

NEWNESS OF LIFE

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**“SOMETHING NEW IS
COMING TO BIRTH,
DO YOU NOT SEE
IT?”**



December, the month of joy and hope, of the waiting for and the arrival of, of the great prayer “*Come Lord Jesus*” and the happy reply, “*Yes, I am coming soon*”. I am sure each one of you, your religious communities and pastoral communities have and are experiencing this. It is a time of newness, grace and blessing, because God comes and approaches us so that we may feel his tenderness, his touch, his love... A wonderful month indeed!

To celebrate the cherished feast of Christmas, we need to prepare ourselves, so the liturgy of Advent has been an ongoing invitation to “*get back on one’s feet*” and not to live with heads bowed, locked in our fears and sorrows, but to look up and broaden our horizon, because “*our deliverance is drawing near*” (Lk. 21, 28). It is a call to be awake, vigilant, so that when Christ comes, he does not find us asleep.

Christmas is an amazing experience of faith and love. The great experiences of life are a gift, but only for those who are willing to receive them. To experience Christmas in a new way, we must prepare from within, “*this experience of the heart is only way one can understand the faith message of Christmas: God became man*” (K. Rahner). “*Grace fills to the brim, but it can only enter where there is a space to receive it*” (Simone Weil).

**Christmas,
experience of faith
and love**

Christmas is the great newness of a God who became human, embracing humanity in His infinite love “*God our Saviour revealed his infinite goodness and love for human kind*” (Tt. 3, 4). A newness which has not the limits of time and space, because Christ is born every day in you, in me

and in every human being who wants to receive him. Since his Incarnation, we find God among human beings, with human beings and in human beings.

We all know that Christmas is not a intrahistorical event, a memory of something that happened in times gone by, but an ever-present and ever new presence, it is the celebration of something that happens today, it is the feast of the birth of an eternal newness. To accept God in this way, is to be willing to build history with him and with his light to see the past in order to assess it, the future to make plans, and the present to live it intensely, facing difficulties, enjoying what is good and building the great dream for which the Word became flesh and made his dwelling in our land, and gave his life for our sake.

Our founders on Christmas 1800, listened deeply to this call of God to find him in every human being in need of mercy, reparation and love. Little by little they sensed a new plan, a new way to embody the love of God, and a new charism for the Church.

God needs his Love and Mercy to reach every human heart

Each year divine providence invites us to remember vividly and gratefully these two births as only one. God who is born every day, needs his love and mercy to reach every human heart, he needs our charism, he needs of our congregation, he needs you and me...

In light of the experience of joy and hope we have had this month, we could say that the journey we are making as a congregation is like an Advent. After the experience of the Spirit during the 35th General Chapter, we have set out to respond to the great challenge we put before the Lord, “to choose life” that is to say “to choose Him”. The first year of journey has gone by, and throughout it we have been preparing our hearts and minds, discovering the gifts God has placed in each of us, discovering and recognizing the fears, doubts, resistances, expectations... that are within us, but above all the conviction that God continues to call us has been growing, because we are needed for his Heart. We have prepared the heart cultivating within us some very important attitudes to travel this road toward the new face of the Congregation.

As a General Government we can say that during this time, we were happy witnesses of the Incarnation of these attitudes in our sister’s lives: giving fully, making theirs the SS.CC. mission and life; creatively and with joy embodying the charisma there where they were sent, taking on with faith and joyful hope their reality, being interested in everything that the congregation is doing. Accepting with readiness and a great sense of belonging the services that have been requested, to experience co-responsibly the tasks entrusted by the General Chapter; welcoming with openness, availability and responsibility what God is showing us on the way. All this experience leads us to make our own the words of the prophet and say with a humble, grateful and joyful heart “something new is being born, do you not see it?” (Is. 43, 19).

Giving fully, making theirs the SS.CC. mission and life

Something new is growing, do you not see it?

This seed that was planted during the Chapter, it is blossoming in the life of each sister and of each community, it is blossoming in the steps we have taken this year at congregational level; it may seem imperceptible, veiled, concealed still, but we feel that the Lord and his Spirit are still doing their work and we are called to be that good soil, where life and life in abundance that the Lord offers us daily can blossom.

Something new is springing up and even though we do not see it clearly, we are guided by hope. That hope is built here and now, that hope which is God himself, doing his work in us and through us. Something new is sprouting forth and with hope we feel the gentle whisper of God passing by in what we are experiencing.

*When hope is given,
and prevails over all other individual hopes,
and encompasses with its softness and its silent promise
all that grows and all that fails.
Something new is being born.*

*When the fragmented experiences of love, beauty and joy,
are seen as a promise of God's love manifested to us in life.
When daily living, so often marked by routine,
is lived with serenity and perseverance to the end,
uncovering a major force that drives us forward and encourages us.
Something new is being born.*

*When one surrenders oneself unconditionally
and freely from the depths of ones being,
when the fall enables us to stand erect.
Something new is being born. (Psalm adapted)*

Looking at what has been done this year, we realize that something new is being born, but the journey has not ended, much has still to be done, much has still to be experienced. Let us get ready to welcome with openness, availability, responsibility and co-responsibly the newness that the providence of God provides for us over the next year with regard to the new face of the Congregation. Let us be lead at all times by the Lord, He is the master of the work, He walks beside us, He will continue to show us the way, "I will bless the Lord who counsels me, even at night my innermost self-instructs me, I keep the Lord always before me, for with him at my right hand I will never be shaken" (Ps.16). He continues to act in the history of our personal, community and congregational life.

**Let us get ready to
welcome with openness
the new face of the
Congregation**

May the Lord as the good potter keep giving our congregation the new face it needs to creatively embody the charism, in every human being there is a need for an image of God to remind them: of mercy and communion, reparation and compassion, the free gift of love fully manifested in Jesus, "God-with-us", a love of compassion, a love of company, a love that never forgets, a love that never dies.

May the humanity of God who wanted to enter into our history, fill us with his love and tenderness, joy and peace, which helps us to prepare our hearts so that we can fulfil God's promises, being faithful to his will as Mary was. Just like her we are also called to welcome LIFE, to let it blossom and become part of our being and make of every day.

A Happy Christmas and a New Year full of surprises and the blessings of God.