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**“ With momentum towards the future
announcing the gospel of charity”**

Dear Sisters, dear Brothers, Family and all Friends!

With hearts full of joy and gratitude, I wanted to put these words to all of you, just at the beginning of the Novena of Our Lady of Safe Keeping, why can we not have a frame more beautiful, more expensive and closer to our charism, that the Feast of Mary, in Tortona, cradle of our Congregation !

Without doubt, even our beloved Founder, St Luigi Orione will share from heaven on the event that i have come here today to open, that is, the official start of the three years of preparation for the celebration of our Centenary of the Foundation, in 2015.

Divine Providence has opened for us the journey to be able to start this three-year period the day August 23, in the context and in the Safe Keeping.

According to the indications of our General Chapter, was immediately formed created the commission for the Centenary (Acts XI CG, Decision 8), which, under the guidance of the General Councilor Sr. M. Bernadeth Martins de Oliveira, has taken to heart with great enthusiasm and responsibility the general programming on these three years that lead us to the Centenary and in particular the preparation of the start of the next day 23 with the initial celebration at Mother House, in the Chapel of the 400 Lire, the animation of the prayer of the Holy Rosary and the Eucharistic celebration at the Sanctuary of the Guard next to Mary and Don Orione, as you can see in the playbill of invitation that you have already received.

In addition, were prepared, to identify this time and to unite us spiritually, a "logo" of the Centenary is a prayer.

The “logo”

The "logo", made public for the first time at the head of this letter wants to help us to make memory, through its simplicity and depth of our identities, our mission and event of 100 years of the Foundation: 1915 / 2015.

"O Missionaries of Charity, you are sisters called from the hand of God to spread the love in the hearts of the sick, the destitute! Oh how well you are called to do: to spread the love, experiencing... go, sown the charity of Jesus Christ with the words, with your works, sacrifice yourselves, make holocaust of your life..."

In these families words of Don Orione we find a perfect synthesis of what is the reason for our existence as PSMC in the Church and in the world. In the "logo" of the Centenary is beautifully represented: the love of God that shines and gushes out from the Cross of Jesus, extends through our lives, in our hands, in our works of mercy and fills the Church with good fruits. The Charity is the tool through which caress and treat the brother, through which to evangelize, through which we can be open to the world and part of it, through which Christ is loved and served in the poor and through which the poor are experiencing the love of Christ and the motherhood of the Church.

The prayer...

The prayer for the Centenary also meant to be a symbol that unifies us us spiritually and get ready to experience this event with a spirit docile to the Holy Spirit, generous in giving of themselves and open to God and to his brethren. It is a tool that, as the "logo", can be used in any initiative during this Triennium that brings us to the centenary.

The prayer is addressed to Divine Providence, because everything that has been made in these 100 years, and everything that could be made, is and always will be his work. It is the Divine Providence which has guided and will guide our steps on the path of goodness, truth and beauty. It is the infinite love of God providential that he has done and will do so through our "littleness", great works.

Only for the trust in Divine Providence we were pushed, with a courage than our forces, to cross with faith the frontiers of Italy, and Europe for *"bringing Christ to the people and the people to the Church of Christ"*.

It is in the hands of Divine Providence that forgive those who trespass against us once again our lives and our works , our present and our future, certain that everything is possible for those who believe and rely on it.

I would like to conclude by thanking all those who are close in this itinerary and who collaborate with such generosity, love and joy to make beautiful and deep the Centenary Celebrations.

I thank all the people who over the years and still today there are at our side and share membership in the Family of Don Orione and our mission. I invite you all to thank, without exception, the Divine Providence inaugurating together the prayer for the Centenary:

Prayer for the preparation of the centenary of our congregation

Divine Providence, that in the infinite thy goodness, you have inspired in San Luigi Orione to give life to the female expression of his charisma, through the Little Missionary Sisters of Charity, we thank you for this ineffable gift bestowed to the Church and the world.

To Thee our praise for the Sisters who, following in the footsteps of the Holy Founder, have lived the history of these 100 years and have worked on the project of the Father, bringing the love of Christ to the poor, the small, more distant from God or more abandoned.

Providential God, help us to live the Centenary of the foundation in creative fidelity to the charism, docile to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit and open to the signs times and places. All of the PSMC, across four continents, they are bearers of the "mercy and the glory" that flow from the Heart of Christ and witness with courage the prophecy of the charity, of communion and service.

Mary, our Mother and Heavenly foundress, take us by the hand and shapes our lives on the life of thy Son Jesus, in the goodness, beauty and truth to bring all the unity in Christ and in the Church. Amen.

May Mary, the Madonna della Guardia, our sweet Mother and Heavenly Foundress, "both the model on the journey of faith and of following Jesus. To her we consecrate the whole of our life, our works, our community"³. To her we entrust our itinerary and all initiatives that will take place in the various provinces and in the places of our presence as PSMC.

Maria takes us by the hand and teach you the docility to the Holy Spirit, so that God may continue to provide in us, as well as in her, the "great things, because Holy is his name and his mercy is for each generation to those who fear him" (Lk 1.49 -50).

For everything and for always: DEO GRATIAS ET MARIAE!

Sr. M. Mabel Spagnuolo
Superiora generale

Roma, Casa generale 17 agosto 2012.