

INFO SS.CC. SISTERS N°53 – MARCH 20TH 2018

## SS.CC WOMEN AVAILABLE FOR THE KINGDOM



We are concluding the Lenten season, where the Lord invited us to revise and renew our life by opening ourselves to his Word; an invitation to look inside, to strengthen our faith and to trust in Him who walks by our side; an invitation to conversion, to live fully the Passover of Jesus, the passage from death to life, from darkness to light, from sin to grace.

In the context of Easter, where Jesus gives his life for his people and gives it fully for Love, each one of us is called to evaluate: Am I open to giving my life for the Kingdom. Conversion is what allows us to recover inner freedom, making us fully open to give our lives for others, especially for the poorest.

**Am I open to giving my life  
for the Kingdom?**

Surrendering life as Jesus did is not easy, however, we are called to do that, *“Unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains alone, but if it dies, it produces much fruit”* (Jn 12: 24).

**Each of us are  
consecrated to the Lord  
“... in whose service I  
wish to live and die”**

Everyone likes to produce fruit, but we like it to be our way, not in the way of Jesus, in spite of the fact that we have chosen to follow the Master and take on his destiny. His word is clear: *“whoever wants to serve me, let him follow me and where I am, there shall my servant be also”* (Jn 12: 26), *“whoever wants to follow me must take up his cross and follow me”* (Mt 16:24).

Each of us are consecrated not to belong to ourselves, but to belong to the Lord. This is what we publicly affirm on the day of our profession, of our consecration to the Sacred Hearts *“... in whose service I wish to live and die”*. Therefore, we know to what we have committed ourselves. We have been given a charism, not for ourselves, but to *“be useful to the Church”* (GF), to collaborate in the Mission of God.

*“To have a heart ready to serve has to “be” conformed to the Heart of God. To be conformed to the Heart of God you have to search His Word. To find his Word, you must seek to be in constant communion with him. Being in conformity with his Heart can only be achieved if you look for it day by day, trying to do what his Word says” (Anonymous).*

The Lord, through his Word, invites us to listen attentively to his voice, to be his disciples and to walk along the path where He wants to guide us, *“Listen to my voice, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk the path I have indicated to you and all will be well with you”* (Jer 7:23). Listening carefully to the voice of God, means being available, strengthening our creativity to listen to his voice through the Word and the contemplation of events. This also means our place before God, before others, before history, before the environment daily. And only in light of this attentive listening, can we give an open, creative and generous response.

**Let us not allow the missionary zeal so loved and experienced by our Founders to move us away, to cool or to extinguish us.**

Being available for the Kingdom is to be disciples, to be women who follow and walk with Jesus. Being available for the Kingdom, in community and with other committed agents and creators of communion in the Church. In communion with the missionary disciples of the Church, we want to be collaborators and builders of the Kingdom of God, in a world in need of: peace, justice, forgiveness, mercy, unity ... being *“Totally available for the service of the Kingdom in a world wounded by sin, we become by the witness of charity and apostolic involvement, a presence and instrument of communion ...”*(Const 39).

Being availability for the Kingdom is not easy and, precisely because of that, it is a sign of the Kingdom. That is why, as Pope Francis insists, we need an *“apostolic conversion”* to allow ourselves to be *“surprised by the Spirit”*. Let us not allow the missionary zeal so loved and experienced by our Founders to move us away, to cool or to extinguish us. The Spirit invites us to rekindle the fire and missionary zeal in our hearts as did the apostles, the prophets, our founders ... to give a joyful witness in the service of the Gospel.

**Availability helps us to drop fears, justifications, assurances and entrust ourselves to Divine Providence**

Being availability is that beautiful attitude that leads us to think less about ourselves, to think more about others: those who wait for us, those who are at the frontiers of life ... Availability helps us to drop fears, justifications, assurances and entrust ourselves to

Divine Providence as did our Founders. We also have the example of so many sisters who have preceded us and who have left us a testimony of availability and dedication. We still have other examples in our communities, sisters who are for us a testimony of fidelity, availability, unconditional surrender..., sisters who, with their testimony of life and prayer, continue to collaborate in the Mission of God.

Let us ask Mary to infect us with her pressing need to go out to proclaim the Good News, the one she carried inside her, as she did in the Visitation; let us guide and accompany her, so that our encounters with the lives of others are truly humanizing life encounters. May we make the words of Saint Teresa of Avila: *“I am yours, for you I was born: what do you want me to do?”* as well as the words of Charles de Foucauld: *“Father, I place myself into your hands ... for I love you and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands without reserve, with a boundless confidence because You are my Father.”*

May we open our hearts this Easter to hear the voice of the Risen Christ, who invites us to proclaim his Love and Mercy to a world in need of compassion and reparation.

*Happy Easter*