



Dear Sisters,

With the great speed with which we sometimes feel time passing, we have reached the end of the period for which I was elected Superior General. After many journeys, visits, letters, communications and various tasks, we are about to begin the 37th General Chapter. I remember many faces and places that I look back on with fondness. I remember so many situations and moments which, if not always easy, I tried to experience in the best interest of the sisters, the Congregation and its service in the Church.

From Rome, everything seems a little far away, because it is true that life is lived locally, in the communities, schools, contact with the poor, meetings with the laity and the oratories of our communities. That is where I really got to know the Congregation with its strengths and weaknesses, its dreams and apprehensions, its hopes and discouragements. I have learned from all this, and I am happy to have been among you, and with you. I feel very grateful to the Lord who has never let go of my hand, to the sisters of the General Council with whom we undertook the task, to the community in Rome, always faithful to whatever was needed, to Alberto, the Superior General, in whom I always had a brother, a friend and a good adviser, and to all the sisters, brothers and lay people I met over these years.

I treasure the memory of so many older sisters, so ready to reveal important moments of their lives, quietly showing that hidden holiness with which they have lived their consecration. I also cherish the memory of the impetus of the younger ones and their longing to go further and I bless the Lord for youth. And I have great respect and admiration for the sisters who today are carrying the responsibilities of the mission. Those who have services of authority, accompany the initial

formation, take care of the elderly, and those who are totally involved in missionary work. This is the great richness of the Congregation.

Over these years I enjoyed, getting to know places and peoples of different cultures and customs, songs, dances, costumes, ..., that speak of the diversity of the world and that showed me the small corners that the Lord has given us to collaborate with Him in building the Kingdom of God.

With this last INFO of the sexennium, you will remember the pre-capitular sessions we held in June, which led us, as one sister said, to 'get into Chapter mode'. You will also remember the *Sessions Poitiers*, whose best moments are in the hearts of the participants, and in the videos that you can watch on the WEB site.

Let us continue to meet daily in prayer for the General Chapter. And if *together we walk in faithfulness and hope*, we will be able to offer to the world the best we have: the charism and spirituality bequeathed to us by our founders, and our missionary energies which we promised to the Lord on the day of our religious profession.

With affection,