

Council of the Congregation 2020 - 2021



Dear Sisters,

The Plan that the Government is presenting to you in July 2019 is a Council of the Congregation that was planned for September 2020 in Chile. The pandemic, about which we have already spoken a lot, changed our plans, and we decided to replace it with a virtual meeting, with one session per month from September 2020 to June 2021. Along the way we made some adjustments, and we finally had 12 sessions lasting about 3 hours each.

In accordance with our internal rules, the participants were: the general government, the zonal governments, the general administrator, and the coordinator of Initial Formation. We were also accompanied by a member of the General Government of the brothers, as a guest and a witness to the communion that we must always maintain, sisters and brothers, so as to be faithful to our founders.

We had a programme of topics that included three formation sessions on leadership, a reflection session on the abuse of power in the Church, and other sessions to share life on such important aspects as the structure that currently governs us *ad experimentum*, the economic situation, the implementation of the Apostolic Project of the Congregation and Initial Formation. Finally, we ended with three closing sessions to gather all that we had worked on along the way.

Our motto was ***“Wait for the Lord, be brave, be courageous, wait for the Lord”***, but perhaps we did not take much pleasure in it. We found some difficulties in the duration and timetable of each session, which caused us to adapt some things and focus more on each specific theme. Even so, remembering it allows us to enter into the spirit that moved us from the beginning. Our intention

was clearly to encourage each other with this verse from Psalm 27, trying to recreate our hope from the only source that can keep our spirits up despite the difficulties we have all known at this time.

This issue of INFO is intended to inform all the sisters about the content of the Council of the Congregation, by giving an account of the main reflections and agreements reached at the meeting. (The original documents are with the Coordinators if anyone would like to see them). We hope to be able to transmit to you, as faithfully as possible, what we experienced and to pass on to you the joy and hope that came out of our sharing and which was expressed with much gratitude in the final evaluation.

As a theme for reflection for this month, we also propose that we turn to the person of Mary, the mother of Jesus, with the three titles that have been so dear to us since the beginning of the Congregation: The Heart of Mary, to whom we are consecrated, Our Lady of Peace, who has always presided over every new beginning, and Our Lady of Mercy, renowned for her favours and graces.

Let us ask Mary to continue to be our teacher in following her Son Jesus, our protector in times of difficulty, and our intercessor before the Father.

Warm greetings.