Letter of the Superiors General

Rome, 23 November 2019
Feast of the Good Mother

"THE GREATEST CONCERN OF THE GOOD MOTHER"

Dear sisters and brothers:

In the final days of last October, the two General Governments (Patricia and Aurora, Alberto and Thomas) met in the Philippines with the sisters and brothers of Manila. We spent an afternoon in reflection and prayer, with an opportunity for fraternal sharing on where we are going and how to be together as a religious congregation of sisters and brothers in the Philippines, all the time seeking to respond better to the intuition of our Founders, who knew how to live as brothers and sisters, and who left us as an inheritance.

We are close to 23 November, when we remember the Passover of the Good Mother. This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on her testimony, discerning what the Spirit is asking of us at this time. Henriette was a woman of deep prayer, who in the most difficult moments knew how to be in adoration before God and present to the suffering of the men and women of her time. At the same time, she knew how to be present and attentive to the sisters and brothers in the way she accompanied and encouraged the nascent communities.

The greatest concern and great pain of the Good Mother, was that people were not willing to accept the love of God. People did not experience the loving attitude of the Heart of Jesus that led him to give his life for humanity, and so they did not love him. This insight is what created that spiritual harmony with the Good Father and which led them to undertake together the foundation of the Congregation. It is what made her de-centre herself to live a life of union with God, totally dedicated to the mission received. Her vow of inner crucifixion expresses precisely this total disposition to unite herself to Jesus' surrender to the Father, making herself vulnerable even to the violence that weighs on men and women, offering her life for others, as her way of loving as Jesus loved, in Jesus' style and having the same feelings as he did.

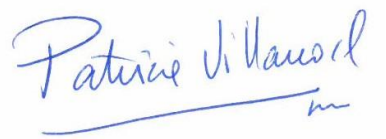
We are living today in times of unusual violence in different parts of our world: Hong Kong, Lebanon, South Sudan, Bolivia, Chile, Etc. In such times we have paused to share in the situation of the troubled Latin America which, with popular demonstrations, is experiencing painful moments of disagreement, protests and violence. This has led us, inevitably, to think of so many other places where violence has other names: hunger, injustice, lack of opportunities, marginalization, … As Gandhi already warned us: "poverty is the worst form of violence."

Consecrated to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, always challenged by so much pain in the world, we believe that moments like these, which in a particular way evoke the times when we were first founded, are calling us to ask for the courage to be in those breeches in our societies and from there look at the future with renewed yearnings of fidelity to the charism received.

At this time, sisters and brothers are seeking to renew our life and mission. The renewal of our inner selves and a new missionary impulse encourage us to always go further. Isn't it time to look together to the horizon to which we are called? Is this not an auspicious moment to listen carefully to what we have received as a spiritual legacy - which from the start was a dream of the Founders - to love others as men and women passionate for the love of God, to walk alongside those who suffer, sharing with them in their struggles and their searches, as a family of sisters and brothers, making present with gestures and words, the immensity of God's Love for the wounded humanity of this time.

With our affectionate greetings.

Happy Good Mother's Day.



Patricia Villarroel sscc
Superior General

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Superior General

GUIDELINES FOR ADORATION

Introduction

"Joy and fervour are always united".
"Seek to maintain the peace, union, kindness and mutual support that the good spirit demonstrates". (*Good Mother*)

Opening Hymn

Reading: 1 Peter 3, 8-9

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing".

Reflection

In the face of violence in so many countries of the world, a deep communion with God enables the heart to live in peace and happiness, valuing the simple things in life and appreciating each person. Also, taking to heart these words of Pope Francis, we join the role of politicians who can move forward in the search for the desired peace: *"Peace is like the hope which the poet Charles Péguy celebrated. It is like a delicate flower struggling to blossom on the stony ground of violence. We know that the thirst for power at any price leads to abuses and injustice. Politics is an essential means of building human community and institutions, but when political life is not seen as a form of service to society as a whole, it can become a means of oppression, marginalization and even destruction".*

Silence

Time to share

Our Father

Blessing

Closing Prayer

Lord, inspired by the life of Henriette Aymer, we ask you to teach us to facilitate communion with those around us, whatever their culture, race and language. We pray especially for Hong Kong, Lebanon, South Sudan, Bolivia, Chile and other places where peace is threatened.

Final Hymn: ***'Salve' by the Good Mother***