



Emperatriz Arrobo L., ss.cc.  
Superior General

To all the Sisters in the Congregation

Rome, 9th July, 2017  
***Feast of Our Lady of Peace***

### **Convocation of the 36th General Chapter**

Dear Sisters:

On this day as we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Peace throughout the whole Congregation and with the consent of my council in the session of June 26, 2017, it is with immense joy and a deep feeling of gratitude to the Lord for his love and mercy for the life and mission of our Congregation, that I call the 36th General Chapter in accordance with what is established in Articles 139 and 141 of our Constitutions.

From this moment on, we are all called to set out on a journey, in a communion of prayer and enthusiasm for the congregation, and to be in tune with the whole process of preparation for this event, so that the next General Chapter may be for our beloved Congregation, a time of grace, renewal and, above all, a time of unity to search together for the will of God. The results of the General Chapter affects everyone, therefore, the preparation also affects us and calls us all.

The task of the General Chapter is to deal with the most important issues concerning the life and mission of the Congregation, so that its presence in the Church and the world may be more visible and meaningful.

#### **The central theme and slogan**

***“Driven by the Spirit we recreate the mission within the Church as a single congregational body”.***

Motivated and accompanied by this theme – **slogan**, we want to reflect, search and discern during the 36th General Chapter. We are convinced that only by letting ourselves be led by the Spirit can we perceive the path along which the Lord wants to lead us, a path that we have to seek, assume and experience as such in community, and as a single congregational body.

Both the preparation and the realization of the 36th General Chapter will be closely related to and in harmony with the 35th General Chapter. It is a question of continuing to weave and to recreate the life and mission of the Congregation, based on what has been experienced throughout these years and taking: The Gospel, the orientations of the Church and the Congregation, and reality at congregational, ecclesial and world level, as a reference

In each of us and in our communities, there is the conviction that we are women consecrated to the love of God, called to live a more meaningful and testimonial religious life and sent to collaborate in the mission of God.

As the 35th General Chapter tells us: *"We carry a charism that has much to contribute today to a world with situations of division and rupture, in need of an image of God that reminds us of mercy and communion; a world with situations of poverty and suffering that need reparation and compassion; A world often separated from Christ that needs the testimony of the closeness and the love of our Good God."*

The central theme of the Chapter makes us feel the urgent need to let ourselves be led by the Spirit, because it is He who carries out the mission of God in the world, in the Church and in our Congregation; It is He who guides and accompanies us: so that we can translate our ss.cc. life and mission into action, passion and witness; so that the contribution of our charism to the real world where we are sent is more visible and credible.

*"We are responsible for giving continuity and a future to the treasure of our ss.cc. spirituality so that it remains at the service of the Church and our brothers and sisters"*(35th General Chapter). Only with the Spirit in us and through us can we discover the right channels for our charism and spirituality to be a treasure not only for us but for all those we serve.

As Pope Francis says: *"A clear sign of the authenticity of a charism is its ecclesiality, its capacity to integrate harmoniously into the life of God's people for the good of all ... To the extent that a charism better directs its gaze to the heart of the Gospel, the more ecclesial will be its practice. In communion, even if it hurts, is where a charism becomes authentic and mysteriously fruitful "*(EG 130).

This year we are celebrating the bicentennial of the pontifical approval of the Congregation. The recognition of the Congregation as a family in the Church, as a gift of the Spirit. A propitious time to give thanks, to celebrate and to reflect on the richness of our charism.

The 36th General Chapter will deal with topics such as the New Configuration of the Congregation, the Apostolic Plan of Congregation, the re-working of the Constitutions, Initial Formation, Financial Solidarity, the election of the new general government, etc. We will also have some joint sessions with the brothers.

### **Date and Place of Chapter**

The 36th General Chapter will be held from August 28 to September 28, 2018 in the "Generalate House of the Priests of the Sacred Heart - Villa Aurelia", Rome. The 39 General Chapter of the Brothers will be held at the same time and in the same place.

### **Composition of the Chapter.**

In accordance with the new organization of the Congregation, the next General Chapter of 2018 will be composed as follows:

Members by Right: The General Government  
The General Administrator  
The Delegated Leaders of the Zones  
The Coordinator of Initial Formation.

Elected Members: 9 Sisters from the Latin American Zone  
9 Sisters from the European – African Zone  
3 Sisters from the Pacific USA – Asian Zone,

The mode of election will be determined by the Zonal governments (see Council of Congregation, Hawaii 2016)

The number of the members by right and the elected members gives a total of 31 capitulants, which may reach 34 if the General Government uses its right to call three sisters.

This letter of convocation of the 36th General Chapter, authorizes the procedure of the election of the delegates to this Chapter, according to the mode of election that the Zonal Government determines. The results will be communicated to the General Secretariat before January 15, 2018.

## Preparation for the Chapter

The year that separates us from the Chapter and which will be the time of preparation must be for each of us a time of grace, conversion and renewal. I invite you to participate positively and jointly in the preparation of our highest instance of Congregation, which will evaluate the path taken during the last 6 years and give us the guidelines for the next 6 years.

Let us set out on this journey with confidence, humility, faith and hope. Let the Spirit enlighten us, guide us and inspire us to wherever He wills and as He wills. He knows what we need at this moment of our ss.cc. life and mission. May He become light to our minds and hearts so that together as one congregational body, we can "always choose life" for ourselves and for those whom we serve.

It should also be a year of much personal and community prayer: an insistent and ardent prayer for the Holy Spirit to enlighten, strengthen and accompany us. Let us pray for each other so that we can experience the pre-capitular and capitular time as a Pentecostal experience.

The General Governments of the brothers and sisters have prepared a prayer that will be sent to you later. We invite you to unite and pray with it, so that the Spirit of the Lord will show us the best way to experience this time of grace and blessing.

Very united in the Love of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.



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