



## Letter of the Superiors General

Rome, 23 November 2020  
Feast of the Good Mother

***“The best way to be all for God  
is to be all for your neighbour”  
(Good Mother)***

Dear Sisters, dear Brothers,

As November 23<sup>rd</sup> approaches, we take some time to remember Henriette, the Good Mother. We remember her audacity, her trust in God and the depth of her prayer. We admire her perseverance, her ingenuity and her firm and kind character, ... But above all, we delve deeper into the Spirituality of the Congregation that she and the Good Father left us, asking ourselves once again how to keep it alive in today's world with its new contexts and challenges.

The dream of Pope Francis resounds in our hearts at this time, as he has made a fervent call to all humanity to look at each other as sisters and brothers. To recognize in each one of us the inherent human dignity that stems from our filiation with God, a condition that unreservedly binds us all together. And, consistent with her sensitivity to vulnerable people, what she has written is an imperative call to place ourselves in the shoes of the excluded, the discarded.

We have already read the Encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, and probably some of the comments made, but how can we fail to notice the evangelical challenges of the Good Samaritan (to which it refers), or of the Last Judgment, or of the Sermon on the Mount which, with all the radicalism of Jesus' teaching, demand specific actions in favour of those who do not have access to the goodness of the world's progress! How can we not listen to the Pope's appeal from our religious vocation, which urges us to be sisters and brothers to all! How can we not appreciate the possibilities of the charism that motivates our mission and feel challenged and urged to spend our lives with it! I have no doubt that this encyclical, which is challenging and provocative, has moved and stimulated us.

The Pope's concern is the "social question". And although he does not claim to make "a very exhaustive analysis" of the reality of the moment, he does describe quite harshly what he calls "the shadows of a closed world". His tone is strong, without ambiguity, direct. And at times it gives the impression that it is addressed to the leaders of the world, the leaders who make the big decisions, rather than to the simple and faithful people of God. Its underlying idea is the communal dimension of human existence, according to which we are responsible for one another. From there, he criticizes economic systems that benefit the powerful while leaving weaker people powerless, the lack of far-reaching political projects "for the development of all and the common good"(15), and "the unacceptable international silence"(29), in the face of the death of millions of children from poverty and hunger. Throughout the letter, he walks through all the issues that challenge society today: Human rights "which are not equal for all" (22), the condition of women "who suffer situations of exclusion, mistreatment and violence" (23), the trade in organs, human trafficking and "other current forms of slavery" (24), nationalisms that resist migration, the risks of virtual communication, which can come to "naturalize defamation



and slander" (46), the injustice of war, "which has become a constant threat" (256), the death penalty, before which the Church renews its commitment "with determination to have it abolished throughout the world" (263), etc.

In this scenario, putting the focus on the victims of the realities described, the Pope maintains that there are paths of hope "because God continues to sow seeds of good in the world" (54), and develops his message in the light of the parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37).

The situations he describes are not unknown to us. We can recognize in them, many topics of conversation and our own searches. His message takes us, without much effort, to meetings we have held, where we detail precisely what "*opposes the Love of the Father and disfigures His plan for the world,*" which is why "*we want to identify ourselves with the attitude and the work of reparation of Jesus*" (Const. 4). This is at the heart of our spirituality. Only with a critical look at the world, and with the hope that the reparation of Jesus gives us, can we adequately project our mission and offer our charism to the Church and the world.

The calls that the Pope makes to face this darkened reality help us to evaluate ourselves. To ask ourselves if we are close to the wounded we find on the road; if we have developed "the desire to want to be a people, to be constant and untiring in the work of including, integrating, and lifting up the fallen" (77). If our life is a sign of the Love that we proclaim, and our search for God "helps us to recognize each other as traveling companions who are truly brothers and sisters " (274) to everyone; if our evangelizing actions are aimed at the integral development of people...

The Pope has in mind "an historical transformation that will benefit the poor and disadvantaged" (165), for which changes are needed in the organisation of societies, in international relations, in economic, political and social structures... But " everything, then, depends on our ability to see the need for a change of heart, attitudes and lifestyles." (166). Our congregation has had this sensitivity sharpened from the beginning. "*So that God's reign may be present, we seek the transformation of the human heart and seek to be agents of communion in the world*" (Const. 6). Our spirituality certainly responds to the concerns and intuitions of the Pope. It is up to us, therefore, to ensure our fidelity to the charism we inherited. The Encyclical we have briefly commented on will clearly help us in this task.

May the person of the Good Mother, in the celebration of her Easter, give us light for the journey.

With affection, your sister and brother,

Patricia Villarroel ssc  
*Superiora General*

Alberto Toutin ssc  
*Superior General*



## GUIDELINES FOR ADORATION

### Introduction:

***"Think of everyone, be there for everyone  
and then you will be totally for God"***

(Good Mother)

In this very special year that we are living through, the feast of the Good Mother, her life and her thoughts reinforce the call that Pope Francis makes to us to live in universal communion.

In this adoration that, as a religious family, unites us with brothers, sisters and lay people throughout the world, we will contemplate the God of Love and allow the experience of that love of God that our Founders transmitted to us with a vast horizon of openness to all humanity, especially to the most vulnerable and suffering.



**Opening Hymn:** *Adoramus Te Domine* and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

### From the Gospel according to John 15:9-14

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain in my love. You will remain in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

I have told you all this, that my own joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this, to give one's life for one's friends; and you are my friends if you do what I command you."

### Silence

### Texts of Pope Francis

"Love, then, is more than just a series of benevolent actions. Those actions have their source in a union increasingly directed towards others, considering them of value, worthy, pleasing, and beautiful apart from their physical or moral appearances. Our love for others, for who they are, moves us to seek the best for their lives. Only by cultivating this way of relating to one another will we make possible a social friendship that excludes no one and a community that is open to all." (*Fratelli tutti* 94).



**Hymn:** *Ubi charitas*

“I ask God “to prepare our hearts to encounter our brothers and sisters, so that we may overcome our differences rooted in political thinking, language, culture, and religion. Let us ask him to anoint our whole being with the balm of his mercy, which heals the injuries caused by mistakes, misunderstandings, and disputes. And let us ask him for the grace to send us forth, in humility and meekness, along the demanding but enriching path of seeking peace” (*Fratelli tutti* 254).

**Antiphon:** *“The best way to be all for God is to be all for your neighbour”.*  
(Good Mother)

**Psalm 98**

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done wondrous deeds;  
His right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm.

The Lord has made known his salvation:  
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.  
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness  
toward the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation by our God.

Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands;  
break into song; sing praise.  
Sing praise to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and melodious song.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
sing joyfully before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea and that fills it resound,  
the world and those who dwell in it;  
Let the rivers clap their hands, the mountains shout for joy,  
Before the Lord, for he comes, for he comes to rule the earth;  
He will rule the world with justice, and the peoples with equity.

**Antiphon:** *“The best way to be all for God is to be all for your neighbour”.*  
(Good Mother)



**Time to share**

**Our Father**

**Final Prayer: *Thanksgiving for the Good Mother***

*Father, we praise you  
For that great woman, our Good Mother,  
For her human qualities,  
The wealth of her soul  
And her great heart full of love for all.*

*We praise you for her fidelity to your call,  
Her generous self-giving  
For her heroic renunciation,  
For her strength before the cross  
Her boundless love of the Eucharist  
And her long hours of Adoration before the Tabernacle.*

*We thank you  
For the message of love  
That you left us through the Good Mother's life  
For her enthusiasm to bring the Good News  
of your gospel everywhere.*

*To show the strength of your Love,  
In a society wounded by sin,  
And oppressed by injustice and violence,  
Father, raise up among us courageous men and women  
like the Good Mother,  
Committed radically to your gospel  
so that we can be signs  
of your redeeming Love in today's world.*

*Recreate in us her spirit of unity,  
so that as a single body, with a single spirit,  
and a single hope in our vocation,  
we may be "one" by the bonds of grace and truth  
of faith and Love. Amen.*

**Final Hymn: 'Salve Regina'**