



Dear Sisters,

We are starting a new cycle of INFO after the evaluation carried out, the result of which we shared in the previous issue. We decided to publish the INFO every two months, and to dedicate the next issues to the ss.cc. Community in its different dimensions.

First, let us say that one of the most important milestones in the history of the Congregation is the moment when the ss.cc. Apostolic Community was defined, taking distance from the previous monastic scheme. Important changes took place at different paces as is always the life of groups. Small communities left the convents and inserted themselves into the popular world. Lifestyles underwent reforms, new terms were adopted, relationships changed, priorities shifted, and other schedules and structures were adapted to the new realities. Thus, the ss.cc. Apostolic Community was established as described at the 1994 General Chapter. It will do us no harm to reread what was said there and see that it is still valid today.

This issue is dedicated to community life, an essential aspect of the ss.cc. apostolic community and, perhaps, one of its greatest challenges. We asked several sisters to speak to us about their experience. We will read their responses to some thought-provoking questions: How do we understand, live and dream of community? What values do we need to strengthen to make it grow? How do we forgive, show mercy, and reconcile with one another? How well do we know and trust one another? How do we deal with differences of age, style, formation, culture, temperament, and others? How do we interact, listen, communicate? Do we adequately integrate interdependence and freedom? Currently when, at all levels, we are working on synodality, we also ask ourselves, what does a synodal Church say to our community relationships? It is important not to theorise too much. We want the experiences of the sisters to make us think and to animate our community life.

We will be able to continue the reflection in the communities, which will undoubtedly help us in a review of our life.

We know that life in community is not easy, that it is a permanent challenge to which we must respond day by day. We also know that we are gathered in community by faith in the same Lord who called us, and that what unites us is the vocation we share. This starting point for any reflection is the framework without which we cannot speak of community in religious life.

We will also find two testimonies experienced during this time. Two sisters, who have recently celebrated their silver jubilee, share their joy with us. We hope that the enthusiasm of Anastasia Puji (Indonesia) and Cristina Angel (Colombia) will be a contribution to our own renewal.

We end this issue with a theme for Ongoing Formation. An extract from a reflection by the Spanish theologian Ianire Angulo, Handmaid of the Most Holy Eucharist and of the Mother of God, who offers us a very up-to-date look at female religious life.

Warmest regards