

INFO SS.CC. SISTERS N°26 – MAY 20TH 2015

LIFE-GIVING COMMUNITIES ROOTED IN THE GOSPEL



In a few days we will celebrate the great Feast of Pentecost. The whole Church and we within it, are preparing for it with faith, love and prayer, to relive the experience of welcoming the power of the Spirit who comes to recreate our life and mission, *“they were all filled with the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 2: 4).

The coming of the Holy Spirit on Mary and the Apostles gathered in prayer, transformed their lives and they became missionary disciples. They began to reveal what the Lord had entrusted to them: the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus to all people, bearing witness to his resurrection with courage. The first Christian communities were a clear witness to the power of the Risen Lord in their midst.

“they were all filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2: 4)

Like the first disciples, we, too, are called to live in the Spirit and to bear witness to the love of the Risen Christ in our midst. Just as it was for the first communities, today the Spirit urges us to build communities revitalized by Jesus and His Word. Communities who make the merciful love of God visible. Life-giving communities, who want and seek to be the ongoing “incarnation” of the feelings and attitudes of Jesus.

The whole Congregation has reflected on the evangelical and charismatic values that must revitalize our SS.CC. life and mission. All the sisters and communities have identified with these values that characterize us and give us identity. We are aware that are values that have to accompany us throughout the restructuring process we are experiencing, and even more, they must accompany us throughout our consecrated life; but it would be good to ask ourselves how we experience these values in our everyday life? In this work of revitalizing our life and mission,

Communities who make the merciful love of God visible

what place do we give to the Spirit? Does our community life have sufficient “charm” and joy to draw attention and to seduce?

In our personal, community and missionary life, we need to give more room for the Spirit and the Gospel, so that our “being and doing” are according to the Heart of God. It is not enough to believe in a God who is life and life in abundance, we need to express and recreate it in our everyday lives. God needs us to manifest him, to be his “Face” in the world, so that life and love may thrive and are a blessing for everyone, especially for those whose lives are threatened.

Our “chapter decisions” call us to “*choose life*” at all levels; they call us to be communities which generate life, which create communion and peace .In order to “choose life” we need to allow ourselves to be met and captured by it. Only an encounter with Jesus and continual reference to his Word, will allow us to know, accept, assume and generously share it.

God needs us to make himself known, to be his “Face” in the world

To be Life-giving evangelical communities, is not something innate or spontaneous, it presupposes and requires us to enter into communion with the source of Life, “*I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing*” (Jn 15:5). Jesus invites us to a personal relationship with Him, Jesus is the only author of life, the one who carries the sap and holds the branches together. Within the branches and vines there is a communion of life, thanks to the vine the branches remain united, they are nourished, grow and bear fruit.

In light of these words of Jesus, the call is clear. We need to take care of our personal and community life, to always remain united in the Lord, to continue to experience and to give abundant fruit. If we are sufficiently united to him, if the sap is flowing through our lives, if that is what nourishes us, that makes us strong and full of evangelical zeal, then and only then, will our communities bear fruit that generates life.

“a community” that welcomes the Life of God

Our communities will allow the treasure they carry within to be seen, the best of themselves, the authentic, which builds and creates communion. “*By this will they know that you are my disciples, if you love one another*” (Jn 13: 35).

Our Congregation is called to be “a community” that welcomes the Life of God:

- Building bridges for dialogue and mutual acceptance in a wounded and divided world. It carries hope, builds justice, love and peace.
- Experiencing the joy of love that is woven within, thanks to the family spirit and communion that nourishes it.
- Experiencing the prophetic dimension of forgiveness and reparation, building reconciled communities where communion, joy and self-giving are reborn. It is an artisan of peace and reconciliation.
- Helping the strength of unity to be greater than isolation, individualism, selfishness and indifference.
- Relinquishing the old, to welcome the new life that the Word offers every day and allowing oneself to be transformed by it.
- Feeling loved and forgiven, with all members having “one Spirit” that encourages and revitalizes, calls and sends.

Experiencing the prophetic dimension of forgiveness and reparation

- It is “the place of the free mercy, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live according to the Good Life of the Gospel” Father Francisco.
- Having the inner depths of mercy, taking care of life and being in solidarity with the pain of our brothers and sisters, especially the most wounded. Being creative in the mission.
- Having your doors open to new calls, welcoming the newness and surprises of the God of Love, and to be committed generously to the building the kingdom of Jesus.

We have received this “happy mission”, let us be faithful to it, by being faithful to the Lord and to our SS.CC. charism and spirituality.

May the Spirit of God fill us with His love and wisdom, may we allow ourselves to be revitalized by Him, for from Him and with Him, may we be builders of life-giving evangelical communities in our everyday world and in the process of the Congregation that the Providence God asks us to live.

“Happy Feast of Pentecost”