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*If we live in the Spirit,  
Let us also follow the Spirit.  
Gal. 5:25*

Dearest Sisters,

We hear from each other after a long silence, interrupted only by some sporadic telephone calls. Silence of course that does not mean absence or forgetting because I always carry you all in my heart “distinctively”. Every morning in the Eucharist I offer you to Jesus, this is the best way to feel that we are near to each other.

I came back with Sr. Valentina on May 3 from a long trip made in the Philippines and Indonesia. Even if it was not the first time I was going to those Lands, it was a unique experience. The Sisters are fine; they are also always committed with many things: prayer, studies, work and apostolate. In Manila, walking along the alleys of poor people’s ghettos (informal settlers), during the way of the cross, I was shocked: after that experience, I think I do not have the courage to complain, I have everything and more than anything else. The sisters welcomed us so warmly and fraternally. We spent the Holy Easter in Manila and a few days of Holy Week in Cebu. We have been enriched with many beautiful experiences, we have seen how faith is alive in these faraway lands where they retain beautiful and striking traditions. From the Philippines we went to Indonesia, accompanied by Sr. Freeda, the Delegate. There a group of young people were waiting for us, seeing them I could not hold back the tears. I said to myself, so the Lord make himself still felt! Our commitment is to accompany them with prayer, which they are in need to be faithful and constant to the call, authentic religious who really want to conform their lives to that of Christ. Kupang was the last stop. Never in my life have I seen much collaboration of the people. There we inaugurated the Indonesian Novitiate house; on July there will be 18 novices. The mother mistress, Sr. Jessy, has much thing to do. We must not be flattered by number but by quality, that is why we trust and pray. The Bishop of the place, who in the beginning was not in favor, now is happy of our presence in his diocese.

During this time there are busy works in our different houses before the end of the school: tests (essays/ examinations) of the scholastic life lived with much commitment and sacrifices. In every field, in every community, work is not lacking. Every season is good to gather the fruits of the sowing made in the daily offering of a diligent work, sometimes heavy. Many of us, who are advance in age, we feel more the weight of labors, to continue this we would have a need of more persons, that, unfortunately lacking. Let us pray that the Lord may send workers to his vineyard. I will never forget the phrase of Fr. Carmelo Luisi: “First is what we can, then what we

must". When strengths are becoming less we need to surrender to the will of God who calls us to a different service, of offering and prayer, continuously living the "ascent" of our initial yes. It is important to keep the joy of heart that makes our life and our Sisters' (life) beautiful, good, blessed at every age. A joy that makes us sisters, that let us open to reciprocal trust, to mutual help. "The light in our faces, in our gestures, in our line of work must tell that we are of the Lord; like this intensely that whoever sees may be born in them a desire to belong to God... Who loves make one fall in love, who is in communion creates communion, creates relationships".

Every day we start our day in the name of the Father, of the Son, of the Holy Spirit. All that we do is in the name of the Trinity. The Lord calls us to life to be in the world sign of His love, in his favor, delegates us to be his presence of alive witnessing on earth. "God has no hands, he has only our hands to do his works today".

I write to you in the solemnity of the Ascension of Jesus to heaven. A feast that invites us to look up and to allow ourselves be convince that our response to the love of Christ will help us to encounter him definitively in our final resurrection. Our presence on earth will have a true meaning if we look beyond our worldly reality. Let us look into heaven towards where to walk and where we direct all our beautiful and less beautiful reality. Sometimes we loss the true meaning of the horizon which to look up to. Have no fear! Jesus sends us his Spirit, He has the task to sustain and guide us through the long dark valley of life, sometimes very dark. He give us a new heart that beats in unison with the heart of Christ. Let us read and deepen the sequence of Pentecost and the hymn Veni Creator, we will receive benefits and strength, a vital thrust to switch on again in us the fire of his love sometimes rather feeble.

We are all invited to participate the retreats; this year there are various anniversaries (jubilees); 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> that we will celebrate in general house at the end of the retreat. To the Sisters our wishes of a happy perseverance in the consecrated life and congratulations for the faithfulness lived in a constant and generous service.

Sr. Clotilde and Sr. Angelina, in occasion of their birthday (90 years) will come in Italy; after many years of staying in Canada we will have the joy to embrace them and manifest to them our grateful affection.

Let us seek to value the summer time that the Lord give us to restore the physical and spiritual strength, for a restart that is more meaningful to dispatch the task that our Lord entrusted to us.

The Virgin Mary walks with us, what a loving mother, she keeps us in her hand and indicates to us the more secure way to reach Jesus. I thank you for what you do and for who you are in the Institute to which the Lord, through the contribution of each one, gives life and hope.

With Affection,

Madre Angelisa Spirandelli  
Superior General

Rome, May 31, 2017

