

A FOUNDING EXPERIENCE

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General Superior

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**ALL FOR GOD,
ALL IN GOD,
ALL TO GOD
B.M.**



We are ending the year that we dedicated to the celebration of the *“Bicentennial of the Pontifical approval of the Congregation”*. A propitious time to give thanks to God for this significant event in the life of our Sacred Hearts family. A time that we have surely lived in the company of our founders. On November 23, throughout the whole Congregation, we will celebrate the closing of this jubilee year.

The month of November is a congregational month, an expected, desired and beloved time, that invites us to revitalize our Sacred Hearts identity, supported and inspired by the human, spiritual and charismatic experience of our Foundress.

In the context of the process of the Beatification of the Good Mother, celebrating her feast has a special resonance. At this time, her presence has been more alive among us and among the people with whom we relate. In all the Territories several activities have taken place to make known her life and mission. Throughout the year she has been remembered greatly by us and by the people we serve.

The Good Mother is a gift from God for our Congregation and for the Church, she is a source of inspiration.

It is a joy to see how the person of our Foundress is more and more alive among us. We know, by knowledge and experience, that many values of our spirituality have been lived by her, and transmitted with fidelity by our sisters from generation to generation until they have reached us.

The Good Mother is a gift from God for our Congregation and for the Church, she is a source of inspiration. Today, God continues to speak to us through the witness of her life and mission. She understood and lived out her consecration as a total self-giving to God and this is confirmed by one of her maxims: “All for God, all to God, all in God”. Following the example of Jesus and Mary to whose Hearts she devoted her life, she loved God with her whole heart without conditions. Sure of God's faithfulness, she allowed herself to be totally possessed by Him. She made the words of Psalm 138 her own which says: “*Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?*”.

In the troubled and difficult time that she had to live in, where she felt suffering and pain in her own flesh; far from moving away from the Lord, the Good Mother experienced a God of solidarity, who suffered with a suffering and crucified humanity, and it was there that her faith was strengthened. In the Heart of Jesus, in the pierced Heart, she found welcome, protection, forgiveness, tenderness and mercy. From then on, her life was a continuous going out from herself to give herself to God and to others, her valuable source being: contemplative and reparative adoration. As she expresses herself: “*The life of an adorer is the giving of her whole being to God*”.

The confrontation with harsh reality, makes you forget yourself and give yourself to those who are most in need. “Shaken by what was happening”, she found herself loved and called by the Lord. Her life would never be the same again. In her long hours of adoration before the tabernacle, she discovered little by little, how to respond to that call, relying on two pillars: God and the poor. Henrietta can no longer forget the poverty, pain and suffering of the people. She saw in their faces the suffering face of Christ, and needed to do something for them. “*Jesus wants us to touch human misery, to touch the suffering flesh of others*” (EG 270).

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Henrietta's apostolic zeal was manifested in the advice, full of wise prudence, that she gave to the missionaries, as well as her commitment and that of the community to always pray for them. Speaking of education, she had an invariable rule, that the free class be organized and attended to before admitting students who can pay. She felt the urge to make the Merciful Love of God present, opening houses of “Adoration” throughout France.

We have a lot to learn from her, young and old, strong and weak; the attitudes, experiences, values... of our Foundress are completely relevant today, her footprints remain fresh and can serve as an inspiring force for many people, be they children, young people or adults. Today we need to be close to the Heart of Jesus, we need to contemplate it, to listen to it, to make our own the attitudes and feelings of this Heart; to continue making the merciful love of God present, to be able to give our lives without reserve for the cause of the Kingdom, especially among those who suffer the most.

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Now that we are reflecting and working on the Apostolic Plan of the Congregation, it is a good moment to let ourselves be encouraged and accompanied by the life and mission of the Good Mother, and to ask her to help us to get a sense of where the Lord wants to take us, to be the instruments that He expects us to be.

In this process that we are going through as a Congregation, may the Gospel values and attitudes that the Good Mother lived be a strength on the way and help us to live: centred on the merciful love of God, building communion and dedicated to the building of the Kingdom.

“May the Heart of Jesus be our strength and the Heart of Mary be our consolation” GM.

Happy Feast of the Good Mother!