

Impelled by the Spirit



Dear Sisters,

We have just finished the General Chapter, the theme of which was “*Compelled by the Spirit we recreate the Mission*” should enlighten us for the next six years. We approved an Apostolic Plan for the whole Congregation, which is the fruit of preparatory work in which we all participated. We can see ourselves reflected in its expressions and can identify with its calls. It will not be difficult to feel that it is ours. However, nothing is said there that we cannot put into practice if we let the impulse of the Spirit renew us so that He may recreate our mission in the daily routine of our life.

We live in difficult times. Who could doubt it? But has it not been in the most difficult moments of history when believers “moved by the Spirit” have given their greatest proof of greatness, generosity and dedication? Will our present times be more difficult than those of the emerging and persecuted Church, those of the medieval crises, or those at the time of our Founders? We have too many examples in the history of the Church to encourage our faith in the hardest moments, to fill us with hope, and to renew our commitment to mission. The life of our founders demonstrates this to us, inspires us, and exhorts us to rise above our stature to respond to the demands of today's society.

The Chapter has made us look at reality and welcome some challenges for our Congregation, which is small, very diverse and fragile... but which is eager to respond to the cries it hears. We know that if the Spirit impels us, we are on the move. That He makes us go beyond our limits and our possibilities, and look at what others do not see, stop where others pass by and do what others do not do. Compelled by the Spirit we act with His wisdom and not with our calculations, with His strength and not with our own. And above all, we let Him act in us, and through us. It is his way of being in the world and of guiding history...

These days we will be receiving the final decisions from the Chapter. May the Spirit enlighten our reading and allow us to come closer with greater fruit to the challenges before us. May the Spirit enlighten our reading and allow us to approach with greater fruitfulness the challenges that lie ahead of us. And where we are, in the specific situations of each one of us, may we be compelled by Him to recreate the mission.

May Christmas Eve, now very near, be a meeting place for all our family who joyfully celebrate our birth, praising the glory of a God who came to us in the smallness of a child.

I embrace you with love,

“Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year”