



Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel! (1 Co 9, 16)

Dear Sisters,

In January of this year, 2026, Pope Leo XIV convened an extraordinary consistory attended by 170 cardinals from around the world. “I am here to listen,” he told them at the beginning of the meeting, setting a humble and approachable tone and expressing his desire to reflect with them. “You chose me, and I need you to govern,” he is said to have told them after his election.

The meeting focused on two themes: the Synod and synodality as a method and style for the Church’s journey, and evangelization and mission, emphasizing its missionary nature. “We want to be a Church that does not look only at itself, that is missionary, that looks beyond... The Church’s *raison d’être*... is to proclaim the Gospel... to proclaim the kerygma, the Gospel with Christ at its center. This is our mission,” the Pope told them in an impromptu message at the end of the first day.

In keeping with this moment in the life of the Church, as the Pope is defining the direction of his pontificate, we wanted to invite you to reflect on our mission of evangelization, on the strength and boldness of our proclamation, and to ask ourselves how St. Paul’s famous phrase—which gives this INFO its title—resonates within us: “Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel” (1 Cor 9:16).

The Good Father lamented that “the beautiful zeal for the House of the Lord that inspired the Prophet-King is generally unknown today... people no longer even know what the love of God means,” he writes. And he wanted the members of the congregation to be called “guardians,” a name that would constantly remind them “that they must sacrifice themselves out of zeal for the Lord.” He even says that the brothers (and he refers to the sisters as well), “will fail in their most essential vow if they wish to live only for themselves and not work for the salvation of their brothers”¹.

¹ Report by the Good Father regarding the title of Caretakers, December 6, 1816.

No one could deny that evangelization—the explicit proclamation of the Risen Jesus Christ—is the Church’s mission. This is the purpose of catechesis, the liturgy, theology, ministries, Bible study groups, base communities, ... and, of course, witness.

Nor can we forget that religious life belongs to the Church, because it is, in fact, a gift that the Holy Spirit bestows upon her in every age. We therefore accept that this guidance expressed by the consistory is, for us, an invitation, a challenge, and at times, a call to account.

In this INFO, you will find some reflections on our mission. May reading it lead us to ask ourselves: Where do we stand in this? Is the zeal to evangelize in season and out of season alive in us?, as the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy². Do we feel called to proclaim the Word of God in season and out of season with unwavering perseverance even in very adverse circumstances?

Our Congregation was founded to “be of service to the Church.” May the example of our founders, the first missionaries, Damien, Eustaquio, the martyrs, and so many other brothers and sisters who, anonymously and in silence, have left us beautiful testimonies of their lives, keep our hearts burning with zeal for the House of the Lord, just as the Good Father desired.

Affectionately.

² *2 Tim 4, 2.*