



Congregazione delle Suore Carmelitane
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Advent 2016

Dearest Sisters,

With the feast of Christ the King it concludes the jubilee year of mercy. A year for conversion, but above all" a call to revitalize the joy, tenderness and hope.

A year of mercy that does not end in 365 days but that last as much as life itself: GIVING MERCY.

On October 8, we celebrated the 10 years since the Beatification of Mother Maria Teresa Scilli. In every community I heard that you have rendered in the best way the commemoration of this event. Who has personally experienced the solemn celebration of that 2006 event cannot quench the emotion. At the presence of many sisters, I remember always the phrase uttered from a teacher: "But your Institute is alive!" I hope this is so and not for the numerical quantity of the people who compose in it but for the quality of its members. At the anniversary of ten years of the Beatification, in Rome we had the joy of the presence of the Prior General, Fr. Fernando Millán Romeral, O. Carm., Who presided over the Eucharist. They concelebrated some priests, among them Father Enzo Mosca, the postulator.

So many people have shared with us the joy of that day. The sisters were coming from various communities for the celebration of this event; This comforts us, it makes us feel as daughters of the same family. Let's not let these moments pass in vain, they must be the occasion for new impulses, new impetus and first of all, they must stimulates us to imitate the virtues of our Mother; which We could say "like Mother, such as the daughters!" "They inherit everything from their mother!". The anxiety of the Foundress for the good of souls, the desire to fulfill all the will of God must also moves us, her daughters, to keep alive the Charism which through the power of the Spirit continues to grow, without losing its genuine character.

In recalling the memory of our origins it comes to light the fundamental component of our lives. "Founders and foundresses were fascinated by the unity of the Twelve around Jesus, the communion that distinguished them. Giving life to one's proper Institute means each one has to reproduce these evangelical models, to be only one heart and one soul, delighted always with the presence of God and "always adhering to His will.

These were the cornerstones transmitted to us by our Mother Foundress who lives and still walks beside us.

On October 16, I had attended the canonization of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity and other six saints. A sister beside me when the Pope gave the assent of the canonization, whispered, "The next time is our turn," I replied, if the Heaven wills!

I read the article written by Sister Maria Stella Marzano about Mother Maria Teresa Scilli and Mother Magdalena Mazzoni in reference to Saint Maria Magdalena de 'Pazzi; it is well done, The most highlighted points of our Carmelite spirituality. It deserves to be read and to be reflected upon.

On 14-15 October in Focene I attended the International Congress of the Carmelite Mother Generals, also were present Father General. It was like a family gathering, Brothers and sisters united in the common anxiety to grow for the Kingdom. Father General said that we have to build the family, feel as a family, pray for the family. The theme of the conference was: "More life than words." Sister Nicla Spezzati, the Under Secretary of the Congregation for Religious, and Father Bruno Secondin, O. Carm, asked us to interrogate ourselves of what we understood and matured in the year of Consecrated Life. We were encouraged not to lose hope, despite of the quantity decreases of the religious, we must believe in the strength of a small seed; when You put in the ground and dies, it gives fruits of life (Mk 4.26 to 34).

Our communities must generate persons who are capable of taking care of the wounded man, the tender flesh of Jesus Christ. However, this flesh could be also that of our Sisters who are beside us, fulfilling towards them the silent and humble gestures that gives joy and beauty of living fully belonged in the community. "Taking care of each other". Both speakers have invoked the concept of Pope Francis: "You wake up the world" and how? Conveying the values, leaving something better after our passage on this earth.

We are at the door of Advent, a time that encourages us once again, after the jubilee year of mercy to conversion. "Let ourselves be overtaken by God who never tires to open wide the door of His heart to repeat that He loves us and wants to share His life with us". The mystery of Christmas is the eloquent proof that God loves us, accompanies us and that He comes down in everyone's life; He place Himself on our side to illumine our daily journey, to strengthen and free us by instilling in our hearts a new joy, a renewed life force.

Conducted by Mary to the stable of Bethlehem, let us dispose ourselves to live in prayer and contemplation the great event of our salvation: That is for all Peace and Love.

To all and each one of You My fraternal Wishes of a Happy and fruitful Journey towards Christmas.

Rome, 1.11. 2016

Mother Angelisa Spirandelli
Superior General