

RESOURCES FOR THE JOURNEY

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“Rekindle the gift that God has placed in you” (2 Tim. 1.6)



The previous info letter invited us to set out on a path that is made by walking; it invited us to recognize that on this journey many challenges small and large will emerge, and with them fears, doubts, resistance, tiredness will not be lacking... But if we look closely within ourselves, where the most authentic part of each of us dwells, and live out the invitation of St. Paul to *"Rekindle the gift that God has placed in you"* (2 Tim. 1.6), we will feel the need to discover the gifts the Lord has given us through his Spirit and that will be our greatest strength for the road.

Through the 35th General Chapter, the Spirit has called us to follow a new way, a way in which we are not alone. God offers us his faithful presence and the gifts of his Spirit. We ask ourselves - what are the gifts God has given me? And how I can make them available to the congregation in this process that we are about to experience? If we do not recognize the gifts that God has given us both at personal and community level, it is difficult to engage actively in this new face of the congregation towards which we all must go.

By the sheer grace of God, we have all received many gifts, talents and qualities, gifts that we have been given freely to develop and to put freely at the service of the common good. *"What you have received freely, give freely"* (Mt 10:8), is an invitation to put my time, my abilities, my personal resources, my heart into the simple things of everyday life. The giving cannot be only in the extraordinary, self-giving is done in the ordinary everyday things of life. We are called to live from the logic of gift, from unconditional surrender, everything has been received and everything should be given back. Let it be love that gives reason to our actions and our life choices.

“What you have received freely, give freely” (Mt 10:8)

Once, a teenager wrote a letter asking the Spirit to bring him the gift of freedom. This instruction manual for using it appeared on his table:

*I've only been able to give the seed: the sowing of it is up to you.
It is very delicate, do not play with it.
Do not ever use it against others.
Do not be afraid or tire of it in four days.
Do not let anyone steal it from you.
Do not make the mistake of putting other things inside its box.
Look for someone to help you take care of it.*

It would be good to consider the gifts God has been giving us throughout our lives and see if we are using them according to this manual.

On this road that as a congregation we are prepared to journey along, we need to strengthen some gifts we have in common and which are cornerstones in the process we want to live:

The **gift of faith**, we have all received this gift and experience it as love received, as an extraordinary gift that has been with us since childhood and is our strength today. In this experience of faith lived and shared, others have gone before us and are our reference today: *"It was by faith that Abraham called by God, set out... without knowing where he was going"* (Heb. 11:8). It was by faith that the Apostles left everything to follow the Master (Mk 10, 28). It was by faith that they believed in the words with which Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God present and fulfilled in his Person (Lk 11, 20) and they went throughout the world, preaching the Gospel to every creature without fear and in the joy of the resurrection (Mk 16, 15).

The gift of faith is our strength today

In this year of faith, we are fortunate to be able to nourish and strengthen our faith, to help each other to grow in it and together enter into this new way of being congregation. We know that there are no certainties, no securities, but we have the power of the Word of God that tells us, *"all things are possible to him who believes"* (Mark 9:23).

The **gift of the Word of God** in our lives, in our communities, in our congregation, invites us to leave our securities and unreservedly abandon them to the Lord, knowing in whom we place our trust. The Word encourages us on our journey, gives us the certainty of feeling loved and accompanied by the Lord, it challenges us, converts us, sends us on mission, it is our strength.

The gift of the Word of God

The faithful support of the Word and the Bread of life, obedience to the will of God, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus and a discerning attitude is what will help us to remain open and ready to

Let us live with the gospel as the foundation of our life

continue building the Kingdom with our SS.CC. charism and spirituality in mind. Let us live with the gospel as the foundation of our life and as the first and last criteria of both our personal and community options.

Let us allow Mary to be a constant reference for us on the road. She was focused totally on God throughout her life. Like her, we have questions, like her, we have to keep many things in our heart, and like her we are called to rely totally on God, on his Word and on his plans of love with and for our beloved congregation; so that like her and with her we can say *"Yes to God"* together. We can help each other to always return to the Gospel to weave networks and alliances for life, and to keep dreaming of a congregation that is capable of giving life always and everywhere, as an African proverb puts it: *"Where there is a dream, there is a way."*

The **gift of our charism**, to be convinced that "*we are a need for the heart of God*" and that we are carrying a spirituality that has much to offer the world today, with its situations of division and rupture, disorientation and lack of meaning, a world that needs to be reminded of the mercy and compassion of God, which is in need of reparation, of living in communion, a world in need of Samaritan hearts, in conclusion a world in need of life and life in abundance.

The gift of our charism, we are carrying a spirituality that has much to offer the world today

Dear sisters, we have seen and experienced these graces and many others in our lives. "*What we have seen and heard, we proclaim to you also...*" (1 Jn. 1.3). This is what we carry in our hearts and

God's love encourages and faithfully accompanies us on our journey

in our experience of life and it is what continues to give us life despite the years and fatigue, despite our fragility, despite our doubts and insecurities. That is why God's love poured into our hearts and experienced in our lives, is the greatest treasure, it is what encourages and faithfully accompanies us on our

journey.

Let us put the whole journey into the hands of Mary, "Mother of beautiful Love" and in the light of this liturgical season that we are experiencing, we ask that she may guide and accompany us in the worthy celebration of the great mystery of Christ's Passover, the supreme revelation of the free and merciful love of our heavenly Father.

"Happy Feast of the Good Father"

and

"Happy Easter"