

16 COMMUNITY WORK

SONG: (Women on the way – Ain Karem)

So many lives unite us
of the past and the present,
sustained by the sap
(2nd time: encouraged by the dance)
of the Spirit of God!
intertwining women

experiences and paths,
wise, brave,
the women of your town;
(2nd time: my town)
faithful, constant,
rooted in your love

READING OF THE GOSPEL Lk. 22, 24-30.

24. A discussion also arose among them about who should be considered the greatest. 25. He said to them: The kings of the nations tyrannize them and their princes are called benefactors! 26. Among you it shall not be so, but the greatest among you shall be like the youngest, and the one who commands like the one who serves. 27. Indeed, who is greater, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? Isn't he the one who sits at the table? Well then, I am in your midst as the one who serves. 28. You have persevered with me in my trials, 29. and I am going to give you the kingdom as my Father gave it to me, 30. so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

TO MEDITATE

- How many times do I think about whether I am more or less in the community?
- When we exercise service to the Sisters and to the mission, is it not true that many times we think that we are "foolish" for doing so and not that we are imitating Jesus?
- How do I consider the superior, (how do I consider myself if I am superior), as the one who "is at the table" or as the one who "serves"?
- Do I join Jesus in trials to persevere with Him?

CONSTITUTIONS

49. The project of evangelical life lived in common and personally assumed, presupposes among us the presence of a Superior, who, by virtue of the ministry received, is the animator of the community and helps us fraternally to discover the Father's Will.

50. Respect, sincerity, trust and humility are characteristics of our fraternal community and have the strength to be an evangelical witness to our destinaries whose marginalization often stems from broken or poorly constituted families.

TO MEDITATE

1. In my community, do we live the project of evangelical life in common, or is each one on her own?
2. Do we let the superior be the "leader" and see in her final decisions the will of God, or do we live "hardened" and "stuck" in our own ideas?
3. What characteristics does fraternal life have in our community?

FROM THE EXCELLENCES OF FRATERNAL CHARITY (Copied for us by Fr. Tejero)

What can a Congregation that is pleasing to God do if it lives without charity? Lacking this virtue, which is the bond of union, you will see its members disunited; each living by his own spirit, continually censuring the operations of others and setting a bad example for all. Jesus Christ has said: Kingdom divided, kingdom desolate; It is not necessary for anyone to make war on it, because its very individuals will be destroyed and consumed until they reach their end. This is the reason why Fr. Saint Jerome used to say: By this virtue of charity the religious is religious, and if he lacks the monastery it will become a hell, and those who inhabit it become demons who mutually work their own ruin. . Our Holy Father said of his Institute, that it is ours; Without this true union and fraternal charity, the Congregation cannot govern itself, nor preserve itself, nor achieve the purpose that God has proposed when founding it, because those who are continually fighting among themselves will not be able to fight against the world, the devil and the flesh; They won't be able to save souls badly when theirs have such bad avenues.

For this reason Saint Paul, exhorting the Galatians, said to them: If discord, envy and gossip enter among you, know that you walk to your own ruin. And this is precisely what must be feared and guarded against in the Congregation, much more than enemies from outside, because, as Saint Bernard teaches, nothing can harm those who live in true peace and charity within a community. . That is to say: that as long as you all walk very united and sisters, mutually putting up with your own faults and practicing in yourselves the duties of a true fraternal charity; everything that happens to you from outside will only serve for your greater good and growth.

TO MEDITATE

- Which of the things that the Fr. Founder says do we live in my community?
- In which we lazy more?
- How can we be a community that lives in true peace and charity?

FROM THE WRITINGS OF MOTHER DOLORES (Annotations of conscience 1870)

Meditation has given me the fruit that I patiently tolerate the defects of these creatures that God has placed in my care; because his behavior makes me see clearly what I am towards God.

I conceive great desires to be a saint, I make a thousand resolutions and an occasion arrives when self-love or self-judgment take possession of their rights and everything came crashing down. Does God tolerate me? Does he give me new help?, how much that I tolerate them?

TO MEDITATE

- Do I see in the Sisters or the destinaries a sample of what I am for God?
- Does it happen to me like the M. Foundress that, when the moment of the test arrives, everything falls apart?
- Do I understand that the same thing that happens to me happens to my sisters in the community and to the collaborators and destinaries?

WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS (Meeting with Superiors General, 11.24.2013)

“In every family there are problems and thinking or dreaming of a community without brothers in difficulty is not good, because reality tells us that everywhere, in every family, in every human group, there are conflicts. Therefore, conflicts must be accepted.

It is necessary to do as in the parable of the Good Samaritan: do as the priest or the lawyer who sees the conflict and passes by, ignores it? Or do like the fool who goes to the conflict and stays in the conflict? Or rather, you take on the conflict, do what you can, get over it, and move on.

Once, a union leader told me that at the age of 22 he went through a crisis of alcoholism, a depressive crisis that led him to alcoholism. He lived alone, with his widowed mother, very humble. He worked, but when he drank, in the morning he fell asleep and did not go to work at the factory. His mother worked as a laundress. At that time there were no washing machines, or they were rare, clothes were washed by hand, in the houses. He told me that when he was still hung over from wine in the morning, he would see his mother get up, pass by her room before leaving and look at him in a certain way... without saying anything, and she would leave. She looked at him tenderly. This man could not resist the tenderness of his mother and changed his life. He told it himself. Today he is an important person, an important labor leader.

It is necessary to arrive at tenderness, at this way of looking at the brother that is the cause of conflict. Our charity must reach this dimension, he would say, almost maternal tenderness.

Fraternity is something very delicate, very delicate.

I remember a phrase from the hymn of the feast of Saint Joseph, the hymn of the office of readings, in the Argentine text, that reached deep inside my heart. He talked about how to treat, how Saint Joseph treated his family, and he said that Saint Joseph treated his family with the tenderness of the Eucharist. It is a poetic form: treating one's brothers with the tenderness of the Eucharist, the human and the sacred are united. It is a very strong image that can help us.

Therefore, not being afraid of conflict, facing conflict, resolving conflict, accompanying conflict, caressing conflict... accompanying”.

TO MEDITATE

- Do I accept conflict as something that can help me mature and grow?
- Do I practice the “tender gaze” towards my sisters, collaborators and destinaries?
- Am I aware that, in the community, the human and the sacred are united?

SONG: (So Much Love from the group Engunsentia)

And if one day when you wake up the night follows

And if instead of dawn the sun hides

I know that you will be my light and my morning

I know that you will give warmth to my home

And if one day fear drops its anchor

and takes over my life without compassion

I know you will throw it away from my soul

and your strength will bring me peace again

How much love your words spill

and your voice that speaks to my heart

From you I can be born again and trust

that if I fall you will always pick me up.

I feel you among the people

you help me through your love

the hand that reaches out to me
transmits all your warmth to me

How much love...