

INFO SS.CC. SISTERS N°75 – OCTOBER 21TH, 2020



Dear Sisters,

It is a fact that no religious congregation has ever been born outside the Church. And although some express their ecclesial commitment more openly in the definition of their charism or a by a vow, all are integrated from the beginning into the mission of the Church they wish to serve and in which they carry out their own mission.

Our Congregation is no exception, and the history of our origins proves it. The decision of the seminarian Coudrin to continue his priestly vocation despite the difficulties of the moment, denotes his commitment to the Church. His ardent zeal for the clandestine ministry with the inherent risks, confirms this. The Good Father was very clear that the community that was coming into being should “be of service to the Church”, as he expressed it several times. He himself, sensitive to the most urgent ecclesial needs, dedicated much of his time to the formation of the clergy who were greatly diminished by the effects of the revolution.

The Good Mother, on the other hand, was imprisoned for sheltering refractory priests who were persecuted, which also speaks of her sense of Church and her commitment to it. But I do not want to fail to recall that Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, central to our spirituality, has an undeniable ecclesial connotation since it is a true ministry of the Church. Eucharistic and Reparatory Adoration, which we carry out in our oratories, although it is expressed as a personal and communitarian practice, belongs to the Church for which we are delegates. It is undeniable that our mission as a Congregation is closely linked, from the beginning, to the mission of the Church.

This issue of INFO invites us to look at the mission we carry out in our pastoral commitment to the local church. The testimonies that we will read show us the sisters who live in a neighbourhood, town or parish, participating in the different common activities, putting their abilities at the service of the

parish and neighbourhood life. They listen, accompany, visit..., integrate themselves into certain groups and care for people in various ways.

There is in this a call to be good neighbours in disadvantaged sectors of the population, which has its source in the Church with insertion communities. It is an area of pastoral presence that we can carry out until a very advanced age and it requires nothing more than having developed throughout life, solidarity and concern for others, kindness and welcome, and above all the sensitivity to recognize in anyone a brother or a sister whom I can serve. For a long time we were called “mothers”. And I believe that spiritual motherhood has a particularly important fruitful meaning for many. However, it seems to me that what best defines our vocation in today's context is that of being “sisters”.

Pope Francis has strongly marked his papacy with the dimension of Encounter by calling believers to experience a Church on the move. In his recent encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, he revealed his dream of universal brotherhood. Let us continue to walk the paths of encounter as sisters of those who need love, companionship, care, ... in the hope that one day the dream will become a reality.

Affectionately,