



# INFO SSCC

Sœurs - Hermanas – Sisters

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Congregazione dei Sacri Cuori di Gesù e Maria  
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## CONSECRATED TO REDEMPTIVE LOVE



### FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

*“The Consecration to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary is the foundation of our Institute. Hence our mission is to contemplate, to live and to proclaim to the world the love of God incarnate in Jesus” (Const 2).*

This month in which we celebrate the Feast of the Heart of Jesus and that of his mother Mary is for us a time full of spiritual richness because it brings us back to our charismatic roots. For this reason, it seemed very opportune to bring to our reflection this theme “Consecrated to Redemptive Love”, not to make a theological exegesis of what it means to devote ourselves to Redemptive Love, since for this we need a lot of theological and congregational material to help us. The intention is to help us to stop in our life, and to see how we are experiencing the deep meaning of our consecration to Redeeming Love.

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We know the depth of the word consecrate. On the one hand, it is God who consecrates us, transforms us, renews us from within and shapes us with his Son Jesus. On the other hand, it is we who freely decide to give ourselves to Him. Through this consecration we are called

with the power of the Spirit, to fix our eyes on Jesus, the Word incarnate, sent from the Father. How do I live my consecration to the Lord? Do I take time to be with Him, to make my own the attitudes, choices and tasks that took Jesus to the point of having his heart pierced on the Cross? (Const.3)

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It is the Holy Spirit who helps us to know intimately the Lord and to discover the true meaning of our consecration. What place do I give to the Holy Spirit in my life? Do I need His presence, invoke Him, count on Him day by day, or have I forgotten Him, assuming He is present in what I experience and do?

In the life and mission of Jesus, the presence of the Spirit is very strong from his Baptism. By the power of the Spirit he begins to preach the Good News: he announces the Kingdom of the Father, heals the sick, frees the oppressed, and proclaims the year of the Lord's grace. *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has consecrated me to bring good news to the poor, to preach liberty to the captives ... and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor"* (Lk 4:18).

We too, by our consecration to Redeeming Love and by the power of the Spirit, are called to make ours this mission of Jesus. *"Aware of the power of evil that opposes the Father's Love and disfigures his design on the world, we wish to identify with the attitude and reparative work of Jesus. Our reparation is communion with Him, whose food is to do the will of the Father and whose work is to reunite by his blood, the dispersed children of God ... Our reparative vocation encourages us to collaborate with all those who, led by the Spirit, work to build a World of justice and love, sign of the Kingdom"* (Const. 4).

Our reparative vocation leads us to contemplate in the pierced Heart of Jesus, the wounded heart of humanity, and this contemplation awakens our love, our dynamism and creativity to recognize the places in need of reparation today, where Christ remains crucified and where Mary continues to suffer at the foot of the crucified today.

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The transfixed Heart of Jesus, to whom we have consecrated ourselves and the power of the Spirit, opens us to the depth of the mystery of God and the pain of humanity and causes us to enter into its only movement: adoration of the Father and love for all, especially the poor. They lead us to look at the world with love and hope, and to collaborate with Him in the restoration of the human heart. It is God who is moved and has pity before the pain of his children, it is He who restores and gives life; that is why from Him and with Him, we work for the defense and care of life, and we join all those who fight for it.

Jesus the anointed of the Father, has as a principle "the dignity of the person". Jesus comes in search of those who, being marginalized by society are abused and trampled on, to give them back their dignity, so that, in the midst of their reality, they may know that God loves them, not only by word, but by giving himself.

We have also been anointed. We have received the same Spirit of Christ. And we are also sent to give the Good News to those who suffer, to bind up the broken hearts..., in a word, to witness the Redeeming Love of God.

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We live in a wounded world, society is wounded, social and political life is wounded, human beings are wounded, the land that is our home is also wounded. Perhaps these are difficult times for humanity, but, surely, they are propitious times for the love that heals and restores. Only in the Lord is the root of true healing: *“He heals the brokenhearted, binds up their*

*wounds”* (Ps 147). We believe in this healing love of God, that is why we go to the spring where love flows incessantly. This spring is in the Heart of Jesus.

As consecrated to the Redeeming Love of Christ, we are called to: live our reparative vocation in the specific reality to which we are sent; to experience dedication, affection, closeness... and to break the attitudes that kill life, that fill us with fear and take away faith and hope. The whole of creation needs to be restored. Pope Francis says: *“There are not two separate crises, one an environmental and the other a social crisis, but a single and complex socio-environmental crisis. The way to a solution requires a comprehensive approach to combat poverty, to restore dignity to the excluded and simultaneously to take care of nature”* (LS 139).

God who calls us, summons and sends us to collaborate with him in his reparative mission, assures us of his presence and the light of his Spirit to carry on with joy and hope. Let us experience this mission from the hand of Mary a model of consecration and of maternal commitment in the service of others. With her at our side, may we be able to collaborate in the construction of a Kingdom of peace and love.

Let us celebrate with renewed joy the Feast of the Sacred Hearts.

Emperatriz Arrobo, ss.cc.  
Superior General

## **SHARING WITH THE CONGREGATION**

### **ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

#### **Financial Solidarity Commission (CES) meeting**

The sisters in the Financial Solidarity Commission (CES) met in Rome from the 31<sup>st</sup> May to 13<sup>th</sup> June for their annual meeting. Among the important items on their full agenda was the revision of the accounts of each country, the study of the global financial situation of the Congregation with the assistance of Mr. Lombardi, the financial consultant and the distribution of solidarity for this year. Mary McCloskey represented the general government at this meeting

#### **Constitutions Commission meeting**

The Constitutions Commission met in El Escorial ,Spain rom the 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> June. to continue their work of revision and rewriting the Constitutions. They completed the work on Chapter VI, Administration of Temporal Goods and Chapter V, Government. Aurora Laguarda from the General government was present in this commission.

**CES– COMMISSION MEETING**

The Commission of Economic Solidarity met again in Rome for its annual meeting from 31 May until 13 June 2017. Once again, we studied the accounts of the countries and of the works of the entire Congregation. It gave us the opportunity to put faces on the numbers.



Knowing the places and persons helped us to humanize the “drier” side of our work and to give it meaning. The treasurer is at the service of persons and the needs of the Congregation.

Twice, Mr. Lombardi, our consultant, spent time with us, first to bring us up to date on our audit and to raise our awareness on issues and problems that confront our Congregation. This update is possible thanks to the treasurers who provided the necessary data beforehand. We later covered the same issues with the General Government.

In order to apply the last decisions taken during the provincial superiors’ meeting in Rome, June 2016, we reviewed and recommended some changes to the booklet incorporating four documents: Financial Solidarity, the Investment Policy, the Fund for SS.CC. Financial Solidarity, and the Aymer Foundation.

Then we worked on the questionnaire sent by the Constitutions Commission concerning Chapter VI, (Administration of Temporal Goods) and sent our contribution to the Commission. We also reviewed and made suggestions on what refers to finances in the document, General Dispositions and Norms for the New Organization of the Congregation.

We prepared the up-coming meetings of the treasurers by Zones to take place in Escorial, Spain in July, Manila, Philippines in September, and Lima, Peru in October.

Finally we presented our work to the General Government for approbation.

As you see, we had a heavy schedule. Nevertheless, we enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the life of the Church especially in the Mass of Pentecost presided by Pope Francis in St. Peter’s Square.



**Fundación Aymer**  
congregación religiosas Sagrados Corazones

In the month of May the Trustees of the Aymer Foundation met, and one of the items on the agenda was the distribution of the money at its disposal at this moment, to co-finance the Social Projects of 2017.

The amounts shared and sent out to each Project up to the present moment has been the following:

- 1.- Ecuador: Refugee Project, migrants and displaced persons, in Quito: 21.000,-\$USA
- 2.- Philippines: Celebration of Life Project, in Bagong Silang: 3.000,-\$USA.
- 3.- India: Human and Christian Formation of Young people, Hostel in Bhubaneswar: 20.000,-€
- 4.- Mozambique: SS.CC. Centre for Infants in Boane: 10.000,-€
- 5.- Mozambique: LAR MAMANA WA KURULA, in Boane: 15.000,-€
- 6.- Peru: Development possibilities for children and adolescents in Arequipa: 21.000,-\$USA.

In the website of the Foundation, [fundacioaymer.org](http://fundacioaymer.org) you will find these Projects and also those presented for 2018, on which we will begin to work.

You will also find in the website the Memory of 2016, which we have been able to put in French and English with the help of sisters who have translated the content.

We wish to thank all those who have brought their interest, work, money, etc. so that we could co-finance these Projects and those which are outstanding. The distribution for these will take place in the month of November, as happens every year and in this way we are able to attend to those who need our help.

*Pilar Ruiz de la Prada ss.cc.*

## **CANONICAL VISIT – TERRITORY OF PERU-BRAZIL-MEXICO**

### **PERU – May 5<sup>th</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The Canonical visit of the General Government to the Territory of Peru-Brazil-Mexico took place between May 6<sup>th</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup> of this year. The Sisters of the Communities of Lima had the good fortune to get to know or meet again with the four Sisters who visited our Peru-Brazil-Mexico Territory. Emperatriz and Alicia officially visited the Communities of Belén (Elder Sisters), Buena Madre, (former Provincial House) and SS.CC. Belén.

The canonical visit in Lima began with a meeting of the four visitors Emperatriz and Alicia in Lima; Aurora and Goyi in Mexico via Skype with Valeria, our Territorial Coordinator. In each community the visit began with a meeting between Emperatriz, Alicia and the community to share the community project, how it was drawn up and the implications in community life, which normally took a whole day. Then we had personal interviews with one of them, with the two together or separately according to the requests of each Sister, ending

with a community meeting to transmit to us how they saw the Community, what they saw as our lights, and what we should reinforce.

There was also time for meetings with the teaching, administrative and support staff of the SS.CC. Belén and SS.CC. Reina de la Paz Colleges, as well as with all staff working in the Hermasie Paget Retreat House.

During this time Emperatriz and Alicia also met with some SS.CC. Brothers in their Provincial House, with the Ladies of the Secular Branch Community of Belén, composed in its great majority of alumni from our Schools of Lima and Arequipa, and with The Coordinator of the Secular Branch of Peru. There had some recreational outings to significant symbolic places in Lima, which is not only a city of colonial origin but also a pre-Inca cultural center, and the land that owes much to our Sister Hermasie Paget who spent her life and mission here between 1852 And 1890.

On May 24, Emperatriz and Alicia traveled to Arequipa, and Aurora and Goyi arrived in Lima to visit the Communities of Hillsides and the Novitiate of the Zone of Latin America in which we currently have three Novices, one Chilean, one Peruvian and one Paraguayan, each at a different stage.



### **Visit to the Community of Arequipa May 26 to 30, 2017**

In the beginning there was a dream of spreading the love of the Hearts... and sisters moved by that dream came to the city of Arequipa in 1878; that same dream brought our sisters Emperatriz and Alicia to the “White City”<sup>1</sup>.

The mission of this community is to spread the love of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary to children and young people in our schools and vulnerable people through the Betania Listening

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<sup>1</sup> It is called so for the color of the “sillar” (volcanic stone) that was used for colonial buildings.

Center. It is composed of Otilia Salazar, Lidia Mamani, Laura Morales, Edith Paredes and Zenobia Gamarra. Our Padre Damián College received Emperatriz and Alicia on Friday morning, they were welcomed by students and teachers, and they talked with them through representatives of the educational community. The Sacred Hearts College welcomed them with a musical greeting, on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> in the morning; they also had the opportunity there to talk with some students and teachers. That same day in the afternoon they talked first with the Coordinating team of the Betania Listening Center and later with the volunteers who carry out the ministry of listening there. They were pleasantly surprised to learn that these volunteers are teachers of both SS.CC. Colleges. In these meetings, Emperatriz and Alicia perceived how the dream of our Founders to bring love to those who need it, takes place every day.

The community meetings with our sisters were very rich. A first meeting, on the Friday afternoon, helped them to meet and get to know us with simple questions of presentation. A roulette in the form of a flower helped to present our Community Project of life and mission. Emperatriz and Alicia gave us in a spirit of simplicity, a reflection of what we shared at that moment, encouraging us to maintain the joy of our Consecration. Saturday was dedicated to personal interviews and daily prayer. On Sunday we took a walk around Arequipa and had a rich lunch in a traditional “Picanteria Arequipeña”.



On Tuesday we continued to share our SS.CC. dreams, through two meetings. There we experienced once again that we are part of a family full of passion and courage, that wants to be a presence of God’s Love. We received once again the call to “widen our Tent”, to continue to embrace the dream of Henriette and Pierre, to contemplate, live and proclaim the love of God.

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, Emperatriz and Alicia returned from Arequipa and on June 1<sup>st</sup> the four of them continued their visits with meetings with the Teams of Initial Formation and Vocation Ministry and the Solidarity Economy Team.

Where they had time, we do not know, but they also met in pairs to evaluate the visit to each Community and to prepare the final result of the whole visit !...

On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, they met together with Valeria, our Territorial Coordinator and with Candy, the Delegate Superior of Latin America, who belongs to our Territory and is a member of the SS.CC. Belén Community. Finally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> we had an Assembly as Communities of Lima, in which with the simplicity and affection that characterizes them they shared with us their vision of our Territory and encouraged us to expand our Tents and live our commitment of religious life in depth as to be able to give life to the New Face of the Congregation.

On June 5<sup>th</sup> the four of them returned to Rome, leaving us an encouraging memory and the commitment to live our religious consecration as on the day of our first vows. We give our gratitude to them both for each visit and the careful preparation and liturgical animation that they offered us. It is our commitment to accompany them with our prayers. And we tell them: See you soon! We are waiting for you whatever time you come...

### **MEXICO – May 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Always “waiting” for a visit sends people into “movement”, and that has happened in our community of Atotonilco, Hidalgo-Mexico. We prepared ourselves to welcome our dear sisters of the General Government, Aurora and Goyi, from May 4<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>.

With a simple sisterly sharing we prepared ourselves to present the life and the journey of our community. As is characteristic, we began our meetings commending ourselves to the presence and company of God, then continued with the presentation of the community project.



The second day was dedicated to sharing the project of the Home of the migrants “The Samaritan”, allowing space in our hearts for the many things that have happened since March when we celebrated the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation and we had feelings and emotions in bloom. In the sharing our visitors saw the transformations that the house has undergone, as well as at the organizational level. On the third day Aurora and Goyi full of excitement, were prepared to “discover” the work. It is worth

mentioning that at the moment the migrant's house is having a second floor added, so that it will be a real “shelter”. In the middle of what is supposed to be in “construction” our sisters Aurora and Goyi had several encounters, both with the migrants who were there that day, as well as with some volunteers who collaborate with us.

On the fourth day in the evening we had the closure of the visit. It was an opportunity to “listen” to the echoes which our sisters gave us based on our sharing and what we had lived. It was a “gracefilled” space in which we prepared our hearts to “receive” the gift they were going to give us.

The fifth day, was a “different” and “special” day, as we celebrated the life, of our sister Edith Peláez and the presence of our sisters Goyi and Aurora. We went on an outing to Hacienda Santa María, In the state of Hidalgo, a place of much history and magic for its beautiful landscapes.

On the morning of the sixth day we were invited to get together for a final meeting in the context of: *“We have a common mission that we must revitalize and recreate together”*. The

key words were to broaden, unfold, lengthen and reinforce, this final encounter was illuminating and clarifying.

Aurora and Goyi wanted to visit the buildings we have, which are the heritage of the Congregation, so they went to Puebla and from there to Mexico City. That 13<sup>th</sup> night they met ss.cc brothers from Mexico with Nurmy who is the current provincial. On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> we could not miss a visit to Our Lady of Guadalupe, so they visited Her and made a tour of the basilica.

We only have to thank them once again for their close and simple presence. May the God of life continue to guide and bless you in this mission that the Congregation has entrusted to you.

### **BRAZIL – May 15<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

*“Vocês que estão chegando, bem-vindas, sejam bem-vindas! Só estava faltando vocês aqui. Só estava faltando vocês, irmãs. Só estava faltando você aqui, bem-vindo à Celebração!”*

*With great joy and pleasure we have received our sisters Goyi and Aurora.*

Our sisters Aurora and Goyi arrived in these beloved Brazilian lands on May 15<sup>th</sup>. After a short break we headed to Formosa on the 17<sup>th</sup>, where the visit began.



The city of Formosa GO, is located in the Midwest region of Brazil, our sister Adriana Meijers, Dutch, is there. Arriving at the airport in Brasilia, Adriana was waiting for us with great joy. Then we traveled to the city Formosa which is an hour away from Brasilia. Arriving at her house she received us with many little thoughtful touches

that moved us. She was dazzled by the joy of feeling accompanied and loved by the Congregation.

After sharing the various experiences of mission that she is carrying out and seeing her unconditional commitment to the service of the residents: mentally and or retarded elderly women living in the Santa Monica Asylum, “those excluded from today's society”, we dare to say that Adriana is the “Damiana” of today, in her love that overflows on all sides. There are not enough words to describe her kindness, mercy, affection, as a woman passionate for the most needy. As a phrase in the Asylum says: “whoever does not live to serve; does not deserve to live”. Adriana has been sharing her life for 49 years; where death reigned, she continues to manifest the presence of the merciful love of God, serving and loving, 27 residents who need special care.

The mission of Adriana never stops. Even with 82 years of age, she continues with her ministry in the community: she visits the sick, encourages the community of the Villa, and

now with the absence of Father Humberto, ss.cc., she accompanies the group of SS.CC. laity which for her is her family and is helped by them in everything. With the laity we celebrated the Eucharist animated by them. Then we had a moment to share the diverse experiences of mission that each one has and how they are living the SS.CC. spirituality. It was two intense days of sharing with our sister Adriana, who greatly appreciated the visit of the general government.



On the 19<sup>th</sup> night we arrived at Belo Horizonte. We welcomed them into our community with much affection and joy. It was for us a time to feel accompanied and encouraged to continue in the quest to respond to the cries of today. With an attitude of discernment, we shared our different pastoral activities: ministry of the street with the “beggars” that in the last years have increased by the crisis that the country is living through. Maria Antonieta, ss.cc accompanies them. Benita,

ss.cc carries out parish ministry and the ministry of the care of women “in prostitution” is carried out by Luz Reyna, ss.cc. We also accompany teenagers and adults who are chemically dependent. “I want life”. It is a reality that calls out for attention because the number of chemically dependent has increased, as well as violence. These are some of the cries of today that we want to respond to with our presence in the “Family of Cana” . Here a space is provided for the rehabilitation and reinsertion into society of chemically dependent adolescents and adults through physical psychological therapies, meetings with families, with the goal of preventing relapses and remedying codependency. The treatment is 9 months of hospitalization, for the therapeutic process to recover sobriety and thus be able to be re-inserted again into society. This mission began thirty years ago with Father Osvaldo, ss.cc., who perceived the urgency of working together with the families since they are co-dependent. Today there are two sisters who work there: Flor de Maria, ss.cc. in evangelization and the spiritual part, as well as accompanying personal processes, mainly of adolescents who need a female figure, and Marilene, ss.cc., who uses a new technique called “Primal Dance”, a corporal-energy discipline that activates the deepest memories of our body (molecular memory) releasing its creative energies, healing and interpersonal encounter. She also applies the technique of Primordial Coaching in personalized work. At this moment we are part of the coordinating team together with the laity. Thanks to all the efforts deployed, they persevere in the process and the number of adolescents who are resident increases.

We had a meeting with our ss.cc brothers where we enjoyed an informal sharing of the mission and the steps we are taking as a Congregation. It was interesting to feel their concern for our presence and the desire for a joint work. We ended up savoring a rich “Mineiro” Lunch.

We also had a meeting with the secular branch that we are accompanying together with the brothers. It was a time to meet and share our experiences, have a beautiful adoration and then we ended with supper.

During the visit, several challenges have been raised. One of them was how to be a significant community in Brazil, which responds to the call of the “New Face of Congregation”. Each sister is willing to start this path and we know that we are not alone, we have our ss.cc family that backs us. We know that the work is not ours; it is God's work.

Each one of us are very grateful to God for feeling through our sisters “the presence of God” in our community. It was a rich time which rekindled in us the strength, the enthusiasm to follow the path, with lighter baggage. We enjoy your presence and feel empowered to move forward, with the confidence placed in HE who drives our “tent” and who invite us to open the store, to widen our minds and hearts.

To the rhythm of samba, dances and songs typical of each country we completed the visit of our sisters in Brazil.

## ZONE EUROPE – AFRICA

### TERRITORY OF FRANCE– TESTIMONY

**“How the reparative love dimension of ours SS.CC. spirituality has fashioned your life and mission throughout the years of your consecrated life ?”**



I was just a young girl of 6 years of age, when at my first communion in the boarding school of the Adoration Convent in Nantes, Loire, France, the sister who was preparing us, Madame Gaétane, as we called them then, in 1938, before the war- made us pass along a long corridor leading to the chapel, in front of a big cupboard, open that day... and in which the red mantles of our religious teachers were hanging... On one of the doors, there was a white sign on which these words were written: ADORER... REPAIRER... MEDIATOR... and VICTIM !... a real spiritual message, the impact of which I still cannot gauge to this day !

... **Adorer**, yes we understood a little what that meant since every day we witnessed the sisters going up to the prie-dieu, every half hour, and we also knew that at night there was always a sister in prayer before the Lord! These words, which she explained to us... All my school life, these words have questioned me... We loved to respond to the invitation of our teachers to join them at the prie-dieu on the feasts of Holy Thursday, the Sacred Heart, Corpus Christi ! We put on our red scarf of honor and a little veil of white tulle... what joy ! responsibility , commitment! – were we not little missionaries ? – without adding the anxiety of having to last on our knees for 30 minutes in the presence of Jesus!

... **Repairer**... ! that was the most bitter... but, generosity and naivety went hand in hand at our age and at that time... I remember still how emotional it was each Friday evening in the

month of June, consecrated to the Sacred Heart, when we were invited to go up to the communion table, to bring a lovely white paper rose and fix it to a big red velvet heart after having removed a long thorn of the “spina Christi”. We really questioned ourselves before deciding to take this step... was I worthy of making this gesture to repair the crimes of sinners and console this Heart which so loved men and which only received ingratitude and indifference ? I can only imagine how many psychologists of the 21<sup>st</sup> century would furiously question themselves as they analyze and judge how harmful the educational tools of that time were ! but... it marked our piety, our reflection and our childish and adolescent sensibilities in a concrete way... it led us to interiority, to generosity, to an encounter with the suffering Jesus, who surrendered his life, calling us to share his solitude, his pain, in the face of being despised by men... I still pray these phrases which I have meditated upon since my childhood, today : “*Jesus, sweet and humble of heart...make my heart like yours!*” ... “*Heart pierced for us through the crimes of the earth...*”... “*I walk for a missionary !*” said Thérèse of Lisieux.

The Eucharistic Youth Crusade, which has become today the MEJ, helped us to discover “*sacrifice*” not only for the faraway little Chinese about which our SS.CC. Fathers told us when they came to the school... We filled out a small white piece of paper called “*treasure*” on which each one focused on the acts of love and reparation made each week... it was the “*see, judge, act*” of our lives as children... In my adolescence, the Scout movement helped me to discover service, others, mission in a world where unbelief was growing, and how to be a **Mediator** and active participant in the Church which counts on young believers to save the world which rejects God and his love. The prayer of the scouts is still my prayer in my daily act of thanksgiving...!

At the age of 20, as a young adult, the Adoration School asked me to come “*to serve*” for two years with the young infants in the Primary school... with my former educators I advanced towards the ever more intimate discovery of this redemptive Love which was soon to seem to alone be capable of fulfilling my life as a woman... each time I returned home, sometimes late in the evening after a meeting of scout leaders, or an evening with friends, I passed in front of the chapel where I saw the lamp lit beside which a sister watched in adoration... and the thought of being one of them made its way gently until the day when the direct question came!

60 years separate me today from that time ! It is in this long space of time the Jesus has enabled me to gradually discover, and sometimes cruelly, learn the meaning of the word “**Victim**” ! and understand by reading, meditation on the accounts of this Love, such as our Founders, Damian de Veuster, Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Bernadette of Lourdes, Marguerite-Marie Alacoque of Paray-le-Monial, and recently Elisabeth of the Trinity, Father M. Eugène of the Child Jesus, to quote but a few... without forgetting Father Jean d’Elbée, and these so humble, hidden, saintly sisters of our communities... radiant in their humility and their fidelity to Adoration in spite of their great age, and the poverty and lack of comfort of the time.

I have been at Picpus since 2004... retired... ! How things have changed... ! but life in the Church is rich in activities and discoveries ! The year of the faith, the year of Mercy, the journey towards Baptism of some catechumens whom I have been able to accompany, as well as the group of Lay Sacred Hearts, deepening my theological understanding which my great age allows me the time to do, have helped me to grow in my consecration to redemptive Love... Yes! I am pretentious enough to believe that I am still a missionary... beloved of the Heart of Jesus and Heart of Mary whom perhaps I will soon discover. I like to sometimes think that beside them I will find my family, which was so Christian at the beginning, among

those that I have loved, and all those sisters and brothers who have helped me to grow and led me toward redemptive Love.

*Thérèse de Vallois, ss.cc.*

## **ZONE LATIN AMERICA**

### **TERRITORY OF CHILE – TESTIMONY**

#### **The devotion to the Sacred Heart in my Personal History and its Reparative Dimension**

##### **My early years**

I was born on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1933, on the feast of the Sacred Heart and I was baptized in the Church of the Sacred Heart on Alameda Street, Santiago de Chile, on July 9<sup>th</sup>, when the Congregation celebrates our Lady of Peace. My grandmother was, from a very young age, the one who started me in this devotion, because my family lived in her house in Santiago. She had enthroned the Heart of Jesus in her own home, placing a large portrait in the living room that presided over all our family gatherings. It was the place where we met as a family, to make the Holy Hour the first Fridays, after participating in the Eucharist.

I remember when I was very small I went in the afternoons to the living room, to look at the image. I do not know if I prayed, but something caught my eye. I prayed for the suffering people, made sacrifices for those who were in trouble.

##### **At school**

It was a stage in which my devotion to the Heart of Jesus was strengthened because I accompanied my grandmother to Mass on first Fridays, we prayed together the prayer to the Sacred Heart, and I was able to prepare for first communion and confirmation.

However, the event that struck me most was when I was transferred from school to enter the school of the Sacred Hearts, which our sisters had in the great city of Santiago. That's where I discovered the Adoration that the sisters did day and night, with the Red Mantle, a sign of reparation and intercession before the Lord. Later, I deepened the devotion to the Heart of Jesus through so many signs that we had at school on the first Friday: the Mass and the Adoration of that day. What a great emotion when we were invited to Night Adoration!!! And in the midst of all this came the readings of the life of St. Margaret Mary, of Father Matthew Cromwell and the story about the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes.

The love of the Lord expressed in devotion to the Sacred Heart became more demanding in my life, especially when I discovered how Jesus responded to so many situations in daily life: helping to find answers to work problems, family separation, illness, consolation, denunciation of evil ... I needed to give something of myself, that's why I enrolled in the parish to do First Communion catechesis, to help needy families and other small services.

I remember that for the celebration of the Sacred Heart at school, besides being the Great Feast, help and gifts were organized for the students and families of the Free School of the Congregation in Santiago.

As a teenager, I joined the Catholic Action group, and my pastoral work expanded because I participated in days of reflection, retreats, help to the most needy and Adoration; the great strength of which supported me in everything that I did.

At the age of 15 I asked to enter the novitiate of the Congregation, a petition that my father did not authorize until a year after I finished school. Those were years of waiting and longing, but I continued to work in school, in ministry, in the group of Catholic Action and faithfully doing night adoration.

At that time, I meditated a lot on the Lord's Passion, I liked the Prayer in the Garden because it helped me to pray for the pain and suffering of so many people, I was inspired to give up some things and pray. I loved to accompany my grandmother on visits to the families in need.

Knowing more about the life of the Good Mother helped me to strengthen my vocation to religious life and the spirit of reparation of the Congregation.

### **In religious life, in the Congregation**



I entered the novitiate and in my formative years I lived with great enthusiasm for Adoration and the work in the school.

Then at the time of the Second Vatican Council we had the opportunity to participate in the missions and this was another interesting field that opened up devotion to the Heart of Jesus. For a month, a group of sisters and young people went to missions in those places where the Congregation was

preparing the way to found new communities of missionaries in the Chilean Province.

Those were years of great fecundity and spiritual and missionary strength. My work at the College was illuminated with the month of missions we did with the students. I can say that they were the golden years of my vocation as an educator.

While we, the Sisters with the group of young men and women were on missions, the Sisters of the Community supported us and accompanied us with their fidelity to Adoration.

I have been very privileged because over the years I have been able to read, reflect, participate in various instances of the Congregation and the church, services, which have helped me to deepen and understand this beautiful and demanding vocation. *“In Jesus we find everything... BP. We make our own the attitudes, options and tasks that led Jesus to the point of having his Heart transpierced on the Cross” (Constitutions N° 3).*

As the years have gone by, devotion to the Heart of Jesus united to the Heart of Mary, represents for me, living the centrality of the Gospel, which is Jesus, on a daily level, feeling loved and remaining in the Love of the Lord. The years, nor the services with which I have been entrusted, do not matter as much as the continued interest, enthusiasm and fidelity to Contemplating, Making present and Proclaiming the Love of the Lord to the men and women of today, in a very simple and concrete way and always accompanied by long moments of contemplation in Adoration.

Another experience which is of vital importance for me is, visiting families who have Enthroned the Heart of Jesus in their homes, accompanying them and inspiring them each month with a simple letter for the Holy Hour of the First Fridays. I also meet with them twice a year, for the Feasts of the Holy Family and the Heart of Jesus, where we celebrate a Eucharist in which they renew their consecration to the Sacred Heart.

In the district where I am living at present in Santiago, we have evenings of adoration in the Community. Every Monday, between 6 and 15 people meet and they are the ones who transmit their experience to other families, which enables the Love of Jesus to continue to be made known in our area.

At this time it just remains for me to give thanks to the Lord and to his Mother for all the invitations and the graces which have been given to me these years of my consecration to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

*María Olga Mardones, ss.cc.*

## **ZONE PACIFIC-U.S.A. - ASIA**

### ***TERRITORY OF PACIFIC-U.S.A. – TESTIMONY***

#### **Reparative Love**



“Sacred Heart of Jesus, Your kingdom come” is my prayer as I share my thoughts on “reparative love” in light of our SS.CC. charism and mission and how this dimension of our spirituality shaped my life as a Sister of the Sacred Hearts.

With heartfelt gratitude and love 64 years have already gone by as I lived my religious consecration. Hopefully, the thread of this topic will flow and weave its way to understanding “reparative love”. To me “reparative love” embraces the history of Jesus’ suffering and pain to redeem us. He loves us. Jesus commanded us to love one another as He loved us and to bear good fruit. Listen and hear Him whisper... throughout my lived experiences.

Under the “umbrella” of reparative love, my own life and work reflect how our charism and mission guided my way.

To mention a few points here of my work:

- ♦ Ministry of Adoration and Community life (64 years)

- ♦ Teacher at Sacred Hearts Academy and St. Patrick School (62 years)
- ♦ Director of the Associates Secular Branch (1985 to present)
- ♦ With Associates, raise funds to give financial aid to our foreign and local missions of our Sisters and Brothers (over 50 years)

In God's creative love, there are untold examples of good community living which show how our charism and spirituality shaped our lives. We cannot help seeing this in the lives of our elderly and aged Sisters, some dying from sickness yet uplifting and showing reparative love for Jesus. On the other hand, we constantly witness our Sisters doing random acts of charity, kindness, and love, always alleviating pain and suffering. Also through the celebrations of jubilees, feasts of our Saints Damien, Eustaquio and our holy Founders, including our Birthdays we give public witness of who we are. Through reparative love, we strive to follow Jesus. So I stop here as He continually whispers "Follow me".

*Anne-Marie Tamanaha, ss.cc.*

### **TERRITORY OF ASIA – TESTIMONY**

#### **Leaving the reparative dimension of our charism of redemptive love**

Early in my religious life when we had perpetual adoration my idea of reparation was linked solely to the Eucharist. But down through the years my world has been broadened and reparation for me has become strongly linked with compassion.

Compassion in my ministry, whether it was with school children or in parish ministry or later in the field of Formation where I have served for many years. It was as though a veil was lifted from my eyes and I could see my humanity clearly and in that seeing, grew in humility and began to understand the humanity of others with greater clarity. This insight has evoked a response of love and tenderness in me... being careful not "to break the bruised reed", to try to listen carefully and to enter into the world of the other with respect, and having lived for many years in Asia I have learned the value of harmony and developing a listening heart.



Faced with the many tragedies and great injustice that so many people suffer in today's world ... how do I make reparation? First of all to admit being overwhelmed by the many tragedies that the TV brings into our lives and yet to keep my eyes open and feel some of the suffering that people all over the world of all ages suffer.

And this suffering has a face in the local people whom we minister to and in order not to get overwhelmed by it I need to remember... the lovely smile on the face of a little girl as she runs home with an egg in each hand which will be for the family dinner, listening to the complaint of an elderly lady who sleeps on the streets that her slippers have been stolen yet again while she slept, and to the continuous requests of the homeless for all kinds of help.

Keeping our eyes open in order to see the beauty of creation, whether it be a tree that gives shade from the awful heat or a little wild flower all by itself that grows in the burning asphalt, the brave song of the little birds first thing in the morning and the gift of water which slakes our thirst. Learning to take care of our plants and learning too from our novices the gift of recycling and experiencing their joy when the seeds that they planted provide salad and spices for our table. And living each day as a gift from a loving God who wants me to look kindly on his wounded world which needs redemption and to play my own little part in repairing it.

*Brigid Falahee, ss.cc.*

## **TERRITORY OF PARAGUAY-BOLIVIA**

### **Youth Communities SS.CC. – Bolivia – Ovejuyo**

#### ***“Walking with Jesus in Faith and Love, in the SS.CC. Mission”***



During Holy Week, for the last twenty years, our parish group has been carrying out missions with young people in different villages of our department, working with shovels and picks, digging potatoes and sweet potatoes, harvesting beans, carrying sacks with products that the people from the rural area harvest, sharing their Via Crucis and participating in it with great faith and commitment, joining the people in the gospel.

Ovejuyo, is a town that is linked to the big city that is La Paz. It is the place where the mission was carried out with the SS.CC. youth communities, with whom, we had a retreat two weeks before,; it is the place where the activities that we would have in this inner part of the city, were prepared. The youth put in a lot of responsibility and creativity in order to accomplish the programmed activities.

The activities we had were visits to the families with the purpose of inviting them to participate in the Easter festivities and the formation of youth groups, pastoral activities with children, first communion, etc. We started early with this activity, in all the small communities. One of our sisters had a map of the streets we were going to visit, and the activity spread throughout the day.

In the evaluation we had at the end, the youth told several anecdotes that they had lived, and all agreed that the families welcomed them very well. It was a good experience the like of which they had never had before and for them it was a novelty to meet families with different realities than that to which they are used.

Another activity was to clean, dust, varnish, paint and wash the floor of the chapel served by the SS.CC. Sisters. This work was done on Friday afternoon, concluding on Saturday about three in the afternoon. The commitment and responsibility of the youth communities in this work was highlighted. Everybody put their best efforts to make our Chapel beautiful, with our Saints well varnished and their clothes cleaned.



The celebrations during the Paschal Tridium were very well prepared, in them the young people outshone themselves in their dedication and participation. On top of that, we had a priest who was very close to them.

The mission in Ovejuyo was a very different experience from the previous ones. In this one, we all, Sisters, laity and youth communities were united in work, reflection, faith, and the SS.CC. Charism. We really experienced our Family Spirit.

*Ramiro Rojas R., ss.cc.Laity*

## **AGENDA OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

Date	Activity and persons responsible	Place
<b>July 2 – 22</b>	Poitiers Session Mary McCloskey, Goyi Marín, Alicia Mamani Aurora Laguarda	<b>France</b>
<b>July 11 – 17</b>	Meeting of Treasurers of the Zone Europe-Africa in El Escorial	<b>Spain</b>
<b>July 21 – 22</b>	Presence of the Superior General, Emperatriz Arrobo in the Poitiers Session	<b>France</b>
<b>July 24 – 28</b>	International Secular Branch Meeting in El Escorial Mary Mc Closkey	<b>Spain</b>
<b>July 24 – 28</b>	Session of the General Government	<b>Rome</b>
<b>July 29</b>	Presence of the Superior Generals in the International Meeting of the Secular Branch, El Escorial	<b>Spain</b>

# CHRONICA CONGREGATIONIS

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## JUBILEES

### JULY

LONDOÑO Adiela	30/07/1967	Golden	Colombia
GUERRERO Blanca Elena	30/07/1967	Golden	Colombia
QUINTERO Ana Francisca	30/07/1967	Golden	Colombia

## IN MEMORIÁM

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JAEN Lucía	19/06/2017	El Escorial	Spain
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[www.sccpicpus.com](http://www.sccpicpus.com)*