

Piccole Suore Missionarie della Carità (Opera Don Orione) Casa generale Via Monte Acero, 5 – 00141 Roma www.suoredonorione.org

Dearest Sisters!

I thought to send you my first message of greeting just on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, which is so dear to us, so to feel more and more united in walking together. With this same tune our dear Founder Don Orione encouraged us: "May it reign among you, my dear children, that great, sweet and superhuman charity which has always made you all as one heart and one soul. (...) May God remove from us every spirit of pride and vanity, and may it all be for His greater glory. I recommend you the devotion to Jesus in the sacrament, to Jesus crucified and to the adorable Heart of Jesus".¹

Just from the Heart of Jesus, from this inexhaustible source, we can draw the love and ardour to *"Live Christ and make the whole world live of Christ"*. The experience of the XIIIth General Chapter strengthened us in this desire and showed us "the possible step" in order to *be a Samaritan congregation through the prophetic witness of a new way of doing, acting and living.*

With this letter, I would like to thank each one of you for your involvement, closeness and prayers, which made our capitular works very fruitful.

We have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit who guided us, enlightened us and showed us what it is necessary to be outlined for the next sexennium of life of our dear Congregation,.

Each one of you was able to follow the capitular event through our regular communications, which have showed its fraternal climate, its attitude of listening and prayer, its serious work in order to take a step forward in the realization of the great Project of God, that is *Instaurare omnia in Christo*.

At the conclusion of our capitular journey, we welcomed the meeting with Pope Francis as a real gift, together with the words of his message, which will be a light for our future, in order to be more and more "united with Jesus, close to our brothers and sisters and active in the service".²

Now I would like to thank, in a very special way, Mother M. Mabel Spagnuolo for what she has done for the Congregation in the recent years, with such generosity and love. I also thank her for her availability to continue her collaboration for the common good of the Institute and now, as Vice-President of the Union of the Italian Major Superiors (USMI), also for the good of consecrated life under a wider point of view. Together with her, I also thank Sr M. Sylwia Zagòrowska for her faithful and precious mission in the General Council and her witness of religious life.

On behalf of the sisters of the Council, I also want to thank you personally for the several messages of good wishes, closeness and prayer. Your love encourages us to welcome the "baton" and continue our "race" with trust in the Divine Providence.

In these days, we have held our first meeting of the Council, during which I appointed **Sr. M. Françoise Ravaoarisoa** as **Secretary General** of the Institute. In recent years she has shown her great ability and generosity in this delicate service. In addition to this, she will be in charge of the Historical Archive, the Journey of Renewal and the Contemplative Sisters.

¹ August 3rd, 1921; Scritti,62,12.

² Thursday, May 25th, 2023.

In dialogue and discernment, the other different areas were entrusted to the other Councillors:

Sr. M. Rosa Delgado Rocha, Vicar General, is in charge of the Vice-Delegation "Our Lady of the Assumption" (Cape Verde), the ongoing and initial formation, the Communication Office, the Sacramentine Sisters, and she is a point of reference for relationships with ISO (Orionine Secular Institute) and ISMN (Secular Institute Mary of Nazareth).

Sr. M. Irma Rabasa is in charge of the Orionine Groups of Study, Ecumenism, the missions and the Jubilees of religious life.

Sr. M. Gilse Pereira Dias is in charge of the Youth Vocational Pastoral, and Works and Services.

Sr. M. Jòzefa Kalinowska, Bursar General, is in charge of the MLO (Orionine Lay Movement) and the Groups and associations linked to the LMSC General Council.

Now, in the context of the Church experiencing the Synod on synodality, we want to learn and deepen together the proposed style, in order to respond to the challenges of this time. The texts of the renewed Constitutions and the book "Spirituality of the LMSC. Identity-Communion-Mission" will be of help in this journey.

In July, the post-capitular commission composed of M. M. Mabel Spagnuolo, sr. M. Rosa Delgado and sr M. Irma Rabasa will work to elaborate the text of the Minutes of the XIIIth General Chapter.

The Minutes will be immediately translated and printed in the various languages and, after the communication of their date of entry into force, they will be presented and delivered to each LMSC, in the particular way which may be decided by the Provincial and Delegation Superiors.

On past June 12th, we had a beautiful meeting with the General Council of the Sons of Divine Providence and, together with the whole Charismatic Family, we will try to bear witness to unity and love for the Pope and the poor.

We all feel that it is now beginning a very important stage in which, through the Assemblies of Planning, we will try to embody what the Spirit desires from our Congregation.

We are confident. The words of Don Orione quoted by Mons. Guido Marini during the opening homily of the Chapter still resound in our hearts: "Your things will go well if you have <u>more love for God, more love for God more love for God</u>."^{*}.³

Let us seek this "more love for God" in the adorable Heart of Jesus who knows us and knows that we are fragile, but He also knows that we trust Him, and united with Him, we want to be joyful and trusting instruments of His grace, to bring His light and His love in the world.

May the Blessed Virgin, our Heavenly Mother and Foundress, help us to be "mothers in charity" and may St. Luigi Orione intercede for us from Heaven.

United to each one in prayer and fraternal affection, I also greet you on the behalf of the General Councillors.



Sr. M. Alicja Keokiora

Sr M. Alicja Kędziora Superior general

Rome, General House, June 16th, 2023. Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

³ February 7th, 1923; *Scritti*, 4,258.