



Dear Sisters,

Back again in Rome, after the canonical visitation in Spain, I hasten to write this letter for the November INFO, which you will receive rather late. This issue closes the presentation of the Latin American Zone, with the Territory of Chile-Paraguay. We will recall the arrival in Valparaíso from France and the first foundations in America; the arrival in Paraguay from Spain and the expansion in the country. Nothing was ever free of difficulties, and everything speaks to us of search, availability, audacity, and dedication. We are also going to meet the reality of today, with the sisters who maintain our presence in these countries, heirs of the first impulses; and there will also be the challenges and dreams of the present, in a world so different but equally in need of God, of mercy, of reparation...

We will be able to discover, with joy, that the Congregation has clarity in its choices, and that it has continued because it has been able to adapt to the new times. We will see, once again, that women and the poor are at the centre of every community we begin. That we are increasingly sensitive to the care of the planet, our common home, and that we have learned to look for the other faces of

poverty in migrants who come from rural areas or who cross borders and are rejected, exploited and even sold as merchandise.

We will also be able to see that fragility has always been a hallmark among us, and the wound through which the Lord can enter to do his work.

We have chosen for this issue to remember Sister Cléonisse Cormier, “foundress in America”, who always accompanied her missionary activity with letters and writings (today difficult to read), but which are full of life, anecdotes and enthusiasm. We are grateful to Sister Maria de los Angeles Corcuera who managed to record Cléonisse Cormier in her book. *“Cléonisse Cormier. Looking at our roots in South America”*, a biography from these writings. May the memory of this pioneer sister who implanted the Congregation in America, increase in us the missionary longing to continue to go wherever the Congregation needs us.

We have begun the season of Advent. A beautiful time that every year invites us to renew the sense of waiting, the value of vigilance, the importance of “come, Lord Jesus”, which we repeat every day in the Eucharist... A time that strengthens our faith and renews the certainty that, despite the difficulties, fears and uncertainties that sometimes threaten us, there is something good that we do not yet know, something better that we have not yet experienced, something that only comes with the Lord into our world, when solidarity, fraternity and peace win the battle against selfishness, indifference, and violence. Hope is always the conviction that a better future is in the making.

May the Lord Jesus help us to continue to hope as we seek the advancement of the Kingdom that He inaugurated.

With affection,