

## 21 COMMUNITY PRAYER

**MONITION:** We begin with this prayer the third part of the first point of the Chapter Agreements, whose title is: *"Reviving the experience of our charismatic identity and spirituality in the mission."*

When a large number of Sisters have an age and state of health that hinder direct participation in the apostolic works of the Congregation, it may seem to us that, although we do not lose our identity and spirituality, we are losing their experience in the mission.

But, even if there were only one Sister caring for those in need with the love and mercy of our Founders and the prayer of the rest, the Congregation, as a living being and mystical body within the Church, would continue to remain faithful to that founding spirit and charism.

Therefore, in the following works and prayers we will meditate and put in the hands of the Lord how personally, with our work or our prayer; Community, being faithful witnesses of God's love before our recipients and congregationally in fidelity to the charism and spirituality, we are living that charismatic identity and spirituality in mission.

Let us pray that our witness to those around us may be authentic followers of Mother Dolores and Father Tejero, who even in moments of sickness and loneliness lived the charism of mercy.

**SONG:** Give us the entrails of mercy (Maite López)

Give us the entrails of mercy (4 times)

Inspire us with the right gesture  
and word  
in front of the brother alone and  
helpless.  
Help us show us available  
to whom it is exploited (bis)  
or feel depressed.

May your Church, Lord,  
be a real enclosure,  
of justice, of peace, of love, of  
freedom,  
for all to find in us  
Reasons for hope. (bis)

**READING: Lk. 6, 27-36;**

I say to you who listen to me: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; Pray for those who slander you!

To the one who slaps you on one cheek, offer the other as well; To the one who takes away your mantle, give him also the tunic.

Give to whoever asks you, and do not claim to the one who steals yours.

Treat men as you want them to treat you.

If you love those who love you, what merit will you have? Sinners also love those who love them.

And if you do good to those who do it to you, what merit will you have? Sinners do it too.

And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what merit will you have? Sinners also lend to sinners in order to receive from them the same.

But you love your enemies, do good, and lend without expecting remuneration; Thus your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for He is good to the ungrateful and to the wicked.

Be merciful, as your Father is merciful!

## **SILENCE**

### **TO MEDITATE:**

- Am I merciful?
- What merit do I have?

### **READING:** Constitutions 10.

Our Charism, "the works of mercy", lived from the Mystery of Mary's Redemption, commits us to follow more closely Christ who gave himself to the Father for the salvation of the whole world, and especially for the poor and marginalized.

### **READING:** Directory nº 35

In front of these girls and young women we commit ourselves to:

- To offer them love and understanding and to give them a witness of evangelical life,
- Create a Center that resembles as closely as possible a large family,

- Help them in their human and cultural promotion,
- To discover to them their supernatural dimension through education in the faith and the development of human values,
- Provide them with the means for their full incorporation into society.

## SILENCE

### TO MEDITATE:

- Do I live what the Lord, the charism and my commitment commit me to?
- Am I a testimony?, Am I family?, Am I an example?, Do I help?

### READING: Letter from Fr. Torres y Daza to M. Dolores

I do not find it as bad as you that religious consecrated to charity walk down the street exercising the most noble and honorable mission of procurators of their welcomes: if they only went to the street for walks or visits, even so, they should not be censored, because you know that the Sisters of Charity take their welcome people for walks and make the visits that charity or courtesy advise.

Do you not know that a letter, and above all, when it is to ask, does not make the force of a snout that knows how to respond to arguments, vanish difficulties, and present very easily what is difficult.

**It is therefore necessary that you take your habits and go where it is necessary** because it is not a matter that after having been admitted to the chamber of the Bridegroom you cease to give the spikenard its fragrance. No: the "I sat in the shade I desired and its fruit pleased to my palate" stay for the Marys who have taken the best part; but not for those who **have received a vocation to walk to bear fruit and permanent fruit, as Jesus said to his apostles.**

Now you are bound with a closer duty, for the same reason that you made your profession and already have the special grace that God is obliged to give to each one according to his state whose special help you did not count on before. **Today you are the true Mother of those who have been called to you for so long or the bond is tighter, the obligation to take an interest in them more pressing.**

## SILENCE

## **TO MEDITATE:**

- Do I go (have gone) where it was needed? Or do I stay (have stayed) in the shade waiting for the fruit to fall alone?
- Am I the Mother of those who have called me that for so long?
- Are the collaborators and recipients present in my daily prayer?

## **READING:** Rejoice p. 26

The sign of Christ is on our forehead and in our hearts. on our forehead to confess to Him always, and in our hearts to love Him... in our arm to do good", consecrated life is indeed a continual call to follow Christ and to conform ourselves to Him. "The whole life of Jesus, his way of treating the poor, his gestures, his consistency, his daily and simple generosity, and finally his total dedication, everything is precious and speaks to his own life."

The encounter with the Lord sets us in motion, pushes us out of self-referentiality. The relationship with the Lord is not static or intimate: "Whoever puts Christ at the center of his life, is decentered."

The more you unite yourself to Jesus and he becomes the center of your life, the more He makes you come out of yourself, decenters you and opens you to others." "We are not at the center, we are, so to speak, 'displaced', we are at the service of Christ and the Church."

## **SILENCE**

## **TO MEDITATE:**

- Where is my reference point? Am I aware that I am not the center?
- How many times a day do I ask myself how I am?, How many do I wonder how others are?
- Where do I carry the "*sign of Christ*"? Can it be seen in my life, in my way of treating others, in my prayer?

## **SONG:** *Without your Mercy (Fran)*

Without your mercy I can do nothing.

Without your mercy I am nothing.

Lord, without your mercy I can do nothing, I am nothing. Lord.

## **WE SHARE OUR FAITH**

### **OUR FATHER**

**FINAL PRAYER:** (cf. *Santa Faustina*) (Two choirs)

We desire to be transformed into your mercy and to be a living reflection of You, Lord.

May your unfathomable mercy pass through our hearts and souls to our neighbor.

Help us, Lord, that our eyes may be merciful so that we may never suspect or judge according to appearances but seek the beautiful in the soul of our neighbor and come to his aid.

Help us, Lord, that our ears may be merciful so that we may take into account the needs of our neighbors and not be indifferent to their sorrows and groans.

Help us, Lord, that our tongue may be merciful so that we may never criticize our neighbour but may have a word of consolation and forgiveness for all.

Help us, Lord, that our hands may be merciful and full of good works so that we may know how to do good only to our neighbour and to carry upon us the most difficult and painful tasks.

Help us, Lord, that our feet may be merciful so that we may always hasten to help my neighbor, mastering our own fatigue and weariness. May our true rest be in service to others.

Help us, Lord, that our hearts may be merciful so that we may feel the sufferings of our neighbor. Let us not refuse our hearts. Let us be honest even with those who will abuse our goodness.

May your mercy, Lord, rest within us.

Jesus, transform us into You because You can do everything. Amen.