

MISSIONARY COMMUNITY



Dear Sisters,

A few days ago, Aurora and I returned to Rome from India after the canonical visitation of the Asian Territory. We appreciated the welcome of the sisters in the communities of Indonesia, the Philippines and India. And I must admit that, at least for me, I came closer to a very new and different reality that I could appreciate and value in many aspects. It was an interesting, enjoyable, and meaningful experience in each community. We arrived with the joy of having shared the life of our Asian sisters, to have known their missionary works, and to have tasted something of the atmosphere in which they live the charism of the Congregation in their own way. One more example of our diversity.

The INFO that you have just received, closes the cycle on the ss.cc. Apostolic Community that we started in March. It gathers the missionary experiences of sisters from different places in which we see enthusiasm, commitment, passion, zeal,... Each testimony has a message, a question, or opens up an issue that we can take up in personal prayer or community sharing, and enrich our own life of mission. What can I do to make the world a better place? asks Denisse, while Paula ponders ageing as a mission to the end. Mercedes keeps her eyes fixed on the Lord, who reveals the needs of the brothers and sisters, and Inés, with open arms, welcomes the young people. Luz Reyna vibrates with the promotion of Amazonian women, while Martina learns to be barefoot in the face of other cultures and realities. Rocío and her community run to help in the accident that has just happened and accompany the people in the protests to make the company assume its responsibility. Katherine remembers the Good Mother, listening to the cries of the happy girls playing in the playground of the Academy, and Servasa tells us all that her community does for the children, youth, and peasants, convinced that “with our apostolic zeal we continue the mission of our founders in our reality and with our possibilities”.

That is our mission. There is a diversity of apostolates and ministries, but the same Congregation sends us. The ss.cc. apostolic community is a community “inserted in society, in solidarity especially with the poor and marginalised... committed to work for justice..., open to the Spirit and to the signs of the times, seeking the will of God, and consequently taking risks...”. This is how the 32nd General Chapter defined it.

Today, we are in Advent. How important this time can be, if we use it well to nourish hope which is constantly torpedoed by so many problems! We have precious days ahead of us to hope. To hope for peace, justice, universal brotherhood, ... not with naïve eyes that dream of utopias. To wait with a believing gaze, capable of discovering the Lord who comes, who walks among us, who acts through his Spirit who is always present. To wait, because we live in expectation of the Lord's return, who says, in Isaiah's prophecy: “Look, I am going to do something new, it is already springing up, can you not see it? I will make a way in the wilderness, paths in the plain” (Is 43:19).

Let us prepare for Christmas with a heart filled with hope. Let us be agents of hope, among the discouraged, the depressed, the frightened, ... and let us unite on Christmas Eve in thanksgiving for our Congregation.

With affection