

TRUST

Emperatriz Arrobo ss.cc
General Superior

INFO SS.CC. SISTERS N° 10 — NOVEMBER 19TH 2013

*“We are supported
by a thread
but that thread is
supported
by a cable” GM*



In the last Info we were reminded that as disciples of Jesus our response is one of fidelity. Fidelity to his grace and to his love. This experience enables us to live with absolute **confidence**, “because we know the one in whom we trust” (2 Tim. 1, 12).

During the last few months, we drew a little closer to women in the bible who through their lives, encourage and motivate us to prepare our hearts and minds for the journey which we have the good fortune to make as a Congregation. We are invited to cultivate certain attitudes which are fundamental for us as we search for the way forward, **trusting** that it is God’s work and therefore he will bring it to a happy completion.

Trust is not a mere attitude of abandonment or inactivity, it is a vital and conscious option, which demands a positive and dynamic response. Speaking of trust in the month of November, connects us directly with the experience of the Good Mother. Let us draw close to her, to her spiritual experience, steeped in trust in a God who is full of love and mercy for all humanity.

*Trust is... a vital and
conscious option*

Through the writings of the good Mother that we are all familiar with, we are able to perceive an attitude of continual **trust**; trust in the Good God who will never abandon the work of his hands and which cause her to say “*We are supported by a thread, but that thread is supported by a cable*”. That is to say, that it doesn’t matter if we are weak, if circumstances are adverse, everything is supported by God.

The times in which the Good Mother lived, were times of urgent and profound change, of tension of threat of death; times in which it seemed that there was nothing to be done, but it was precisely in this chaos where she discovered that there was much to do. Her experience of faith nourished by her long hours in adoration led her to understand that the heart of God needed her to repair the human heart which was broken and fatally wounded, in order to say to the world that life is stronger than death. So, with her heart placed in God's hands, she set out to live what it was that God was asking of her.

Her attitude of trust is so great that she continually encourages her sisters, so that they entrust everything to the love of the Good God, *"we need to expect everything from the One who directs everything"*. *"All in God, all to God, all for God"*. Undoubtedly as a woman of faith and disciple of Jesus, she learnt from the gospel how Jesus related to his father, a relationship of total trust. Jesus trusted absolutely in his Father and invited his disciples to grow in the same trust *"ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you"* (Mt. 7, 7).

"we need to expect everything from the One who directs everything"

In the process which we are living as a Congregation, these words of Jesus encourage and renew our trust in the Good God who guides and accompanies our journey.

We need **to ask** with the attitude of the poor person who needs to receive from another what he cannot get through his own strength; with the attitude of the one who doesn't know the way and needs to be guided; with the attitude of the weak and fragile person who needs God's strength.

We need **"to search"**, that is to take the necessary steps to be able to make out what is covered over or hidden, so as to discover where the Spirit wants to bring us; we need to look for the journey together and all become involved in it. Above all we need to get used to seeking in and with God, so that it is not our own strengths and certitudes which guide and sustain us, but the Spirit of truth which inhabits us.

We need to **call** on God, or perhaps at times raise our voices like Jesus *"Father, why have you abandoned me?"* (Mt. 15, 34) and call out with our doubts and questions, our uncertainty, our fears before the unknown... *"trust like art, never comes from having all the answers, but from being open to all the questions"* (Wallace Stevens)

Let us each day remember this triple invitation of Jesus and let us allow Him and his Spirit to teach us to ask, to seek and to call out as needed; may they teach us to listen in our hearts to the Father's voice and follow it so that the decisions we make and the path we travel is made from the Heart of Jesus. Hopefully in our daily prayer, this triple invitation of Jesus will become a vital and convincing experience. God wants to give to us, he wants us to shout out, he wants to open us, but he needs us to ask, to search and call out as often as needed. God loves us and wants the best for us; let us accept this LOVE in our earthen vessels and give thanks.

The life of the Good Mother is a clear example of trust in the love of God; her letters are steeped in this conviction *"go to the Good God in trust, his love will sustain you"*. This is an invitation which can be repeated again and again. Trust and surrender bring about conversion of heart, so that we don't resist God's plans, nor get upset when things don't work as we want or when we want. The Good Mother said and also says to us today: *"let us entrust everything to divine providence who orders everything not always according to our liking, but always for our good"*. *"God knows better than us what we need, let us abandon ourselves to his divine providence"*. *"We must simply go to God: in critical moments, pray fervently and abandon ourselves to providence, because we have to suffer, let us not*

"go to the Good God in trust, his love will sustain you"

pretend otherwise; our only recourse is to take refuge in the very heart of Jesus, attach ourselves to Him and never leave Him.”

The secret of her peace and happiness was her journey of abandonment and total trust in God: *“God has loved us with an infinite love, let us place ourselves under his protection his wisdom, his fidelity and abandon ourselves to his infinite mercy.”*

In this new journey of the Congregation, let Henrietta accompany us with her trust in the love and mercy of the Good God and her conviction that the Congregation is the work of God and not ours. Let us leave all of this process which we are living in the Heart of God, in the trust that he always orders all things for our good. Let us ask him to give us the strength of his Spirit, the strength of trust in Him, the strength of communion among us, the strength of a mind and a heart more and more absorbed by his love and that the strength of feeling ourselves loved by Him would never fail.

May Mary, our Lady of Peace, to whom the Good Mother entrusted the Protection of the Congregation, walk with us, and may She sustain us in our moments of fragility, and enlighten us when the light of faith falters, and guide our way. Let us always lean on her as Henrietta did, with the love she had for her and the trust she placed in Her.. *“she will pray for us, if we invoke her help instead of afflicting ourselves”*.

Through this prayer, I would like to invite you to thank the Lord for the life of the Good Mother. It is a prayer that is very well known by all of you, but it will take on a new quality thanks to the gratitude which we feel as we celebrate her feast

Father, we want to thank you
for the great woman that Henrietta was,
For her human qualities, the radiance of her soul
and her great capacity to love everyone.

We thank you for her fidelity to the call,
for her generous self-giving, for her heroic renunciation of self,
for her strength before the cross,
her immense love of the Eucharist
And her long hours in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

We want to thank you for the message of love
that we have been endowed with in the life of our Founder
for her enthusiasm in spreading
the Good News of your Gospel everywhere,
For showing the strength of your love, in a society
wounded by sin and oppressed by injustice and violence,

Father, raise up among us
women and men like Henrietta Aymer,
Radically committed to your Gospel
so that we can continue to be a sign
of your redeeming Love in our world.

Recreate her spirit of unity in us,
so that as one single body, one spirit, one hope in our vocation,
we would be “one”
through the bonds of grace and truth, of faith and Love.
Amen.