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**MESE
MISSIONARIO
STRAORDINARIO**

Prot. MG 153/19

Subject: **Missionary appeal for Asia.**

"In the footsteps of Christ, and with our gaze fixed on him, made ardent by charity, with a magnanimous heart and great humility, let us go forth to the world to evangelize the poor, ready to sacrifice their lives to bring everyone to Christ and to his Church: "Caritas Christi urget nos" (Const. Art. 75).



Dear Sisters,

We are almost at the end of October, this year called "**Extraordinary Missionary Month**", at the request of Pope Francis. I imagine that in all the communities we will have tried to find the way to live this month in the most enthusiastic and creative way possible. For me too, the month of October was, almost all, lived "in the land of mission", in Ivory Coast, as you have seen from the photos and news that, for some time, I am sending to you in the "In Family" Groups of whatsapp "according to the language (if someone is not receiving it is because I do not have his number, if he wishes I can get it and add it to the group).

I shared days of grace with our Sisters in the Ivory Coast, where, in addition to attending the FDP General Assembly, I experienced and touched the Divine Providence in the mission, which our Sisters carry out in the Reception House "Mother M. Elisa" for disabled children, in the Don Orione Medical Center, in the tailoring school ...but also in the meetings with the children in the Parish, the cordiality and welcome of the local people ... a beautiful experience that rekindled in all of us the Orionine missionary enthusiasm and the hope for the future of this mission. *Deo gratias!*

Now, back in Rome, almost at the end of this month of October, I come to you, first of all to share with you some good news on the development of our missionary presence in Asia.

We, PSMC have raised the tent in the Philippines in 2004, thanks to the intuition of Mother M. Ortensia Turati, then Superior General. Soon several sisters from Brazil, Argentina and Kenya made themselves available, starting with great enthusiasm and love for the Congregation.

The mission developed in the following years, offering medical-nursing assistance to so many poor people who lives in the "*garbage*": children, adults, the elderly, and where infections, sores and other diseases are the daily bread. Also in the Feeding Program apostolate for the care of malnourished children and school support. The Sisters have always been able to combine the care of the faith of the people and evangelization in the service of maternal charity, counting today with groups of children and young missionaries and groups of the MLO. Between 2014 and 2015 a PGV project was implemented, which opened us up to other nations of Asia: Indonesia, Vietnam, East Timor, India, as vocations in the Philippines were beginning to decline.

Immediately the seed of the charism, found fertile ground in the hearts of so many young people eager to offer their lives to Jesus in religious life. Thus, the only house we had at the moment in the Philippines was filled with new and enthusiastic voices and prayers and began to be small... Thanks to the generosity of the Provincial FDP of Italy, Don Aurelio Fusi, and the Council, in 2016, we could be able to buy a house for the postulancy, which has now become the seat of the Novitiate. Meanwhile, the Bishop of Novaliches, succeeded in obtaining our positive response to open, in his Diocese, a

community of blind Sacramentine Sisters. Today, providentially, the house was given to us in perpetual free loan and is no longer tied to the presence of the Sacramentine Sisters.

Currently the challenge we have before us is to extend the tent, because the number of postulants and novices continues to grow and, on 2th February, 2020, we will have the first seven Juniors of this blessed land of Indonesia: Don Orione indonesian!

We need to lunch new apostolic openings! Certainly we have some projects in our hands that, slowly but relentlessly, we are trying to carry forward from the hand of Divine Providence and from the missionary Sisters: an opening in Indonesia, scheduled for the second half of 2020, and the opening of a PSMC community in the Montalban Cottolengo of the FDP, also scheduled for the end of next year, as soon as the construction of the house for the community and the women's department.

So much to thank! So much to work! "The harvest is great, but the workers are few!" Jesus repeats to us. It is true that by now we are already many, but for the time being, Sisters of perpetual vows are lacking to be able to start new apostolic communities and consolidate the initial formation of the young.

For this reason, the second reason for this communication is to make an "appeal" to all the PSMCs:

- to listen to the voice of Jesus who tells us: "*You, follow me!*" (Jn 21:13)...
- to welcome in the heart the voice of Don Orione who tells us: "*Missionaries of charity, you are sisters called by the hand of God to spread charity*"¹...
- to embrace the voice of the Constitutions that tell us: "*the specific missionary vocation, which makes the nun available and ready to leave everything, even the homeland, to go to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the world, be particularly encouraged by us*"²...
- to respond to the voice of the Pope who told us: "*Sisters, be missionaries without borders*"³...

It is true that everything is mission! It is true that the poor are everywhere! It is true that in the Provinces and Delegations are few! But it is even more true that God never lets himself win in generosity and those who "*in His word cast their nets*", never, never remain disappointed and will receive from Him the hundredth one!

Dear Sisters! Those of you, that after praying and reflecting, "*feel*" those voices inside, not be afraid to open the heart, the hands and the mind to "leave", as before, "others" left, and thanks to their love and trust, so many of us today are among the PSMC ranks.

Those of you, junior or perpetual, who hear the call for the mission in the Philippines or in Indonesia, write and send your request directly to me (mabelspagnuolo@gmail.com).

Then, with the General Council and in dialogue with the Provincials or regional authorities, we will make the discernment.

Mary Most Holy, teach us the profound listening of the voice of her Son and docility and readiness to follow, in joy, generosity and availability. I sincerely thank all of you and I pray for those who will respond to this appeal missionary for Asia, following in the footsteps of our beloved Founder San Luigi Orione.

I embrace you fraternally in the Lord and we are always united in prayer.



Sr. M. Mabel Spagnuolo
Sr. M. Mabel Spagnuolo
Superior General

Rome, General House, 26 October 2019.

¹ Don Orione, 5.08.1932.

² Costituzioni PSMC, art. 85.

³ Atti XII Capitolo generale PSMC, pag. 20.