



**We strive to bring
Christ's light
to our ministries.**

Cf. Article 33 of our Constitutions

Rome, October 28, 2011

Dear Sisters,

the commemoration of Mother Pauline's first profession on November 4 urges me to reflect on the meaning of this day for us. In recalling the day of her first vows Mother Pauline writes: "In a very special manner I am bound to Holy Church; the Congregation has placed itself – I have placed myself – at the disposal of the Bishop. Lord, here we are – send us!"

Here we are, send us! That is the essence of our call to follow Christ more closely in order to continue the mission which Jesus received from his Father. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (John 20:21) We do not fulfill any ministry on our own authority. The keyword for our consecrated life is to be sent. "Discipleship and mission are like the two sides of the same coin." (Pope Benedict XVI.) Our journey of reconfiguration or - to say it in a more comprehensive way – of transformation began and must stay focused on our mission in order to reach our goal "That all may be one."

But what is our special mission? Already our name *Sisters of Christian Charity* expresses it very clear. Christian charity – Christ-like love – means a participation in God's love which does not give up or exclude anyone. In article 32 of our Constitutions we read: "As an active apostolic congregation, we embrace the mission entrusted to us by Christ: to go out to all the world and bring the good news—love, justice, peace." That means that we are called to help to impart a better life to those entrusted to us. "Like her [Mary], we wish to bear Christ, the Light into the world to conquer the darkness. *Love is the light – and in the end, the only light – that can always illumine a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and*

working. Love is possible and we are able to practice it because we are created in the image of God. (Deus Caritas Est, 39) Following Jesus, Mother Pauline brought the light of love to those whose eyes could not see the Light and dispelled the darkness of those who were lost or alone. Our congregation was founded to care for blind children. It is still our mission I all of our ministries to be open to receive the enlightenment that comes from God and to carry the Christ Light by our love.” (Document of the General Chapter 2007) Article 33 of our Constitutions says the same in a short and concise way: “Our Congregation strives to bring **Christ’s light** to our various ministries.” The document of the last General Chapter specifies some areas which are especially important for today’s mission: the dignity of women, integration of creation, interreligious dialogue, human dignity for migrants and collaboration with lay people. How is our effort with regard to these areas? Perhaps we cannot do much, but in prayer we can always reach out to all people and ask God to fill them with the light of Christ – hope and life. Let us bring to the people what they need, by our prayers and by our apostolic service that is entrusted to us!

The following words which Pope Benedict XVI addressed during the Vigil in Freiburg on September 24 to young people apply also to our mission: “A candle can only give light if it lets itself be consumed by the flame. It would remain useless if its wax failed to nourish the fire. Allow Christ to burn in you, even at the cost of sacrifice and renunciation. Do not be afraid that you might lose something and, so to speak, emerge empty-handed at the end. Have the courage to apply your talents and gifts for God’s kingdom and to give yourselves – like candlewax – so that the Lord can light up the darkness through you. Dare to be glowing saints, in whose eyes and hearts the love of Christ beams and who thus bring light to the world. I am confident that you are lamps of hope. ‘You are the light of the world.’ Where God is, there is a future!”

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Information:

- From November 6-19, I will visit our Sisters in the Philippines. Sr. María Luisa García Mansilla from the Uruguayan-Argentinean Delegation will travel with me. She will get to know our ministry with the blind children and young women and also help our Sisters, who have much extra work to do right before Christmas. Sr. María Luisa’s mission is planned to last until end of December.

➤ From November 26 to December 5, I will participate in a meeting in Aparecida, Brazil as a delegate of the Roman Constellation of the UISG. Usually such a gathering with all the delegates worldwide take usually place every three years.

For both travels I ask for your accompanying prayers.

➤ We are looking for a logo for the theme of the General Chapter **I WILL GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE**. It would be nice if a design would come from one of you. I ask all Sisters who feel inspired (motivated) to express the above theme with a logo, to send it to me by e-mail as soon as possible.

Once again I take up a word of Pope Benedict which he had said to a group of committed Catholics in Freiburg on September 25 and which in a very concise way summarizes our mission as Sisters of Christian Charity: “As individuals and as the community of the Church, let us live the simplicity of a great love, which is both the simplest and hardest thing on earth, because it demands no more and no less than the gift of oneself.” (Pope Benedict XVI)

With hearty greetings also from the Sisters of the Generalate Community

Your grateful

Sr. Adalberto