



Piccole Suore Missionarie della Carità
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Prot. MG 20/23

Re: presentation and entry into force of the Minutes of the XIIIth GC

Dearest Sisters!

On the solemnity of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven, so dear to all of us, on this same day in which so many of us have given our lives to God through the profession of religious vows and have decided to collaborate, like Mary, in his Project of salvation, I'm writing to each one of you to present you the document of the **Minutes of the XIIIth General Chapter**, and to announce the date of their entry into force: **August 29th, 2023, feast of Our Lady of the Guard.**

"Let us ask the Blessed Virgin today..."

We are all receiving this precious text which will accompany our Institute's life for the next six years from the same hands of Mary, who keeps protecting us and caring within us the gift of baptism and religious consecration.

Writing from America for the feast of Our Lady of the Guard, Don Orione encouraged his sons and daughters to *"ask the Blessed Virgin"* for the gift of *"dying to ourselves in order to live for Christ"* and make our lives a gift pleasing to God and to people:

"Forward, forward doing good, my children, always forward, even if it were per ignem et aquam! (through fire and water). Forward singing, always keeping your eyes and heart on God. – Let us love everyone! Let us always do good, and do good to everyone, standing humble and faithful at the feet of the Holy Church of Rome, Mother and Teacher.

This, oh my children, let us ask the Blessed Virgin today: to die to ourselves in order to live for Christ: to live the charity of Christ, to make our life a holocaust of love for God and for people, in the hands of Mary, our Mother and our heavenly Foundress" (Writings, 91, 281).

To her, to Mary Most Holy, let us entrust our vocation and the desire to live our new sexennium according to the indications we are receiving through the Minutes of the XIIIth General Chapter.

"The Chapter, a strong time for dialogue among yourselves and with the Holy Spirit"

Thus wrote Pope Francis in the message addressed to the participants of the XIIIth General Chapter. In fact, it was a strong time for dialogue right from the first steps proposed to the Congregation by the previous General Council.

The Pope told us that it is necessary to come out of this *"strong time"* renewed *"first in the heart, then in initiatives and structures"*. The Spirit is driving us to the renewal of our heart.

We are aware that the *Piccola Opera della Divina Provvidenza* (Little Work of Divine Providence), which today we call the Orionine Charismatic Family, was raised up by the Holy Spirit to participate actively in God's plan in order to renew all humanity in Christ. Only a heart in continuous renewal can conceive and realize it. With a heart in love with Christ, Don Orione felt it strongly and transmitted the hope of victory: *"A new era is opening: an era of faith, justice and love of humanity*

in the maternal arms of the Holy Church of Christ, united and true! (...) ...and humanity, renewed in Christ, will await the divine sign for a new path!" (Writings, 114, 262).

This is our ultimate purpose, which will drive us to accept the Minutes and to take the *"possible step"* for us today, with a continually renewed heart.

We know that humanity is living a particularly delicate moment. The old system of the world is dying and a new one is humbly being born, redeemed by the blood of Christ: *"The Blood that Christ shed on the earth is the seed of a new humanity whose character and life is and must be the love of God and people; with no regard for himself. It is necessary that this new humanity grow, multiply, run like a giant the high ways of God, fill the earth by adhering to the truth in order to give life to everyone. Everything must be linked back to Jesus Christ"* (Writings, 111, 99).

This is our challenge: to renew our heart, to live Christ and *"link back everything"* to Him. This initiatory process will take place in each one of us as long as we allow it. Personal commitment is fundamental along this journey.

Indeed, we will find the incentive for work on a personal level in the four thematic cores of the Minutes: *"Passion for Christ and for humanity"*, *"Prophecy of fraternity and communion"*, *"Missionary ardour and prophecy for the challenges of the world"* and *"Charismatic Family"*, in the Lines of Action and in the concrete proposals of implementation. We are aware that change depends on the conversion of the heart. Only at a second stage can it be achieved *"in initiatives and structures"*.

The basic texts to strengthen our identity

As a gift for this new sexennium, we will also be receiving the renewed edition of the Constitutions and of the General Norms. These are texts that, studied and meditated on, will allow us to understand and live our charismatic identity more deeply. We have also finally published the book on the *"Spirituality of the Little Missionary Sisters of Charity. Identity-Communion-Mission"*, which will help us to live our vocation in the context of the Church-communion, the Church on its synodal journey.

And then, the 11 Lines of Action and the 14 Decisions on other topics, are a clear voice of the Holy Spirit to live our mission in a more incarnate way today, in order *"to be a Samaritan Congregation through the prophetic witness of a new way of doing, acting and living"*.

In these Minutes we will find particular attention to Formation, in order to be consecrated women with a strong *"evangelical sensitivity"*, joyful witnesses of Christ's charity; to the quality of our life of prayer and fraternal life in community in order *"to be women, sisters and mothers to build healthy and healing communities"*; to our missionary spirit to be *"missionaries with a Samaritan heart"*; to the Sacramentine Sisters and their new configuration integrated with the missionaries; to our elderly and sick Sisters; to our elderly or sick parents; to young people, so that they may be at the heart of our mission; to digital media; to the field of finances and administration; to communion in the Charismatic Family, etc. All the texts are very important and express what God expects of us today through congregational discernment.

A particular light for us is also coming from the speech of Pope Francis, who strongly encouraged us to take care of the union with God, of our fraternal bonds and of the service to those most in need with a maternal style: *"May your homes and places of service be full of motherly warmth!"*.

In each Province, Delegation and Vice-Delegation a special Celebration will be held for the delivery of this Document and a moment of formation will be organized for the presentation and knowledge of the Lines of Action and Decisions present in the Minutes of the XIIIth General Chapter.

The Decisions of the Chapter will be further object of discernment and implementation in the *Planning Assemblies*, which will be held by the end of February 2024. You will shortly receive my letter of convocation to these Assemblies with the dates for each Province, Delegation and Vice Delegation and some methodological orientations according to Decision 2, # 99 of the Minutes.

To Mary, docile to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit, Mother par excellence and good Samaritan for humanity, we entrust the journey of the new sexennium, which we have just begun. Protected and guided by Her, we can hope to boldly respond to the new challenges that may come along our way. With Don Orione and trusting in his intercession we say: "*Caritas Christi urget nos!*"

I greet you all also on behalf of the General Councillors, and I wish you a good personal and communitarian journey. I entrust the service and life of the new General Council to your prayers.

Your sister,



Sr M. Alicja Kędziora
Sr M. Alicja Kędziora
Superior general

Tortona, Mother House, August 15th, 2023.
Solemnity of the Assumption