations such as the closing ceremony of the International Pastoral Congress on the World’s Big Cities have had an impact, as well as the closing Mass of the symposium that the Council of the Bishop’s Conferences of Europe had organised in Barcelona (30/03/2017).

An ever-important celebration has been the Feast of the Holy Family, which is the temple’s namesake, in the middle of the Christmas season. It has been a
time to pray for all families, so that they can be more and more in the image of the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, always in coordination with the Diocesan Delegation of the Family Apostolate. On one occasion, this celebration was held in connection with the Pope in the Vatican and also with the basilicas of Nazareth and Loreto.

Antoni Gaudí wanted to bring the altarpieces that were usually found inside churches to the outside, and that is why he came up with the idea of exterior façades that were like real, huge altarpieces for everyone to see, so that all who passed by them would feel challenged and could initiate a process of physical and spiritual entry into the church. Along these lines, the Atrium of the Gentiles was held in the Basilica (17/05/2012). Several biblical meditations accompanied by music have also been held, to better understand the meaning of Gaudí’s famous work (29/11/2017).

For the architect of the Sagrada Família, music must have been a fundamental element, as it has great power to get people involved in the mystery that is celebrated in the temple. Several choirs participated in the first celebrations, both from the Sagrada Família parish and from other locations in the archdiocese. Little by little, the Francesc Valls Choir became the regular choir for all the big celebrations, and, together with the organist Juan de

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10 YEARS OF LITURGY
la Rubia, it has guaranteed excellent musical quality in all the Masses. Music has also played a very important role in the concerts that have been held, always focused on sacred music. Equally significant was the International Pueri Cantores Congress (15/07/2018) and also the Misteri de la Selva performance (22/09/2019).

Sadness has also been embraced in the Basílica, to meet it with Christian hope in prayer. The funeral for the victims of the plane crash in the Alps (27/04/2015) was held here, as well as that of the victims of the attacks on the Rambla in Barcelona and Cambrils (22/09/2017), and for those who died as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (26/07/2020).

It has been the appropriate place, due to its size, to host the beatifications that have been celebrated in our archdiocese: that of the Claretian martyrs (21/10/2017), that of the martyrs of the congregations of San Pedro Ad Vincula, the Capuchin Sisters of the Mother of the Divine Shepherd and the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Hearts (10/11/2018) and, finally, coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the Basílica, the beatification of the young Joan Ràfols Diego.

After the few first years focused on exceptional celebrations, on the 9th of July, 2017, regular worship began in the Basílica with the celebration of international Mass every Sunday and public holiday at 9 in the morning. It soon became one of the most attended Masses in the city, filling to capacity and leading to the celebration of a second...
international Mass each week, this time on Saturday nights.

From the time of its dedication, and resuming the already traditional celebrations that took place only outside, one of the most significant has been the Palm Sunday blessing and Mass, held both inside and outside the Basilica, with the participation of children and families from the city of Barcelona.

To give new momentum to all the pastoral work of the Sagrada Familia, on the 29th of September, 2018 Mons. Josep M. Turull i Garriga took office as rector of the parish and the Basilica. This momentum was felt at the beginning of the celebration of the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass of that same year (24/12/2018) and the celebration for the first time in the Basilica of the most outstanding acts of Holy Week of the following year: Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, celebration of the Passion and Stations of the Cross on the Passion Façade on Good Friday, Easter Vigil.

The devotion to the Eucharist, which led Gaudí to represent it both inside and outside the temple, has also had a special place with the meeting of all the Eucharistic worshippers of the archbishopric in a vigil in the Basilica that continued with nocturnal adoration until the day next in the crypt (22/06/2019).
It’s been an unforgettable day.” These were Pope Benedict XVI’s last words to me as he said goodbye before getting on the plane that would take him back to Rome. It was the end of a day on which the Church which travels to Barcelona, its various families and spiritual sensibilities, displaying the community of believers, entered the gate of the Holy Father, the successor of Peter, a sign of ecclesial unity, and also the eyes of the world as it watched what was inside, stopped the procession of around 1,200 acolytes, deacons and priests, concelebrating bishops and cardinals that came before him. Located at the beginning of the temple transept, displayed in all its magnificence, he remained motionless, captivated by what his eyes saw: the dimensions of the temple, its structural harmony, the light... He stopped to contemplate it, and so did the procession.

Inside we had a special celebration of the Eucharist, a meditated and careful liturgy, incorporating the ritual of the dedication of a church, surrounded by 800 singers of different ages and origins. He finished with the Angelus prayer from the Nativity façade, the audience taking part with devout emotion along with millions of people watching on television, all over the world, from the official signal of the event, produced by TV3.

Together with the most vulnerable
In the afternoon, the visit to the charity Nen Déu demonstrated the Holy Father’s interest and affection for the work of all the institutions that, like this one, direct their efforts to those most in need, a social testimony of the Church’s commitment to the most vulnerable. He greeted and spoke with the resident children and adolescents and with their parents, the nuns and the educators, who expressed their affection and gratitude. He learned about the institution’s day-to-day operations and personal feelings thanks to the speeches of a boy and a girl, beneficiaries of this Church service.

It was, without a doubt, a balanced program: faith, hope and charity. The multitude of people involved made it possible. Professionals from numerous sectors, dedicated to their duties. Volunteers who took on very different tasks, carried out with enthusiasm and eagerness. The diocesan team that carefully prepared the visit and coordinated the different events and aspects with generous dedication; ecclesial and civil authorities, who worked together in the interests of good communication; the different security forces who ensured the peacefulness of the crowd who, due to their faith, introspection or curiosity, filled the basilica (65,000 people), also from various streets, up to 36,000 seats, and the nearby Plaza Monumental, which held some 15,000 people.

All this thanks to the dedication of the faithful and the citizens’ reception, as well as institutional collaboration and, especially, the attitude of the Pope. We could feel him close and he made us feel close. As mentioned in a blog several days later, appreciating the visit and endorsing a general feeling: “We liked it and we liked each other.” Thinking back on that day on the tenth anniversary confirms to us the Pope’s assessment: “It has been an unforgettable day.” Many of us remember him with affection and gratitude. It was truly unforgettable."
The Construction Committee has decided that
the tower of the Virgin Mary should be completed
by the end of next year, with the construction
of its terminal

before construction was put on
hold in March, the main body
of the tower of the Virgin
Mary, on the apse, had been
completed: fourteen parabol-
ic sides around 65 metres
high, with a total of 812 trian-
gular windows, built with pan-
els of tensioned stone. At the
junction of the fourteen sides
there are protruding edges of
blush granite that invoke the mantle of the Virgin Mary. Inside,
the tower is a large empty space about sixty metres high, which
picks up the sunlight and directs it towards the large skylight
over the presbytery. Currently the tower is 1,128.25 metres high,
and it will reach 1,380 metres.

The terminal that will crown the tower, which will be about
25 metres high, will be built on top of the completed one. The
terminals of the eighteen towers of the Sagrada Familia con-
tain symbols that represent the dedication of each of them. That
of the tower of the Virgin Mary will contain two identifying ele-
ments of Mary: a star and a crown of twelve stars.

Gaudi’s instructions for the terminal

In plans published in Gaudí’s time, a star can be seen at the
top of the tower. Shortly after his death, Gaudí’s disciple Isidre
Puig Boada describes it in his book on the Sagrada Familia
published in 1929: “The lantern tower or dome of the apse is
dedicated to the Virgin Mary, according to Byzantine tradition,
and is crowned by an illuminated star, Stella Matutina.” (Isi-
dre Puig Boada. The Temple of the Sagrada Familia. Editorial
Baró, Barcelona, 1929, page 106 (in Catalan)).

Years later, the leading architects, Gaudí’s disciples, would
draw a crown of twelve stars on the star, a symbol of the Virgin
Mary mentioned in the Apocalypse: “A great sign appeared in
the sky: a woman, clothed with the sun, with the moon under
her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head.” (Ap. 12,1).
The star and the crown will feature on the terminal of the tow-
er, which will be made up of three parts: crown, lantern and
star, as described.

The first two elements will be hyperboloid, a shape that
Gaudí uses in many of the future projects that he established
in plaster models, in elements as diverse as skylights, lanterns,
pinnacles and capitals.

1. The crown

The stone hyperboloid that makes up the crown gathers at its
base the fourteen parabolic sides of the tower and culminates
in twelve points that will support the twelve stars of the Vir-
gin Mary’s crown. Inside it will be the dome that closes the in-
terior space of the tower. The dome will be covered with whit-
ish-toned ceramic, and it will end in a round oculus or skylight at
the top so that the light enters.

For the exterior, the stone crown contains rhomboidal re-
liefs, of whitish, yellowish and golden tones, which rise from
the lowest part to the highest and link the fourteen sides of
the tower with the twelve stars. The reliefs located on the four
axes make an abstract M for Mary. On the twelve stone points
with which this element ends, the twelve stars of the wrought
iron crown are located, as if suspended in the air. They have
the same geometric shape as the upper star: stellated doce-
hedra defined by steel edges. Three forged supports delicate-
ly hold each star on the stone point. The stone points and the
stars are of variable height because they are located on a plane

THE LANTERN TOWER
OR APSE IS DEDICATED
TO THE VIRGIN MARY,
ACCORDING TO
BYZANTINE TRADITION.
IT WILL BE CROWNED
BY A BRIGHT STAR, THE
MORNING STAR

The lantern

is the central part of the
terminal and is 18 metres
high. Defined by the
shape of a hyperboloid,
it ends in three arms that
support the star. The entire exterior surface will be made of intricate
trecedàs in blue and white tones.

The star

is a bright, shining star,
symbol of Mary as mother
of Jesus. It has a diameter
of 23 metres and a total of 12 points. All of its
axles are made of textured glass and it is lit
from within.
THE TERMINAL WILL ELEVATE THE STAR, BRIGHT AND WEIGHTLESS IN THE BARCELONA SKY DURING THE DAY AND IN THE DARK OF NIGHT

facing the centre of the Cross that will reach the tower of Jesus Christ. In this way, that element of the apse tower faces the Cross, towards Jesus, just as the openings of the polyhedra of the evangelists and of the towers of the apostles are also oriented so as to introduce the spotlights that will illuminate it. The crown will be constructed using the same technique as the part of the tower that has already been built: panels of tensioned stone, pre-assembled in the temple’s external workshop in Galera (Bagès region).

2. The lantern that will hold the star
From the interior of the stone crown, a slender element eighteen metres high will emerge in the form of a hyperboloid to support and raise the star, and also as a lantern that collects sunlight to bring it into the tower through the upper oculus of the terminal. If possible, will elevate the star, which will remain bright and weightless in the Barcelona sky during the day and in the dark of night.

The top of three points, to hold the star lightly and gracefully by means of three small steel cylinders that will hold the cables to illuminate the star. The lantern will be manufactured in the workshop in two pieces of reinforced concrete, covered with artistic ceramics. Bluish colours, also to invoke the mantle, will be darker at the base and will fade towards the top until turning white, under the supports of the star.

3. The star
In one of the photographs in Gaudí’s studio, a series of stars, stellated polyhedra, can be seen hanging from the ceiling. One of them is the star that will crown the tower: a stellated dodecahedron. That is, a dodecahedron (polyhedron with twelve pentagonal sides) with a pyramidal star point emerging from each side. In the texts of the 1920s there is talk of a “luminous” star, or one that emits light. That is why the star will be made of glass with a stainless steel structure on the edges – finished with a surface treatment that gives it an appearance similar to wrought iron – and with lights located inside the core. The glass is textured with reliefs to give the sides body so that, whether it is day or night, the planes of the star points can be distinguished.

The star will contain the necessary facilities to resist and direct the impact of the rays and the support points for the climbers responsible for its future maintenance. During the day, the windows will be illuminated by the sun, and at night, by the light that will emerge from within. Each of the points will be 2.80 metres and the maximum diameter of the star will be 7.50 metres, the base distance of the widths and heights of the transepts of the Basilica. The prototype of one of the twelve points of the star has been produced to scale and with real materials. It was presented at the Open Days last September, and has passed the required resistance and durability tests.

Now you can see how the tower ascends with determination and a slim and delicate profile. Above, the slimmest terminal, if possible, will elevate the star, which will remain bright and weightless in the Barcelona sky during the day and in the dark of night.

Schedule
Currently all the necessary work to achieve the construction of the terminal during the next year has resumed, both manufacturing and pre-assembly in the Galera workshop. In the first quarter of 2021, the first stone panels for the crown, pre-assembled in the external workshop, are expected to be placed on site. During the third quarter the two large prefabricated pieces of the lantern will be put in place and, in December, the star.
"The dream remains intact"

Remember the day of the dedication of the Basilica by the Holy Father Benedict XVI as if it were yesterday. It was a wonderful day, emotions surging at a dizzying speed as the ceremony progressed. The following days transformed these emotions into a dream because, for the first time, we wondered if it might be possible to finish construction of this magnificent temple in a reasonably short period of time. And this was how the plan to complete in 2026 originated, which also coincided with the first centenary of Antoni Gaudí’s death. Without a doubt, it would be the best tribute we could pay to the admirable architect. Unfortunately, this will no longer be possible. The current pandemic has forced us to pause construction of the temple. Its funding, through the contributions of millions of people from around the world who visit the Sagrada Família every year, has been reduced to practically zero at this time. This situation has led us to make other decisions aimed at reducing our expenses to a sustainable level that will allow us to maintain minimal activity, while waiting for income to return to levels similar to those of 2019.

In this context, we have made an effort to edit this special issue of Temple magazine on the 10th anniversary of its dedication, because the occasion warrants it. But I must sadly announce that, for now, it will be the last, the last of an era that began in November 1943, after a seven-year break due to the Civil War. It is not goodbye, but rather see you soon, as we wait for better times to come.

Meanwhile, the dream remains intact, with the same spirit as in 2010 and with a commitment to complete construction in the coming years.

"There is more happiness in giving than in receiving"

(Galatians, 6:9)

Gaudí’s disciples J. F. Rafols and I. Puig Boada refer to a phrase from the master: “The temple of the Sagrada Família is built by the people, and that is why it is reflected in its way of being”. The Sagrada Família is a church of the people for two reasons: a) the people are brought together in its construction, feel it as their own, identify with its boldness and grandeur, its thousand details and its changing perspectives, and b) it must be the people who make it possible to build a church that cannot be compared to any other, helping to build it with money that comes from the generosity and effort of many people, that is, from their “spirit of sacrifice.” Thus, with many “small” donors, the “big” church will be able to grow upward and eventually be completed.

Applied reflection of Dr. Armand Puig.