

CLOSING OF CHAPTER 2021

Dear Sisters,

We are coming to the end of the 20th General Chapter, which we can consider "special" for several reasons.

With God's grace and the indispensable contribution of so many people, we have been able to reach this point.

For this reason, my first word is THANK YOU.

THANK YOU to the interpreters who made it possible for us to communicate with each other.

THANK YOU to Matthieu and the Preparation Committee who have worked tirelessly for months.

THANK YOU to Puvana and Monika Kopacz who have worked so hard behind the scenes.

THANK YOU to Annie for the information shared and to the Sisters of the Secretariat and the General House Community.

THANK YOU to all the Sisters who faithfully participated in the proposed activities and above all who supported us with their prayers.

THANK YOU to the Council Teams for accompanying and stimulating the participation of the communities during this long process.

THANK YOU to the members of our Charismatic Family and to our families and friends who have prayed for us.

THANK YOU to each one of you for your participation, for what you have contributed so far and for what you will continue to do as your responsibility as leaders continues.

A special THANK YOU to Kumudinie, Eithne, Micheline and Maria Dolores, who are leaving the Council, and thank you to Geni and Malinie who are continuing. My gratitude to each of you is immense for your dedication, responsibility and great self-forgetfulness for the good of the Institute and the Family. For me you have been Sisters and companions in whom I have trusted and in whom I have always found support in all the situations we have lived through together. We continue to count on you wherever you are sent.

THANK YOU to Marian and Bernadette who were also part of the Council for some time.

THANK YOU and welcome to Georgine, Jesmin, Christa and Malini for accepting the service of leadership.

The Chapter ends and a new and much more demanding stage of the process begins for the whole Institute: to bring to life and put into practice what we have decided together. What is a point of arrival is at the same time a point of departure.

May we have the courage and determination to make the urgent changes we need at personal, community and group levels. Everything can change if we change. Transformations happen if we allow ourselves to be transformed by God, by others and by the cries, we hear from the reality of the Church, the world and the Planet.

We have before us the opportunity to take a collective leap to bring about the transformation we need at this moment in our history.

We are a "body" and, therefore, we are interdependent. We are all involved, we are all responsible for building the future that we desire and that humanity needs, demands and expects.

Let us nourish the flame of the Charism so that it burns more brightly, illuminates and warms our lives, as we walk the same paths with the men and women of today. Let us be bearers of hope and solidarity that creates and strengthens bonds of communion in the Church and in society marked by so many conflicts and divisions.

God's dream for humanity is that "we may have life in abundance" and that we may live who we are: children and brothers and Sisters. We are all God's one family.

We are ending the Season of Advent. Let us say with Mary and Joseph: "Come Lord Jesus". Come and give us the joy of your Presence and hope in the steadfast love of God who has worked, and will continue to work in us, with all our fragility, to create "the new heaven and a new earth" that we all long for.

Today, we recommit ourselves to collaborate with God who wants to "gather together his scattered children", in the footsteps of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Ana María ALCALDE

Rome, 20 December 2021