

INFO SS.CC. SISTERS N°7 – JUNE 20TH 2013

GIVING LIFE OUR PARTICULAR SACRED HEARTS WAY



The months of May and June are of great significance for us, they put us in harmony and communion with our being and doing as religious, they give us the wonderful opportunity to revive and recreate our consecration to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

***Recreate our vocation is
being witness of a charism***

To allow Jesus and Mary to recreate our consecration is to let them rebuild it from the inside, giving back its true identity, its true face, so that, from them and with them, we are witnesses of a charism that has much to contribute to the world of today, being a visible and credible sign of the merciful love of God.

How can we be visible and credible sign of the merciful love of God today? In a text from the Decisions of the 31th General Chapter (1988), based in our Constitutions, we find the answer beautifully expressed: *“As SS.CC. religious we are called to participate in the mission of Christ. The Spirit leads us into the mystery of the saving love of the Father and we make our own the attitudes and feelings of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary to which we are consecrated”*.

These words that we can say very quickly carry within themselves a great programme of life for us, we could say that the whole richness of our charism lies within them. In the language of the decisions of the 35th General Chapter, we talk about the *“new face of the congregation”* a language we do not understand completely. But if we add this *“new face”* to our charism, then it is clear. A face that is identified with the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, that is guided by their feelings, that makes it own the attitudes and choices of these two hearts, whose hearts have been pierced by love.

***A face that is identified
with the Heart of Jesus and
Mary***

The WORD is the source and the memory that clearly speaks of the feelings and attitudes of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, let us be led by it.

Let us recall some of the feelings that Christ keeps in his heart. First of all, a deep love and obedience to the Father. *"Here I am O God, I come to do your will"* (Heb 10:7). *"My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to carry out his work"* (John 4:34). *"He who sent me is with me and has not left me alone, because I always do what pleases Him"* (Jn 8:29). This is the thread that motivated all his human existence. Jesus is eternally in love with the Father's will. The only important thing more than anything else is to please his Father and that means doing his will to the end. *"Father, not my will but yours be done"* (Lc. 22, 42).

Jesus is eternal in love with the Father's will

Together with this feeling, Jesus has another in his heart, inseparable from the first, the love of human beings. He loved them so much that he was deeply moved to see them as sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36). He discovers that his Father is compassionate and merciful. He experienced this deeply throughout his mission and communicated it with specific attitudes *"the Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives and new sight to the blind, to free the oppressed, and announce the Lord's year of mercy"* (Lc. 4, 16-30). The love of God in the Heart of Christ makes us feel welcomed, forgiven, freed, rescued and loved personally by Him.

In the song of the Magnificat we can discover a wide range of feelings and attitudes of the heart of Mary, let us recall some of them. Mary is the great believer, not only because of her biological motherhood but, above all, for having welcomed with faith God's call to be the mother of the Saviour, life changes when it is lived in faith. She is a woman who knows how to ponder in her heart the words and deeds of Jesus, she is the prophet who proclaims the greatness and mercy of God, *"My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour"* (Luke 1:46-56), Mary begins by proclaiming the greatness of God and continues to recognize her smallness on whom God sets his sights. Mary captures the tenderness of God the Father and Mother, she experiences and conveys hope in a God who is kindness, closeness and compassion.

Mary captures the tenderness of God Father and Mother

Mary is the first evangelist, she offers to all the salvation of God embodied in her being, this is her first and greatest mission. The essential of evangelization is to make Jesus and His Spirit present, and this is precisely what Mary does. She is the bearer of joy because she radiates the Good News of Jesus, which she always carries with her. Mary is the woman of service, deep joy, praise and peace.

The Heart of Mary also speaks to us of availability and fidelity, it is the heart of the "yes" to God's plans. It is the heart where what is not understood is kept, because that is where God will act, transform and give meaning. It is a heart united to the Heart of Jesus *"Do whatever he tells you"* (John 2: 5), it is a heart that journeys, gives service, gives of oneself, that experiences intimacy with God, that listens and is in solidarity with the suffering of humankind.

The Heart of Mary is the Heart of the YES

Now, my intention is not to mention all the feelings and attitudes of Jesus and Mary revealed in the gospel, it is rather an invitation to each sister and the community make the WORD the source of her encounter with the feelings and attitudes of Jesus and Mary and the strength to make them her own in her being and doing as SS.CC.

It is also important that in light of these feelings and attitudes, which by vocation we are called to live, that we ask ourselves some personal and community questions, where we discover the extent to which the life of each sister is generating these feelings and attitudes towards the interior of the community and its mission of evangelization.

The Pope, in his message to the General Superiors gathered in Rome in May this year, invited all the religious to fully live our vocation as consecrated women, to develop attitudes and maternal feelings, and to live “*a fruitful chastity that expands their*

Fruitful chastity that expands their ability to give themselves to God and to others

ability to give themselves to God and to others with the tenderness, mercy and closeness of Christ, a chastity that generates sons and daughters in the church.” He told us that “*a consecrated woman must be a mother and not a spinster;*” aware of the strength of his words added, “*forgive me for speaking this way, but this motherhood of*

consecrated life, this fertility, is important.”

In this process we are experiencing as a congregation, it is very important that at all levels we ask ourselves about the fruitfulness of our SS.CC. religious life, about the maternal and feminine face we are called to live. “***A new face***” not only in structures and reorganization, but above all of the heart, feelings and attitudes of Jesus and Mary.

Soon we will be celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Peace and I do not want to end this communication without wishing everyone a very happy feast. May his heart teach and guide us to enter into the Heart of Jesus.