

INFO SS.CC. SISTERS N°59 – MARCH 20TH 2019



*Our commitment  
can change  
the world:  
Humanize Life (I)*

Dear Sisters,

The first of the priorities of the Apostolic Plan of the Congregation that we are implementing is the commitment to the poor and the vulnerable. We want our mission to be focused especially on the victims of societies that are discriminated against, on those who are cornered on the margins, on the abandoned who have no one to defend or care for them, on those deprived of freedom, etc.

We do not have to make too much of an effort to find in the Gospel the attitude and teaching of Jesus in this regard. We can remember the blind man from Jericho who was at the edge of the road, the paralytic who was brought to him on his stretcher, the woman with a haemorrhage who suffered for many years with her illness, and so many others: lepers, those who were blind, demoniacs, the sick, the sad... Jesus was always sensitive to people's pain, and when the occasion arose he delivered them from their suffering, put them on their feet again and reintegrated them into the community from which they were often separated. Moreover, when he wanted to teach his disciples, he described very extreme situations, such as that of the wounded man abandoned on the road, in the parable of the Good Samaritan, or that of the poor Lazarus ignored by the rich man. Thus, Jesus showed the attitude that his followers should have towards suffering and needy people.

Our reparative spirituality necessarily leads us to face the realities of pain, injustice, violence, and any situation that needs to be restored. The witnesses who have preceded us, beginning with our founders, and continuing with Damien, Eustachio, and so many others more who are anonymous, whom we have known in congregational life, who have shown us how simple care, close support, accompaniment in pain, give dignity, peace, raise and renew the lives of suffering people.

We cannot forget that the Congregation made its own, and gave priority to the option for the poor in its 1979 Chapter. Certainly, our life and mission bear this seal, and everything we do follows this line: we form children and young people so that they are in solidarity with the weakest, we awaken sensitivity for the marginalized, our social projects seek to alleviate in part the harm done to many...

but we find ourselves today with new forms of poverty and vulnerability, which always ask of us a little more.

In this time of Lent, Pope Francis has invited us to “work” for our conversion. It is a special time to look at our attitudes, our commitments, our personal and community choices. Let us ask ourselves every day if we have looked with more attention, with more interest and care at the people we meet along the way, so as not to miss their need. If we have prayed more strongly for those who need it most; if we have really taken an interest in those who suffer...

Let us seek with determination and commitment if we can do more than we do to alleviate some pain, to accompany and help someone, to be where the Lord needs us and to love in his name the poor and the vulnerable.

With love,