

INFO SS.CC. SISTERS N°76 – NOVEMBER 24TH, 2020

SOCIAL PROJECTS



**OUR
COMMITMENT
CAN IMPROVE
THE WORLD**

Dear Sisters,

When the disciples said to Jesus, “Send the people away to the surrounding towns and villages to look for food and drink...”, they had a very reasonable attitude. There were many people and they were in an uninhabited place. However, Jesus surprised them with his answer: “Give them something to eat”. And the text ends even more surprisingly: “and they all ate their fill” (Lk 9:12-17). There are several interpretations and comments on “the multiplication of the loaves”. But the primary teaching for us today is that we must not neglect the basic needs of the people. We must be attentive and “keep alive the commitment to the most vulnerable people at all stages of our life”, as our Apostolic Plan says (CAP p. 18 No. 1).

In this issue of INFO we will find a sample of the Social Projects of the Congregation: literacy, education and formative activities, homes and shelters, etc. All this is part of our pastoral options, an important contribution for many people of different ages and conditions, and a valuable experience of growth for us.

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When the Good Mother founded houses, her “pastoral” priority (we could say today) was the “free school”, which took in girls with insufficient financial resources, at a time when education in France was not guaranteed for all. Thus, many girls from the working class had access to training that enabled them to plan a better life. Heirs to this concern, we have developed, as part of our mission, different ways of meeting the needs we see around us. The social projects that we have are our way of not ignoring the concrete needs that we see around us. And it is our evangelical response to the command of Jesus: “Give them something to eat”.

It is true that “helping the poor with money must always be a temporary solution to resolve emergencies”, Pope Francis reminds us in his recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti* (162). For this reason, as we will see in the testimonies that the sisters give, each of the projects that they present to us is oriented towards the promotion of people so that there may come, with their work and their efforts, to provide themselves with bread, clothing, education, health, ... And this is the challenge, each time.

The miracle of Bethsaida meant that everyone ate "until they were full". Did Jesus invent loaves and fishes, out of nothing? Did he get people to share what each one had in his backpack? The sisters who work in the social projects know that every day is a miracle. Let us live in the hope that the miracles that transform hearts and make solidarity grow in the world will multiply, because we well know that the goods of the earth are sufficient for all.

Affectionately,