

A NEW JOURNEY

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**"WALK WHERE
THERE IS NO
ROAD,
THE ROAD IS
MADE BY
WALKING"**



"Walk where there is no road, the road is made by walking", I found this sentence by Antonio Machado very meaningful, as an introduction what I want to share with you through this letter, but I cannot fail to note another phrase that complements it, gives it meaning and is a vibrant, authentic and full response, "I am the way the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

Once again I call to mind, the decisions of the 35th General Chapter, they remind us that we have a great challenge ahead, *"to achieve a new face of the Congregation"*. In this context a challenge is clear, each one and all of us need to go forward; but the question can arise, "what is the way? The same chapter decisions give us the answer, there is no definite path, it must be done by walking, *"Leave your country ... to the land that I will show you"* (Gn. 12:1), we are invited to experience this adventure as Abraham did, who was moved solely by faith, who obeyed and set out for the promised land. The Spirit, present in the General Chapter asks us also "to leave what is ours, the unknown, what is safe ..." and to begin the journey, because we have a common vocation and mission that we need to revive and recreate together.

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the General Chapter asks us also "to leave what is ours, the known, what is safe ..."

Along this road that we are prepared to travel, challenges will be present and with them there will be fears, doubts, resistance, fatigue... I think it is not a question of avoiding or escaping from them; at times we may feel that they are like stones that stand in the way, that make us waste time, that make us suffer... We all know that the stones are

often used to stand in the way, but we also know that they help to build. Why we are going to use them? I think the answer will be unanimous, to build religious and pastoral communities that generate life and life in abundance.

When the road is new and long and we need to be filled with strength, courage, trust and risk, so as not to give up while we make the journey, we need to make these words come to life: "*Arise and eat, because the journey is too long for you*" (1 Rey 9:7), "*I can do all things in him who strengthens me*" (Phil 4:13).

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At the beginning of this journey and throughout it, we are called to faithfully revive our experience in the God of Jesus Christ and allow him be for us and in us *the way, the truth and life*. We are called to allow ourselves to be led and accompanied by his Spirit to live in a constant attitude of discernment that allows us to find the way of God in our lives and in how we go forward as a Congregation.

The beginning of a new way has risks, leaving what is safe, the known, what we have always done and sometimes that costs a lot, but if we choose "life", we have to take risks to "open the door" at both personal and community level and to go out to receive what is new what is different, what the Spirit invites us to "redefine" and to "recreate", so as to accommodate new calls today, learning to be visionary and co-creators of new responses to new calls.

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In this new way that we will discover and travel along together, it is important to consider three important elements: The open road (the process), people and resources. Walking together as a congregation involves "sisters" who are committed to the same SS.CC. vocation and mission and by the same congregational perception embodied in General Chapter decisions.

The General Chapter, emphasized the participation of all the sisters in the process we will experience for the future of the congregation. So be careful of the temptation to say "this is no longer for me, but for younger people ...". If we adopt this attitude or a similar one, many challenges and insights will not happen along the road, the insights will become clearer to the extent that each sister and community make it truly their own. We are all invited to take up the challenges we face, to evaluate experiences, to be companions on the way who nourish and encourage. We are all responsible to be "light" on the road. In this way we will become protagonists and builders of the way ahead that as a congregation that we will undertake over the next few years.

This liturgical time that the church gives to us, talks about the journey we have to take as a congregation, it is a grace, it is a favourable time to be with our lamps lit and ready, "*those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast*" (Matt. 25:10). As we go along this road, we need to be awake, alert and vigilant, to welcome the Spirit who is light and newness in every moment. In Matthew's gospel we read, "*The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness*" (Mt.4:1) let us ask ourselves, where is the Spirit leading us?, I believe it is a question we have to ask several times, and in finding the answer let us journey forward, accompanied by Jesus and with our eyes fixed on Him.

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In this season of Lent the Lord say to us "*return to me with all your heart ...*" (Joel 2:12), the Lord invites us to experience a journey of conversion, to return to him, to give us a new heart, so that we may share in his joy. Let us surrender our hearts to God, so that he may return it to us anew. With this renewed and recreated heart let us be open to continue the daily journey, and the new road we need to walk along at congregational level.

Let the spirit lead us towards a holy life and a renewed and renewing sacred hearts vocation, with many challenges and limitations on the road, but very confident in the Lord's promise "*I am with you always, until the end of the world*" (Mt. 28:20).

“Yo estoy con ustedes todos los días hasta el fin del mundo” (Mt. 28, 20)

I leave in the heart of each of you these simple thoughts, that are an attempt to motivate us along the road that we are walking along together, knowing that he who walks with us is the Lord, a certainty that makes us feel and say with St. Paul, "*I know whom I have believed*" (2 Tim 1:12).