



Let it be done to me according to your word...

At a time of great and rapid change, at a time of economic and financial crisis with worldwide implications, at a time of violence and migration which changes the structure of nations, at a time where the technological and virtual culture is affirmed, at a time where there is the necessity to care for our common home which is creation, at a time when the Church, and particularly consecrated life, is invited to wake up in order to wake up the world, with confidence and the certainty of faith within our heart we recall that: *“God so loved the world that He gave His only Son”* (Jn. 3:16).

In this choice of love and passion of God there are women and men of our time and of all times, all places and of all reality; each of our communities, every place where we serve the Kingdom; every situation that we live with joy and with fatigue; every project, every dream, every decision... everything is embraced by the unconditional love of God for humanity, for us. This love touches our concrete situation today: we are loved in our littleness, in the decrease in numbers, in the uncertainty of works that lead us to rediscover the grace of being a *little flock*,

with Paula we remember that “when we began the Institute, it was not our intention to accomplish anything great, but simply to fulfill God's will. So whatever happens is good for us, provided the loving designs of God be fulfilled” (*Rome, July 4, 1851. L. 79. 9*).



And because we are loved and certain of this love, we are in a favorable time, a time to be rediscovered as an opportunity to seek and find God in our story, in the story of this world. This time of General Chapter XXI, is a time of grace for us, to revive the gift of God we have received, and to be God's gift to others.

Newness is God's way of guiding history and of guiding our story: “Behold I make all things new” (*Rev. 21:5*), but newness is not found outside of us, it comes from our availability to be led to a profound and radical change of ourselves. We are new because we are renewed by a love that is from the beginning and forever and because we have this confidence, we are able to take an audacious risk of newness.



God loves our reality today and we are called to be in the world by loving the world with the same passion and compassion of God.

We are loved by a God who from being infinite became finite, from being eternal entered time, from being immortal became mortal, from being beyond our reach became one of us, from rich became poor, from being invisible became visible and chose to share all of himself with the human race in littleness, so that in him we may have life.

This is the opportune time for us to change our stance - to revive the gift of God that is within us.

This is the opportune time to taste once again the love of God who comes to meet us and this love becomes our strength and passion which enables us to reach out to others and to become closer to them.

This is the opportune time to create bonds of friendship; friends as Paula was with her companions on Mount Moro until the end of her life, friends who are capable of relationships that place the person at the center with her story, resources, weaknesses and her desire for God, even when it is not expressed.

This is the appropriate time to place youth, families, and the poor at the center of our mission, accompanying them so that they will be able to understand and feel the unconditional and passionate love of God for them in their everyday life.

This is the appropriate time to live the mission with the laity, beginning with their presence as an integral and foundational part of charismatic identity and to discern with them the action of God in history and the greater service to the Kingdom. This is the appropriate time to set free the joy of belonging exclusively to God, the One true source of our happiness.

This is the appropriate time because the God who calls us to the impossible may accomplish His work through us, as He did at another time, generating new life in the womb of two women, one fertile and another sterile: Mary and Elizabeth.



It is really these two women who today help us to take our reality upon ourselves with confidence:

During those days Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled. And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord." (Lk. 1: 39- 46)

It is in the transforming power of their encounter that we rediscover our story, our identity and our desire to give life. Mary and Elizabeth are women who are able to meet one another because they allowed God to meet them, overcoming the distance between generations, overcoming the difference between newness and tradition and the overcoming the threshold between fertility and infertility. They are women with a different history and culture but both are driven by the urgency to share the gift of God that was being generated within them. They are women who by their very presence elicit questions about the mystery of life they carry within them. They are women who

share the joy and friendship and speak words of blessing to one another and together to God.

They are women who sense and recognize the movement of the Spirit within them and welcome the presence of God in one another. They are women who are free and unafraid to leave their home to go to the other and unafraid to let the other return to her home. They are women who said yes to the new call from God and said no to the usual and repetitive ways of the world.

They are women who in their encounter feel affirmed in the abundance of the gift of God in their lives.

They are women who go out and do not allow themselves to be hindered by the obstacles along the way and are able to say to the other: I am here for you. They witness the concrete capacity to gratuitously place at the center of their attention the life of the other.

This is the gift that God gave us from the beginning, the gift that we desire to live with passion, the gift we insistently ask God for as a grace:

Let it be done to me according to your word...



Therefore:

TO REVIVE THE GIFT OF GOD THAT IS IN US

WE ASK THE GRACE TO:

GIVE LIFE

UNTIL THE END;

LISTEN

TO THE CRY OF WOMEN AND MEN OF OUR TIME
THROUGH A CONSTANT ATTITUDE OF PERSONAL AND COMMUNAL
DISCERNMENT;

CHOOSE

TO BE AND TO JOURNEY IN THE MIDST OF PEOPLE;

LEARN

THE LIFESTYLE OF THE PASCHAL MYSTERY
OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST;

MOVE

FROM THE INSIDE TO THE OUTSIDE
FROM THE GREAT TO THE LITTLE
FROM SAFETY TO PRECARIOUSNESS
FROM DISTANCE TO NEARNESS
FROM ACTION TO COMPASSION

BUILD

COMMUNITIES THAT ARE OPEN, ABLE TO GO OUT
AND ALLOW OTHERS TO ENTER IN,

IN ORDER THAT THE TENDERNESS OF THE FACE OF GOD MAY BE PRESENT

AND VISIBLE TO HUMANITY.



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