

RECREATE THE MISSION



Dear Sisters,

What a great challenge we have taken on: "to recreate Mission"!

How many expectations have been generated from the motto of the last chapter! May the reflections and decisions of the Chapter lead us, under the impulse of the Spirit, to **recreate the Mission of our Congregation**. The Apostolic Plan of the Congregation is along these lines.

Perhaps it is not so difficult to imagine, in the year that is beginning, that we can recreate ourselves, and begin to live with new enthusiasm and renewed drive... Is that not what we propose when we receive the sacrament of Penance, or during the annual Retreat, or if we begin a new project, open a community, or begin another task?

Mission, as we have said many times, is not a pastoral task, nor a work, nor an apostolate that we do, but the whole of our life that has been consecrated to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary on the day of our profession. We are all missionaries by vocation and by commitment.

Mission is to teach in school, to take care of the children in the courtyard and to accompany them during lunch. It is also meeting with young people, catechesis in the parish, visiting a sick person, and the listening to a person who asks to speak to us. Mission is community life, our relationships, and the way we care for one another. Mission is the silent and hidden Adoration that we make in the chapel, the prayer from our sick bed, and the limitations that come with the years or the pains of a worn out body, welcomed and associated with the reparatory gesture of Jesus Christ. Our life, until its last minute, is mission.

How do we recreate it? Certainly, first of all is attitude. To believe that it is possible because the Spirit who leads everything is the one who makes all things new, and only requires our docility and our commitment. The first thing is hope. And then, to heed the inner call that invites us to witness to God's love in everything. To appreciate small gestures. The hand outstretched, the time given, the smile offered... the tiny good deeds done by many people are those that will change the world.

To recreate is to create from above. We have the testimony of so many who before us were fashioning our SS.CC. life. At the beginning, our founders who with creativity and dedication formed communities for mission; and then the thousands of sisters and brothers who gave themselves in prayer and work. And we have, as our main input, a spirituality that is born of the Heart of God, and invites us to compassion, mercy and love. Which is what today's world needs most.

What must change in us, so that surrender, passion and commitment may be new? *“You have already been told what is right and what the Lord wants of you: only this that you act justly, that you love tenderly and that you walk humbly with your God”* (Micah 6:8).