

GENERAL COUNCIL
FOR THE SEXENNium
2022-2028



GENERAL COUNCILOR
Albertina Luis dos Santos



GENERAL COUNCILOR
Melissa Dwyer



SUPERIOR GENERAL
Sr Sandra Maggiolo

in our
heart

**WE LOOK TO THE
FUTURE WITH
MAGDALENA**



VICAR GENERAL
Josemary Keelath



GENERAL COUNCILOR
Mariana Litmanovich

**vita
più**

**SPECIAL XVII
GENERAL CHAPTER**

THE NEW GENERAL COUNCIL
At the service of the
Canossian Family

THE MEETING WITH POPE FRANCIS
"Focus on closeness, compassion
and tenderness"

N° 18
SEPTEMBER / DECEMBER 2022



**FIGLIE DELLA
CARITÀ
CANOSSIANE**

vita più

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It is with emotion that we present the new issue of "Vita Più", entirely dedicated to the XVII General Chapter of August 2022. An event of the Church and of the Institute that we have long awaited. We welcomed this event after a long journey of listening, verification and preparation. An event that was a very intense experience of sharing, prayer, discussion and discernment, as we have recounted day by day thanks to the Canossian digital communication channels. This new issue that you have in your hands comes from the desire to gather the emotions and teachings of the Chapter, as well as to present to the Canossian family the new Superior General called, together with the Sisters of the Council, to the ministry of authority.

Once again, the Chapter is a point of arrival on the journey made together over the last few years and, at the same

time, a point of departure. We set out again, with a decisive and enthusiastic step, disciples of the Lord Jesus following in the footsteps of Magdalene with the creativity and originality that the charism and the Spirit arouse within us. With a heart full of gratitude and with the guiding stars indicated in a special way by Pope Francis in his audience with the Chapter Sisters: closeness, compassion, tenderness. In this world, with a dedicated heart, we look to the future, with Magdalene in our hearts.

And from the beginning of 2023, Vita Più will also restart with many new features. Thank you for this part of our journey made together and may you continue your journey with joy!

Paolo Bovio



VITA PIÙ

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CONCEPT AND GRAPHICS Studio Bertin
EDITING Paolo Bovio
COMMUNICATION TEAM,
CANOSSIAN INSTITUTE
Sandra Maggiolo (Assistant General)
Daniela Anna Balzarotti (Coordinator)
Paolo Bovio (Operations Manager)

"WE ARE ALL SENT AND INSPIRED"

Message from the new Mother General



We have reached the end of the XVII General Chapter. It has been a time of intense research, listening, and comparing (experiences and opinions, ideas) leading to discernment. We followed a shared step-by-step process to construct together a formative path, a commitment for us all for the next six-year term.

We were all invited and provoked to:

- ✓ foster a new style of leadership, to live processes in which the service of authority always remains at the school of interior and exterior listening to the life of the sisters and brothers we meet in ministries and beyond
- ✓ to remain in a state of continuous formation, "learning to learn", without assuming that you have already arrived
- ✓ to be witnesses of a fresh, transformed, and transforming missionary religious life because it is nourished by the humanity of the Gospel and therefore capable of being human, respecting, forgiving,

welcoming, caring with kindness, patience, and parrhesia.

In these 24 days of the Chapter, we have received many words: those exchanged at the round table discussions, those heard and welcomed in the daily Eucharist celebrations, those of our friends and our Sisters, and of course, those words that will never forget, the words of the Holy Father during the audience on Friday 26th. August.

Closeness.

Compassion.

Tenderness.

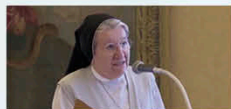
This is the style of God, the style that Magdalene embodied and asked us to live. Closeness, compassion, and tenderness: towards those who are called to serve the Institute in decision-making positions, in the awareness that we are all fragile.

* Parrhesia ancient Greek word currently used to mean the courage to speak the truth even at the risk of your life)

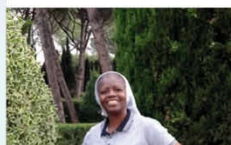
M. Sandra Maggiolo
Superior General

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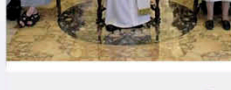
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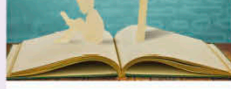
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From 8th-30th August 2022, the General Curia of Ottavia-Rome was filled with faces, smiles, hugs, prayer, immersion in the charism and discernment.

The Sisters, gathered for the XVII General Chapter on the theme "Women of the Word who love without measure", represented all the countries where our communities are present and all the other Canossian Sisters who, from all over the world, continue to pray for this ecclesial and family event. They were accompanied by the prayers of the Canossian Fathers, together with all the laity, families, friends and volunteers who love Magdalene's charism.

The atmosphere that prevailed was one of joy, fraternity, a little trepidation ... together with the awareness of a demanding and rich experience due to the cultural diversity that characterizes this gathering.

And here we are to tell you about it, in the following pages of this special issue of Vita Più.

May the Holy Spirit and our Saints, Magdalene of Canossa and Giuseppina Bakhita, who accompanied us during this very intense moment of our journey of the Institute, continue to accompany us with their intercession so that we may be signs and instruments of Charity in the world today for the benefit of the poorest.

“Living in the world with the heart of a barefoot apostle”

Interview with our new Mother General Sr. Sandra Maggiolo

Mother Sandra, after several years as a General Counselor, this year the Institute Chapter has entrusted you with the leadership of the Canossian family. How are you living this moment?

There is still a profound sense of disproportion the feeling of a sort gap within me. I don't really know how to describe it; however, I am aware that I often find myself repeating Peter's words when invited by Jesus to come to Him while walking on water. He said: “Lord, save me!”. Perhaps it is the desire to shift attention from me to the Lord; the initiative is his, and it was he who said “Come”. Other words that accompany and sustain me in this new service are “*Freely you have received, freely give*”. For free!

Thinking back to the experience of the Chapter

... what is the strongest memory you still have in your mind's eye? (The strongest visual moment)

..of all the words you heard which are those that remain strongest in your memory

(the most significant words)

... what is left in your heart (the most emotional moment)

The election hit me like a kind of “overwhelming tsunami”, especially in the days following the appointment. It seemed like I was suddenly carrying a load; things that were not part of me, almost like references in a text, referenc-

es that should be attributed to someone else. This was certainly not a familiar feeling and at times I felt it too much for me. But then again, I know that this position is like others just a service.

Thinking back to those moments and to the rich Chapter theme: “*Women of the Word who love without measure. Reconfiguration to a life of holiness for the mission today*”, many emotions and images emerge... I think I can recognize three moments which are impressed on my soul:

1. The embrace of the sisters immediately after the election
2. The meeting with Pope Francis.
3. The moment I received the definitive mandate

Greeting the Sisters one by one, our eyes meeting as I said their names, was like embracing a piece of God in each of them. As I allowed myself to be embraced by them in turn, I perceived a little of their faith, their hopes, some of their apostolic concerns, and the desire of each of us to be witnesses of the humanity of the Gospel by returning there, where the mission calls us to serve with a love that has no measure.

The meeting with Pope Francis was a unique event and it is impossible for me to express the emotions I felt. Deep in my soul I carry the memory of his gaze and the intense look of a person who really listens. I do not hide the fact that,

Living in the world with the heart of a barefoot apostle

from time to time, when trepidation for the responsibility I have been given gets to me, I return to that confident, smiling, and pacifying look.

I also hold on to something that he recommended me to do and which I feel is closely connected to an expression that St. Magdalen held dear: *“the air of Monte Baldo”*. The Holy Father recommended that I keep up the *“good humor in the Sisters”* and, honestly, day after day, I understand how wise it is to know how to cultivate this attitude in facing daily challenges.

8 *For you what is the most powerful message that Magdalen gives to her daughters?*

I'll answer it with Jesus' own words is a matter of loving God with all my heart and my neighbor as myself because in every brother and sister there is God who asks for help, God who asks my humanity to make itself a welcoming, compassionate, and open home.

It is a matter of entering into the way Jesus Crucified loves, he who, on the cross, was stripped of everything except his love. In a state of the utmost powerlessness, He continues to love without measure. Letting yourself be attracted and moved continuously by such Freedom is a great gift.

What is Maddalena's most current message for today's world?

I say this with a phrase of her Spiritual Director, Fr Luigi Libera: *“Live in the world with the heart of a barefoot Carmelite”* What does it mean? And how?

For Magdalene, living in the world with a poor and simple heart meant leaving the monastery to live among the people, with a heart that was all for God and everything for others.

For us and for those who are involved today in this gift and charism it is a question of *“giving shape”* to a heart capable of loving and inhabiting the complexity of the world: we must not flee, nor sublimate, nor estrange ourselves nor defend ourselves from the postmodern, from social networks, from this world so contradictory, inhospitable yet so in need of the humanity of the Gospel.

A barefoot heart is an exposed, vulnerable heart, which allows itself to be touched by the non-love of history, in the suffering and tenacious certainty that, only in this way, something of the beating of God's own heart can be experienced.

The desire is to enter more and more into this prophecy that continues over time: to be Canossian in the world with a heart capable of loving God and neighbor very much, without measure, serving the little ones like Jesus who *“loved us and gave himself for us”* (Gal 2:20), for me.



“MY HEART IS MADE FOR GOD”

The new General Council: sr. Albertina Luis dos Santos

Let us praise Jesus and Mary!

I am Sr Albertina Luis dos Santos, born on 17 September 1966 at Madalena in Sao Tomé (Africa), daughter of Celestino dos Santos and Antonia Luis, affectionately called Rosa. I have ten brothers and one sister.

At the age of 14, I heard the call to religious life but the dream became reality only later.

The Biblical quote that drew my attention was from Matthew 10:8, “Freely you have received, freely give”. The phrase has been an invitation to infinitely open my heart, the horizon in my life, and to enter the divine intimacy giving myself to others with joy. I understood that there is no limited love, rather, love has to be universal – my brother and sister are all those God places beside me in whatever place.

Immediately after my religious profession I was sent to Angola where I stayed for sixteen years. Then I returned to Sao Tomé and then was sent to Togo as Mistress of Novices. Now I am called to a new mission, a new experience for which I am preparing myself.

In my 26 years of Canossian religious Life, I have many reasons to thank God who has called me to collaborate in his vineyard and also for those who have accompanied me in my vocation, helping me to discover and to realize God’s plan in my life as a woman and as a religious.

What has marked my life have been prayer, joy, interior peace, fraternal life

and the apostolate. I am aware that when God passes by God leaves an experience of joy and this is very strong in me.

It is also from the fraternal sharing of who I am and what I have, that I am called to “make Jesus known and loved” to my brothers and sisters in living love and care towards others. During my experience, little by little, I understood that my heart is made for God, and God won’t be satisfied by anything else. With St Magdalene of Canossa I too say that God has given us a great gift in giving us the vocation to this holy Institute. It is a call and, at the same time, a responsibility.

I am very grateful and aware of this and every day I ask for the grace to allow myself to be led, to be moulded more and more by God, certain that my identification with Christ Crucified will end when I will see him face to face.



MESSAGE FROM MOTHER ALBERTINA AT THE END OF THE CHAPTER



Dear Sisters,
I express my gratitude to God who has called me to this service with the Sisters of the Council and to walk together with all of you, trying to do God's will which is manifested in the realization of the plan established for this six-year period.

My gratitude to each of you for your trust in me. Thank you!

Someone said, "Life is like riding a bicycle, to regain balance you have to move forward".

Dear Sisters, where can I find the strength, balance, serenity, courage to live the mission entrusted to me in an attitude of service and responsibility?

In the Word of God, in the Eucharist and in assiduous collaboration with the Sisters.

I am convinced that this is the only way; even in difficult situations it gives us hope to advance in the search for the common good.

Jesus always precedes us and will surely give us the necessary grace, even when it seems to us that we cannot do make it, because the person of Christ is the centre towards which we must direct our life and our choices, since the mission belongs to him.

Here is my wish for each of us: leaving here each one of us takes the decision

and responsibility to live in community, in the Ministries of Charity, in the Provinces and Delegations, the dynamics of a synodal leadership so desired and emphasized in this XVII General Chapter. In this way we will give new meaning and impetus to our Canossian life and a positive witness to the young people in formation and to all those who collaborate with us.

To each of you, thanks again for your trust, for what you are and do for the Institute.

Please greet the Mothers of your communities and thank them for having accompanied us with their prayer.

With much affection and esteem,
Sr. Albertina dos Santos



“MY SOUL SINGS OF THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD”

The new General Council: sr. Mariana Litmanovich

The “Yes” I pronounced on the day of my First Vows, 28 June 1992, led me to journey along different paths to serve the Lord in many people who are now part of my consecrated life. Thirty years later I pronounce again my “Yes” in accepting to become part of the community of the General Council, at the service of the Institute’s unity (RL 91). I was born on 6 August 1968. Together with my parents, Raúl and Marina, and my elder brother Eduardo, we have lived a beautiful experience of family life in the city of Mar del Plata, Argentina, where I grew up and when, at the age of 20 years of age, I joined the pre-novitiate.

“I will come to the altar of God, the God who is the joy of my life” (Psalm 43:4) has been the first verse that has remained fixed in my heart. It was a God who filled my life with meaning, fullness and love; a God whom I began to seek, even if in reality he was seeking me.

I spent two years discerning my vocation while being accompanied by a Diocesan priest who introduced me to the Canossian Sisters. On the first day I visited them, I remained surprised by the “joy” that they radiated and by their spontaneity with which they related. I immediately felt at home with the life of St Magdalene and with the mission of the Institute, especially in the desire to evangelize and to care for the sick, in which I prepared myself both profes-

sionally and pastorally. In these thirty years of consecration, I worked 22 years in a hospital, close to those who suffer. It has been for me a time of continuous deepening the meaning of suffering and of life and a great opportunity to share the comfort of God who is close to those who suffer and saves those who are afflicted (Sir 34:19). I spent two years in the mission of Paraguay and further six years in the Province leadership. For each of these stages I carry in my heart many rich experiences with the sisters in community, of the Province, the Lay Canossians and friends that lead me to say with Mary *“My soul magnifies the Lord.”*

I thank God for the gift of life and of faith, and for all the people whom he has placed on my path. I have always experienced the intercession and guidance of Mary Most Holy to whom I entrust this new phase of service.



MESSAGE FROM MOTHER MARIANA AT THE END OF THE CHAPTER



Dearest Sisters
On every work table of the Chapter there was a message that said: “The Holy Spirit is the protagonist of this Chapter” and I am sure it was so. I would also like to say that the Holy Spirit was creative; two General Councilors elected were not Chapter members. I thank each of you for the work you have done in these days and for the trust you have given me, while I entrust myself to your prayers.

In the R. of L. n. 76 speaks of a style of diakonia: “Authority has its origin in God and is entrusted to the Church as diakonia and responsibility”. I echo these two words.

First, Diakonia The Lord calls me to a “diakonia of communion”. I wish to “broaden the tent” of my heart, so that every Sister, scattered throughout the world, may have her place in me, in my prayer, and I make listening, closeness, time and fraternal sharing available to her.

Second, Responsibility It is a service that requires taking on new challenges and commitments, and is concretized in actions: collaborating, animating, coordinating, deepening common problems with study, reflection, prayer and visits, seeking together the will of God, giving

my contribution with confidence that the Lord will guide us.

We are “one family for a common mission”. Today, for me, these words have a new meaning. We are that part of the Church, which is totally dedicated to shedding light on and bringing the life of God to so many brothers and sisters in the world who thirst for him and perhaps do not always realize it. For this reason, I choose the image of water. Water is fresh, transparent, quenches thirst and is essential for life. Water symbolizes the fruitful action of the Holy Spirit in each of us.

I greet you with a grateful heart. Let us remain united in prayer of adoration, together with our Foundress, as the Pope invited us to do in the audience on 26th August.

With love,
Sr. Mariana Litmanovich



“MY LIFE IS A MIRACLE OF GOD'S LOVE”

The new General Council: sr. Josemary Keelath

I am born in Kerala, India, into a loving and God-fearing family as the youngest of six siblings. My two brothers, first and fourth, are priests and the sister just before me was a religious belonging to the Franciscan Clarist Congregation. My second and third brothers were married and formed two loving families who are survived by my nephews and nieces of whom two are Canossians and one a Carmelite. My parents, three brothers, sisters-in-law and my sister are enjoying eternal happiness. I thank God for the strong foundation of faith and values I have received from my family.

I joined the Canossian family in 1974 at the age of 20 after completing my Bachelor of Science. I made my First Profession in 1977. The past 45 years as a Canossian have been filled with God's unconditional love and blessings. I am grateful to all my formators, superiors and sisters who have played a very important role in my growth. God has taken me by His hand and has led me up to this day. I can truly say that my life is a miracle of God's love.



MESSAGE FROM MOTHER JOSEMARY AT THE END OF THE CHAPTER

When I reflect on the Chapter theme the image that comes to my mind is that of a river. A river gets its life from the source and keeps flowing until it becomes one with the great ocean. While flowing, it shares its life with all, without any distinction. The river is full, shallow or empty, depending on the inflow from the source.

God, (in the Scriptures and in the realities of life) is the source of our spiritual life. Personal sanctification and sanctification of others is our goal. The context in which we live our spirituality are our communities and ministries. The way we express our spirituality is through our being and loving. The quality of our spirituality will show the quality of our life and love – a love without measure or a love that is measured and conditional.

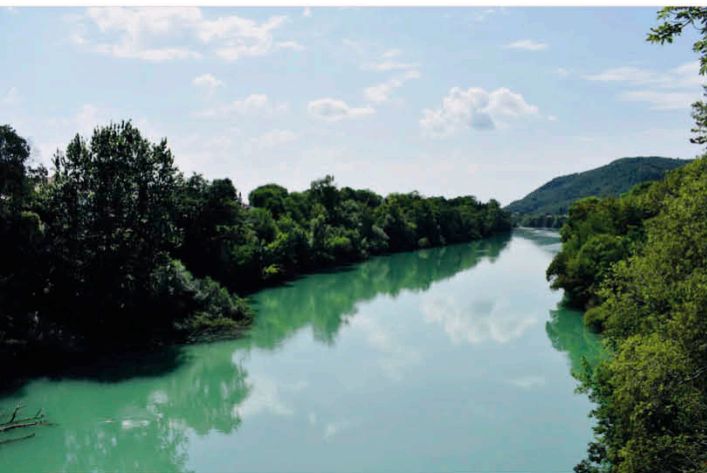
The other day we heard in the Chapter room a unanimous longing for a spirituality, rather than multiplying our prayers and devotions. I have heard this desire being expressed time and again by



sisters in our communities and in different groups. It was indeed a touch of the Spirit. I greatly desire for me and for the Institute, that we strengthen a spirituality that is deeply rooted in the person of Jesus, a spirituality that becomes a way of life, a spirituality that goes beyond saying prayers, but that gets expressed in our everyday realities - as transparency, truthfulness, ethical conscience, readiness to let go of our plans and make adjustments, other centredness, spirit of sacrifice, willingness to receive and give feedback and so on. According to me, this is an ongoing process of a life of holiness, becoming more and more authentic, credible, bringing consistency between what we profess and how we live.

We learn from Mary the art of allowing the Word to take life in us.

Sr. Josemary Keelath



“SERVING GOD, SERVING THE POOR”

The new General Council: sr. Melissa Dwyer

Hi! My name is Sr Melissa Dwyer and I come from Australia. I was born in Sydney and have one younger sister. My parents moved to Brisbane when I was 2 years old, and it was here that I grew up and completed my education. I met the Canossian Sisters when I was 19 as they were running retreats for young people. I attended a few of these retreat days, and shortly after I was given the opportunity to volunteer in Africa for one month with VOICA. I went to Tanzania and worked with homeless young people. During this time, confronted with my own inability to help those in greatest need, I discovered my vocation to serve God and serve the poor. Inspired by this desire to give my life radically and completely to Jesus, I came back to Australia and began my journey of initial formation with the Canossian Daughters of Charity. During my time as a postulant, I finished my university studies as a Secondary School Physical Education and English teacher.

Following my first profession of vows in 2005, I taught at a school in Brisbane for three years. Following this, as a Junior Sister, my application for a vocation ‘*ad gentes*’ was accepted and I was asked to serve in Malawi, East Africa. In 2008 I left Australia and spent 7.5 years in Malawi, most of the time as Principal of Bakhita Secondary School in Balaka. I enjoyed this experience of serving in mission very much.

In 2016 I was asked by Mother General to return to Australia and assist with the newly formed Delegation of Australia. I served as Delegation Assistant and local community leader from 2016-2019. In 2019 I was appointed as Delegation Leader. In addition to my service for the Institute, since I returned to Australia I have been working for the Archdiocese of Brisbane in their Vocations Office, accompanying young women in the discernment of a possible vocation to Religious Life. I have also been ministering as the State Spiritual Advisor for the St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland, giving me an opportunity to help in formation of members in their outreach to the marginalised.

I look forward to the opportunity to walk with my Sisters in this new season of my journey as a Canossian Sister. I bring myself, as I am, human and spiritual, and trust that with God, this is enough.



MESSAGE FROM MOTHER MELISSA AT THE END OF THE CHAPTER

During these days, we have been continually called to be women of the Word, women whose desire for mission begins and ends with our personal relationship with God in prayer. As I've sat and often wrestled with Jesus during these days, the invitation to be women of relationships, women who are both human and spiritual, has been significant.

I've learnt very significantly that God doesn't need our capacity, but our availability. And that sometimes this availability is really very hard. Just like Mary, we are each invited to our daily 'yes', our daily 'fiat', in the midst of our diverse realities.

Mary was a woman of relationships, and like the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth, we can bring both Jesus and joy to those we serve and especially to one another in our communities.

At the same time, I'm reminded of Mary, whose love enabled her to stand at the foot of the cross and widen the space in her broken heart to love without measure. Sometimes our hearts can break when we see the suffering of our brothers and sisters in the world today. And yet we stand with Mary at the foot of the cross, inspired by



the Greatest Love of Jesus to be His hands and feet in this moment of history.

As I begin this new season of my journey as a Canossian Daughter of Charity Servant of the poor, I pray for the grace to love. To love Jesus with the heart of Jesus as St Magdalene of Canossa reminds us. And to witness with my life the love I have for Jesus, in my relationships with others, starting with my Sisters.

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Magdalene's first words to us, at the beginning of the Unabridged Rule remind us of the great gift of vocation entrusted to each one of us. With gratitude in my heart for this precious gift, I pray for the grace to be open, to be and become the women God dreams for me on the journey ahead.

Let us pray for one another as we continue to walk together...

sr. Melissa Dwyer





ADDRESS OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE CANOSSIAN DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY

Hall of the Consistory - Friday, 26 August 2022

Dear Sisters, good morning and welcome!

I thank the Superior General for her greeting and for the presentation of this Chapter. And I thank the one who leaves, after eight years, and returns to her country. I would like to share with you some reflections suggested by the theme that guides your work.

First of all, *women of the Word*. Like Mary. Because women always speak, but we must speak like Mary, which is another thing. She is the woman of the Word, she is *the* disciple. By looking at her, and also by dialoguing with her in prayer, you can always learn anew what it means to be “women of the Word”. Which has nothing to do

with “chattering women”! please do not confuse this. May there be no chattering among you! The elderly can witness to the young an amazement that does not diminish, a gratitude that grows with age, an acceptance of the Word that becomes ever fuller, more concrete, more embodied in life. And young women can witness to the elderly the enthusiasm of discovery, the impulse of the heart which, in silence, learns to resonate with the Word, to allow itself to be surprised, even questioned, in order to grow in the school of the Master. And the middle-aged, what do they do? They are more at risk - beware! -, both because that is an age of transition, with some pitfalls - the crises of 40, 45, you know that well -; but above all because it is



ADDRESS OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS

the phase of greater responsibility and it is easy to slip into activism, even without realizing it. And then you are no longer women of the Word, but women of the computer, women of the telephone, women of the agenda, and so on. So, this motto is welcome for all! To go back to the school of Mary, *re-centre on the Word* and be women “who love without measure”. The word, not activism, must be at the centre.

This is the second element of the theme: *to love without measure*. There is a saying that cites “the measure of love is to love without measure”. It is a capacity that comes from the Holy Spirit; it does not come from us, from our effort; it comes from God who always loves without measure. Always he awaits us. God’s patience with us moves me. Look how patient this Father is with us! This quality of being without measure is proper to God’s love; and yet this love - says St. Paul - “has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Rm 5: 5). Thus, it is possible to love without measure by making room for the Spirit and his action in our life. And this is holiness. Women of the Spirit, like Mary. Let the Spirit carry you forward with hearts open to the Spirit.

In fact, the theme of your Chapter speaks of “reconfiguration to a *life of holiness*” - reconfiguration: the word is beautiful, I like it - and adds, “in and for the *mission*, today”. Holiness and mission are constitutive dimensions of the Christian life and are inseparable from each other. We can say it briefly like this: *every saint is a mission* (cf. Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et exsultate*, 19).

The testimony of *Magdalene of Canossa* demonstrates this well. She felt called to give herself entirely to God, but at the same time she also felt she had to be close to the poor. In her heart, as a young woman, there was this double need, this double sense of belonging: to God and to poor, who, in her

case, were the people of the poor areas of Verona. Attention: it is the Spirit who guides her, through concrete situations and she lets herself be guided; she searches for her way but always remaining docile. Docility: nothing to do with whim, or stubbornness: I want to do this ... No, docility to the Spirit. This is the secret! And thus, the charity of Christ shapes her heart, molds her life on the model of the Virgin Mary, who said “yes” from the beginning, fully. Then she made the pilgrimage in faith following her Son and became fully a mother beneath the Cross. Magdalene’s life was “configured” to the holiness of Christ, on the model of Mary, in the concrete missionary form dictated by the reality in which she lived. Her “yes”, said not in words but in deeds, was generative. The Lord sent her some companions with whom to share the journey of holiness and mission. And thus, you have come to this moment.

I liked the number of novices you have: this indicates fruitfulness, fruitfulness of the Congregation. It is an indication of fertility. It’s a shame there are so few people here in Europe, but it is the European demographic winter. Instead of children, they prefer to have dogs, cats, which is a bit like programmed affection. I program affection, they give me affection without problems. What if there is pain? Well, there is the veterinarian who intervenes. And this is a bad thing. Please help families have children. It is a human problem, and also a patriotic problem.

Dear Sisters, you want to “re-configure yourselves” *today*, according to this form of life. And the secret is always the same: let oneself be guided by the Holy Spirit to love God and the poor. But “today”: it is the today of the Church, it is the today of society, or rather, of the various societies in which you are present. With those situations of poverty, *with those faces that ask for closeness, compassion and tenderness*. “Ah, what

a new thing you are saying, Father!". No, this is God's style. God always acts like this, with closeness, compassion and tenderness. He approaches us, forgives and caresses. Always. God's style is closeness, compassion and tenderness. Don't forget this. It is very important. I thank you for your courage and your generosity. I thank you for the joy of your hearts and your faces. Joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit and a clear sign of the Gospel, especially when it transpires in sharing with brothers and sisters in conditions of hardship and marginalization. It is joy. And also, in sharing with the Sisters in community. Yes, because it can happen that one appears full of enthusiasm in the service of the poor and then remains apart and does not live fraternity ... This is not a good sign, because they complain: "This superior ...", that person, that problem ... In my former Diocese [Buenos Aires] there was a nun who had this habit of complaining, and everyone called her "Sister Complainer". None of you are "Sister Complainers", but the temptation to complain, to criticize... this hurts the community, it hurts. "But, Father, I can't help it!". You must go and tell the person: "You have this defect"; or if not tell someone who can remedy it. But what do you gain by going to the other Sisters and saying: "But look at this, look at that ..."! This is chatter, which hurts so much and kills the Word of God. "It is difficult, Father, to solve the chatter problem, because a negative comment comes so easily to you ...". But there is a good remedy, against chatter, and it is very simple: if you are tempted to complain about others, bite your tongue, so it swells up and you will not be able to speak. Have you understood? Please, no complaining, this kills community life.

I would like to add two things. The first concerns the community dimension, and I take it from the Exhortation *Gaudete et exsultate*. «Sanctification is a community journey [...]. Living and working with others is undoubtedly a way of spiritual growth. [...]

Sharing the Word and celebrating the Eucharist together makes us more brothers [and sisters] and gradually transforms us into a holy and missionary community " (141-142). Let us not think about big things, but rather about everyday details. As in the family, it is there that charity is seen: "The community that preserves the small details of love, where the members take care of each other and guard an open and evangelizing environment, is the place where the Risen Lord is present sanctifying it according to the Father's plan" (145). Take care of this in your communities: one for the other. And no gossiping.

The second point, with which I conclude, is that of the importance of the prayer of adoration. We have forgotten the prayer of adoration: we know what it is, but we don't practice it as much. To worship. To worship. In silence, before the Lord, before the Blessed Sacrament, adore. Prayer of adoration. And here again you can refer to the testimony of your Foundress, who, like other Saints of charity, drew apostolic impetus especially from remaining in adoration in the presence of the Lord. Don't be afraid to worship: go there. "But, it's boring ...". Go and worship. Let the Lord act. The movement of the spirit that de-centres itself to centre itself on Christ - and this is adoration: de-centring is what makes service to one's neighbour possible, which is not piety or social assistance, but openness to others, proximity, sharing. In a word: charity. Saint Paul would say: "The love of Christ binds us and impels us" (cf. 2 Cor 5:14).

Dear sisters, go forward, take courage! I thank you for this visit, and above all for what you are and what you do in the Church. I ask the Holy Spirit to give you light and strength to conclude your Chapter well and for the journey of the Institute. I cordially bless you and all the Sisters in every part of the world. And please don't forget to pray for me!

A DAY TO TREASURE FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS

The General Chapter; Our audience with Pope Francis

August 26, 2022, is one of those days that leaves an indelible mark on our minds and hearts.

It is not every day that we can experience a beautiful and significant moment in the presence of Pope Francis, the "Shepherd with the smell of the sheep". It was not yet nine

o'clock in the morning and we were already gathered in front of the gates of the Vatican with a mixture of feelings: anxiety, joy, curiosity, and gratitude. We had to wait for Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, brother of our Canossian sister Giovanna Re, thanks to whom we Canossian Daughters of Charity, gathered in Rome for our General Chapter, could have a private audience with Pope Francis.

There is no denying that it was indeed a privilege: how lucky we were that it happened to us! I cannot help but remember that that morning, unfortunately, some Chapter sisters could not join us for this moment of grace, because they were positive for covid-19. We felt so sad for them and their missed opportunity.

When you have an important appoint-

ment, you must try to be punctual, even more so when it comes to a meeting with Pope Francis! So, we arrived at the Vatican two hours early and it was an opportunity for a mini tour of St. Peter's Basilica led by Cardinal Re, before moving on to the audience hall. The audience, to our surprise, was held in the beautiful consistory room, and it seemed to me to be even more so for us as Canossians

because as soon as we entered the room, we noticed a representation of Christ crucified and Mary at the foot of the cross. Once settled in our seats, the expectation grew even more. We are to meet the Pope! Yes, he is a person like us but our faith and our love for the Church us: he is our Pastor, he is the one whom the Spirit has chosen to guide, feed, animate with the power of love, and witness his Church, of which we are a fruitful part. Although we had already been told what the protocol would be in the presence of the Holy Father, the wait continued to raise new questions in our minds... but in the end, we all felt a little calmer, because we know that Pope Francis has a free and spontaneous spirit. This was the spirit we all showed even when, a little before the scheduled time, Pope Francis entered the consistory hall leaning on his walking stick, but in his usual jovial way he looked at the whole assembly and smiled. This smile brought us all to our feet and we greeted him with loud and warm applause and the beautiful African sound of the ululation, expressing



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joy and emotion. We were all very excited. Following the protocol, Mother General Sandra Maggiolo, addressed the Holy Father, expressing on behalf of all of us the joy of this meeting, "long-awaited and desired", and reminded us that we carry in our hearts "all our sisters of the Canossian world and the laity who share with us the charism of Saint Magdalene". The words addressed to Pope Francis by our Superior General were brief but intense. A true encounter presupposes dialogue, and behold, at that moment we were all very attentive in waiting to accept the words that the Holy Father would address to us. We listened as daughters. Among the Pope's words, some expressions that I find particularly challenging have remained in my heart: re-centering on the Word; putting oneself again at the school of Mary; living interpersonal relationships and service in the style of God, which implies closeness, compassion, and tenderness".

All based this is on a secret: to let oneself be guided by the Holy Spirit. It was a message full of images, recommendations, and encouragement to continue our journey as consecrated women. His words were spoken in the manner of one who, with simplicity and a sense of humor, knows well the situation of those he is addressing. continue our journey as consecrated women. After this exchange, we were led in single file, one by one, before Pope Francis for a moment of personal greeting. As I recall it now, I think; how

much joy reigned in that room! A simply unique moment. When it came to my turn to greet him, I was moved (as I believe all of us were), and I was delighted by his simplicity and friendliness. After thanking him for his love and zeal for the consecrated life, I could not help but convey to him the greetings of my father, who had told me to tell him how much he loves him and prays for him. He listened to me carefully, then asked me for my father's name and gave me a rosary, telling me: "This is for your father so that he will continue to pray for me". It was certainly a moment of double joy!



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I thank the previous General Council and all those who worked hard to bring about this meeting. Being with Pope Francis in the Chapter context was a huge gift, a beautiful and meaningful experience. I believe that for all of us and for our Institute this moment will remain in

the memory as a stimulus to persevere in our path of reconfiguration



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AMONG THE YOUNG SISTERS: INTERVIEW WITH SR VANDA LUVITA

Thinking back to the experience of the chapter

...what remained in your eyes? (the most visually powerful moment)

What remained in my eyes is the capital sisters who came from many different countries and provinces. I remember their faces and names. Each one of us has our own uniqueness but we share the same charism and mission. Our presence in the chapter was the sign of multiculture that exist in the reality of our Institute. The Chapter reminded us to go beyond, from multiculture to interculturality. I saw the work of the Holy Spirit in this Chapter. The new general council elected who represent the different cultures were the sign of hope in our journey to live as women of the word who love without measure.

...what stayed in your ears (the most meaningful word)?

What stayed in my ears is the word of the Holy Father that women of the word is not women of the chatter or women of activism, but we have to learn from Mary. To love without measure is a capacity that comes from the Holy Spirit. It is possible to love without measure by making room for the Spirit and his action in our lives. Holiness and mission are inseparable from each other.

...what stayed in your heart (the most emotional moment)

What stayed in my heart is the friendliness and the kindness of the sisters. I re-

member the moment when many sisters got sick but the Chapter kept going on. Other sisters took care of the sick sisters and made it possible to join the meeting via zoom. We could feel that we are one Canossian family. I was touched when I saw the photos of reality in the world today. I remember the image of the good Samaritan who saw and had compassion. We were touched by the cries of the earth and the cries of the poor, and we were moved to answer to the cries. We have the mission to respond to the need of the world and the poor but we are called also to live in communion with the sisters near to us.

What did it mean for you, for your journey, to be one of the youngest chapter mothers present?

I feel blessed to present in this Chapter and to be part of this religious family. As a young sister, I was enthusiastic when we were asked to envision the future. What do I want to see in the Congregation in the future, then I have to realize it from now on. I am not alone but we walk together in this life journey.

What do you take home as a precious gift for everyday life in your community?

My community is a very small part of the Institute but we share the path of holiness and mission of the Institute. In everyday life in the community we may live the interculturality and union of heart, and be the good Samaritan for others in our mission.



AMONG THE SENIOR SISTERS: INTERVIEW WITH SR. ANNAMARIA SERAFINI

The most striking moment: what has remained with you visually?

What impressed me from the first moment I entered the Chapter room were the round tables. A most beautiful impression from the very beginning: it spoke to me of equality, being in a circle together, dialogue, of the importance to listen to one another, of synodality, sharing, togetherness. It was a first impression that remained with me the whole time because every day I saw this sign become a reality.

The most significant word: what has remained in your hearing?

I heard a continuous, persistent call that was NEW, to live out of LOVE, in freedom and responsibility, especially towards the most vulnerable and needy. This was not only spoken. Charity was lived among us in many small details, especially with the sisters who in those days became ill with Covid. Besides, the theme 'Women of the Word' was constantly repeated calling us to place the person of Jesus and his life at the centre of ours. Without him and his word nothing would have meaning for us and in vain would be our every effort.

The most emotional moment: what has remained in your heart?

It has been the private audience with Pope Francis. What a truly family gathering. I sensed the Pope's ability to make himself a 'neighbour', to listen, to place his total attention on the person before him, and above all, I felt a deep oneness – the experience of the Spirit that unites us. It's amazing to be aware of this! And then, the simplicity, the clarity and depth with which Sister Sandra addressed the Pope and how he captured the essence of our charism and

how, as a true father, he invited us to live it with joy and generosity. How beautiful to be a simple Church that is humble, fraternal, open and joyful. How truly blessed we are to have received so much GRACE! It is up to us to share it by passing it on...

What has it meant for you, for your journey, to be among the most senior sisters present?

My participation at the General Chapter, at my age for the first and last time, was lived as an enormous grace. I felt it like a mature fruit, not for my effort but as GIFT, a free gift, longed for and suffered and, at the same time, fully enjoyed. I know that the Lord is leading my life moment by moment. During the Chapter I fell ill with Covid. In those days I could not be physically present at the assemblies but, with my heart and my whole self – also thanks to the technology – I was present at every moment. I truly suffered those days but then I understood what Pope Francis was saying: "Reality is only known at the periphery." In those days in which I found myself to be on the 'outside', I was given the grace to see the reality of our Institute in a different way. I saw that for the Lord what really counts are not rules and institutions. For him what counts is LOVE. It is for this that he has called us... to live in freedom and responsibility the beauty of giving Life in loving those he puts beside us, especially the most vulnerable and poor. It is this revelation that I can't forget and that draws me towards a continuous discernment in humility and communion. I ask this Grace for myself and all of us - to live in fullness of love, in openness, simplicity, wisdom and intelligence according to the Spirit. May he spur us on with his sweet firmness.

WOMEN OF THE WORD

"WHO LOVE WITHOUT MEASURE"

Eucharistic Celebration - Rome, 30 August 2022 (1Cor 2,10-16; Sal 144; Lc 4,31-37)

The General Chapter is always a moment of great importance for the life of a Religious Congregation. In the light of the Word, you have made a careful discernment during recent weeks, carried out faithfully and creatively, to interpret and make current, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the charism that was given to you by the Foundress, St. Magdalene of Canossa. The theme you have chosen for your XVII Chapter highlights the centrality of the word of God for your journey of sanctification and for the mission you are called to carry out in the world today.

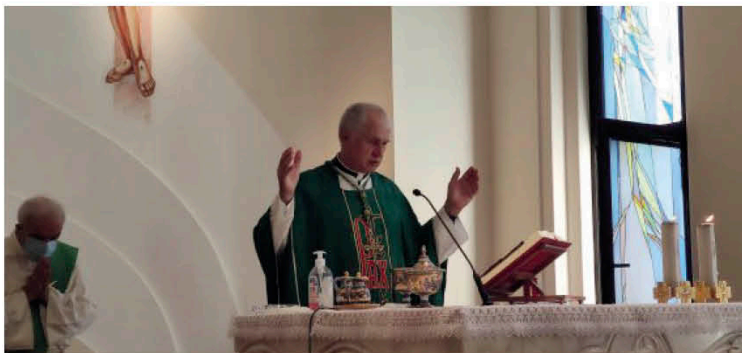
28 The passages of Scripture proclaimed in today's liturgy help us to deepen the chosen theme and, in particular, the meaning of the first part of the theme: *Women of the Word*, "who love without measure". In fact, the Gospel passage offers us the possibility of grasping the strength of the Word of Jesus and of highlighting three characteristics: it is a Word that teaches and educates, that manifests itself with great authority and frees from the evil one.

In the first place, therefore, Jesus with his word "taught the people", preaching the good news of the coming of the Kingdom of God. His whole life was marked by a constant and meticulous educational work ever since, still a teenager, he engaged with the Doctors of the Temple. (Lk 2: 41-50) Then in his incessant going from village to village to announce the King-

dom of God, chatting with everyone and offering each one a useful word for one's life, until the mandate entrusted to his disciples to carry his Word with the power of the Holy Spirit to the ends of the earth." (cf. Acts 1:8)

The value and effectiveness of this Word reminds us in particular of the Letter to the Hebrews in an admirable synthesis: "The word of God is alive, effective and sharper than any double-edged sword; it penetrates to the point of division between soul and spirit, to the joints and marrow, and discerns the feelings and thoughts of the heart. There is no creature who can hide from God, but everything is naked and uncovered to the eyes of him to whom we must render account." (Heb 4:12-13) It is from this penetrating and life-giving efficacy of the Word that your missionary commitment must also start.

The second characteristic of the Word



of Jesus consists in its being *clothed with great authority*. It is an aspect also highlighted by the evangelist Mark in a text that we can consider parallel, but with a non-secondary gloss: "They reached Capernaum and immediately Jesus, who entered the synagogue on the Sabbath,

started to teach. And they were amazed at his teaching: in fact, he taught them as one who has authority and not as the scribes.” (Mk 1:21-22) How did he differ from the scribes? Why was Jesus’ word so authoritative? The disciples of Emmaus say this very clearly when they speak of Jesus without realizing that it was he who walked alongside them: “he was a powerful prophet in deed and in words, before God and all the people.” (Lk 24:19) What makes the Word of Jesus particularly authoritative is therefore the full convergence between his teaching and his works.

The Council Constitution *Dei Verbum* makes this clear when it states: “the authority of his Word derives from the fulfillment of the work of salvation in him: therefore, Jesus Christ, Word made flesh,

sent as a “man to men”, “speaks the words of God” (Jn 3:34) and completes the work of salvation entrusted to him by the Father (cf. Jn 5:36; *ms*). Therefore he, by seeing him one sees the Father, (cf. Jn 14:9), by the very fact of his presence and with the manifestation of himself through his words and deeds, signs and miracles, and especially with his death and resurrection from the dead, and finally with the sending of the Spirit of truth, he fulfills and completes the Revelation.”(n.4)

In today’s text of Luke’s Gospel this correspondence between word and deeds is evident by the fact that Jesus frees the possessed man with particular authority, so much so that - affirms the evangelist: “All were seized with fear and said to one another: “What word is this, which commands impure spirits with authority and power and they go out?”». This interaction

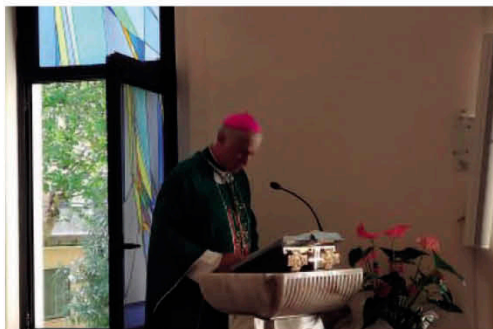
between word and deeds marks all the preaching and all the testimony given by Jesus and, consequently, cannot but be taken as an indispensable paradigm also in the actions of the Church, of each specific community and of each believer.

The third factor is the liberating force that springs from the Word of Jesus. The episode of the person from whom Jesus sends out the devil also makes us understand what power the Word of the Lord is endowed with. In fact, says the Gospel, «he sternly ordered him: “Be quiet! Get out of him!” » Jesus’ word is a Word that cannot be tamed or silenced. He always

acts and produces effects of liberation from physical and moral disease, from the evil one and from all diabolical actions, from hypocrisy and from his presumption. If we analyze the effects of the words spoken by Jesus it is not difficult to see that they are also always healing

and liberating or in any case capable of leaving an indelible mark in the life of those who listen to them. The Church itself would not be credible if she were not able to accompany the proclamation of salvation with works of liberation and solidarity, in every age and in every context.

In a fundamental passage of the *Evangeli* Gaudium the Apostolic Exhortation which is a true manifesto of his pontificate, within one of the most beautiful and incisive paragraphs entitled: “*Take the initiative, get involved, accompany, bear fruit and celebrate*”, Pope Francis recalls that without works there can be no evangelization: «Let us dare a little more to take the initiative! As a consequence, the Church knows how to “get involved”. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. The Lord gets involved and involves his own, kneeling in front of the



Women of the Word, "who love without measure"

others to wash them. But immediately afterwards he says to the disciples: "You will be blessed if you do this". (*Jn 13:17*) The evangelizing community places itself through works and gestures in the daily life of others, shortens distances, lowers itself to the point of humiliation if necessary, and takes on human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in the people. The evangelizers thus have the "smell of sheep" and these listen to their voice. » (n. 24).

In the light of these considerations that made us grasp a few fundamental dimensions of the word of God, the commitment to be *Women of the Word*, "*who love without measure*", represents a fascinating task that you have the responsibility to translate into concrete paths of witness and of missionary commitment for your religious family. It is an exercise that asks you to make the peculiarity of your being consecrated women shine, bearers of special gifts and sensibilities. At a time when the Church is committed to enhancing the contribution of women, your charism can be of great help in developing and deepening decisive aspects for the mission of the Church.

I am thinking in particular of the educational task which, since the birth of your Congregation, has seen you spend your best energy on the education and formation of the younger generations, paying attention to those who have greater difficulties. In the context of the "*Global Educational Pact*" promoted by Pope Francis, this task not only remains current, but becomes even more urgent and prophetic for the mission of the Church. Therefore, the contribution that you have made is great and that you can certainly continue to give, especially in those regions of the world where it is not easy to guarantee a public Christian presence and manage educational institutions.

But your charism also leads you to experiment with new forms of pastoral collaboration with parish and diocesan realities in the field of religious education and catechesis. We live in a time of profound transformations that are bringing about a real change of era, as Pope Francis often reminds us. His words are prophetic and today in the face of the pandemic, the climatic upheavals, the phenomenon of migration, the various conflicts and the war in Ukraine, we grasp its full significance

and urgent relevance. The Church is asked to be courageous and to undertake new paths for evangelization. You, with your "*hearts of women*", intrepid and rich in tenderness, maternal and generative, intuitive and determined,



guided by the Word received with faith and made to resonate in community life, can profoundly affect the renewal of the Church. Your Foundress, Saint Magdalene, your teacher and guide, was not afraid to leave her security to serve the neediest “by loving without measure” according to the heart of Christ. As Pope Francis reminded you in the audience on 26th August: «Magdalene’s life was “configured” to the holiness of Christ, according to the model of Mary, in the concrete missionary form dictated by the reality in which she lived. And this “yes” of hers, said not in words but in deeds, was generative».

Speaking to the International Union of Superiors General (IUSG) last 5th May, the Holy Father indicated the attitude that must be assumed, starting from Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. «At the feet of humanity there is a theological space, and we need to relocate ourselves there. Therefore, if our vocation is to follow the steps of Jesus, and do it “closely”, every time that history and the Spirit reposition the Church and religious life in this place, it will be for us a source of joy and growth, an inspirational source that allows us to feel younger. Since it is from there, from below, that everyone can re-read his charism and his history». With similar words Pope Francis exhorted you to ‘re-configure yourselves’ today, according to this form of life». Reminding you that «the secret is always the same: to let oneself be guided by the Holy Spirit to love God and the poor. But “today”: it is the today of the Church, it is the today of society, or rather, of the various societies in which you are present. With those situations of poverty, *with those faces that ask for closeness, compassion and tenderness.*»

Certainly, difficulties are not lacking of which we are all aware: from the crisis of vocations to the aging of the members of the Congregation, from the heaviness of structures no longer functional, to the current mission, to the difficult collaboration with the other components of the ecclesial community, from the complexity of globalization processes, to profound cultural changes made even more rapid and incisive by the pervasiveness of new media and social networks. It is necessary to move within this scenario, certainly complex and challenging, with great realism and prudence, but also with great confidence in the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in the support of the Church.

In fact, as Saint Paul reminds us in the first reading: “we did not receive the spirit of the world, but the Spirit of God to know what God has given us”. It is this awareness that has certainly guided your work and has enabled you to enter into that “thought of God” which is a source of light and discernment to face the challenges posed by community life itself and by the mission that you are called to carry out today in the world. Therefore, aware of the gifts received and making your own the attitude indicated by St. Paul whereby “the person moved by the Spirit judges everything, without being judged by anyone”, do not be afraid to face difficult choices and take on new and challenging tasks.

I conclude by renewing with you my entrustment to the Lord who never lacks his closeness and support to those who turn to him, as stated in the responsorial psalm: “The Lord is faithful in all his words and good in all his deeds. The Lord sustains those who falter and raises up whoever has fallen ». Amen.

“Under your protection, we seek refuge, O Holy Mother of God”

Our Pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Divine Love

The two days leading up to the election of the new General Council were filled with research, discussion, prayer, and discernment but on the morning of Monday, August 22, the atmosphere changed as all of us Chapter Sisters left Rome, Octavia for the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Divine Love which is located a few kilometers from the city of Rome.

We carried two great desires in our hearts on this pilgrimage. Firstly, we wan-

On arrival, we were greeted by a Sister of the Congregation of Daughters of Our Lady of Divine Love who guided us to discover the beautiful sanctuary and its history that began in 1740. At that time an icon, painted on the tower of an old, ruined castle and representing the Madonna and Child and dominated by the dove of the Holy Spirit –saved a pilgrim who was on his way to St. Peter's Basilica. He got lost in the deserted Roman countryside and found himself in danger of being



ted to thank the Lord for the willingness shown by the Sisters of the Council in putting themselves at the service of the Institute and guiding it for the next 6 years. We also wanted to ask Our Blessed Lady to continue to care for and protect all the Canossian Sisters of the world so that, we may all continue to grow in our witnesses of communion and mercy.



attacked by a pack of rabid dogs.

But the greatest gift that Mary gave to the Roman people took place on June 4, 1944, when Rome ran the risk of being razed to the ground by fleeing German troops. The people prayed to Our Blessed Lady with great fervor and constancy and Rome was saved. After that event, the Shrine, which by then had fallen into ruins, was rebuilt and soon became the destination of many pilgrims who invoked the Mother of God and entrusted themselves to her.

So, after listening carefully to the story and visiting the places blessed by the presence of the Virgin, we headed

towards the new sanctuary whose construction was completed for the great jubilee of the year 2000. On the threshold, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re awaited us, accompanied by his and our Canossian sister, Mother Giovanna Re. The Cardinal, despite his 88 years, welcomed us with the enthusiasm and energy of a

Our pilgrimage ended at the foot of the blessed icon of the Madonna and Child, where we recited the rosary in different languages, thus expressing the internationality of our Institute and the communion of hearts that we are committed to building.

Thank you, Maria! Thank you for wel-



child and celebrated for us and with us the Eucharist of thanksgiving for the election of the new General Council. His powerful voice and the strength that we felt in his words filled the great church and the immense stained-glass windows in shades of blue upon blue seemed to reawaken in us the desire for trusting abandonment in the hands of the One whom Magdalene declared as our one and only Foundress.

coming us under your mantle, for enveloping us in your motherly embrace, and sending us into the world to bring the good news to everyone: the good news that your Son, Jesus loves all humanity, loves it as it is! He gave his life for every human being so that all may come to enjoy eternal life with Him. May we always be witnesses of this Good News with our words and with our lives.

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By **Sr. Rosa Maria**



NEWS FROM THE WORLD

CONSISTORY, FACE OF THE JOURNING CHURCH



34

With the consistory of August 2022, Pope Francis redraws once again the profile of the Church of the future. The Holy Father has conferred the role of Cardinal on pastors from the five continents. Four new countries will be represented in the College of Cardinals: Mongolia, Paraguay, Singapore and East Timor. The list of names confirmed the double criteria that motivated the previous seven Consistories of Pope Bergoglio's pontificate. On the one hand, internationality, with a special attention to the South of the world, and the overcoming of the seats once traditionally considered "seats of Cardinals" with a predilection for the peripheries, that is, outlying territories that historically have never seen a Cardinal. From 27th August, the College of Cardinals is therefore been made up of 226 cardinals, of whom 132 are electors and 94 are non-electors: 106 in Europe, of which 54 are electors; 60 in the Americas, including 38 electors; 30 in Asia, including 20 electors; 27 in Africa, of which 17 are electors; 5 cardinals in Oceania, 3 of whom are electors.

PAKISTAN HIT BY SERIOUS FLOODS:

Torrential monsoon rains at the end of August and the beginning of September 2022 triggered the worst floods in Pakistan's recent history, wiping out villages and leaving nearly 10 million children in need of immediate and life-saving assistance. This is only the latest of the tragedies caused by the climate crisis. About 33 million people, including around 16 million children, were affected by this year's heavy monsoon

rains in Pakistan, which resulted in devastating rains, floods and landslides. Some major rivers broke their banks and dams overflowed, destroying homes, farms and critical infrastructure, including roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and public



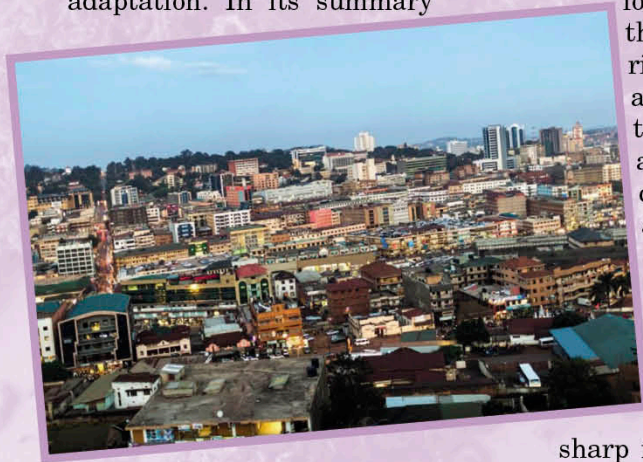
ACTION PLANS FOR CLIMATE: A KEY CHALLENGE TO ADDRESS INJUSTICES AND INEQUALITIES IN AFRICAN CITIES

Fairness and justice feature prominently in the Sixth Assessment Report of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), published in 2022. The report focuses on the impacts of climate change, vulnerability and adaptation. In its summary

for policy makers, the report states that "Inclusive governance that prioritizes equity and justice in planning and implementing adaptation leads to more effective and sustainable adaptation outcomes (high confidence)." This is a welcome development, albeit a long overdue one. The report offers ample evidence to support a focus on justice in different sectors and regions. It reflects the rapid growth of concern for climate justice - both in the circles of advocacy and in the public debate - and the

sharp increase in the volume of information

on this issue. Arguments related to climate justice include the need to address historical inequities, to challenge established power, and consider different perspectives and needs in planning and implementation. Only by addressing these problems directly we will be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and climate goals.



35

WE MUST FIGHT AGAINST THE CLIMATE CRISIS



health facilities. As the waters receded, the extent of the damage was revealed. Hundreds of thousands of homes have been damaged or destroyed, while many public health facilities, water systems and schools have been destroyed or damaged. Children

are living outdoors with their families, with no clean water, no food and means of support, exposed to a wide range of new flood-related risks and dangers, including damaged buildings and drowning in water. It is urgent that the countries of the world strengthen cooperation to send humanitarian aid to Pakistan in this crisis, but above all intensify their efforts to accelerate the transition to a more sustainable world.

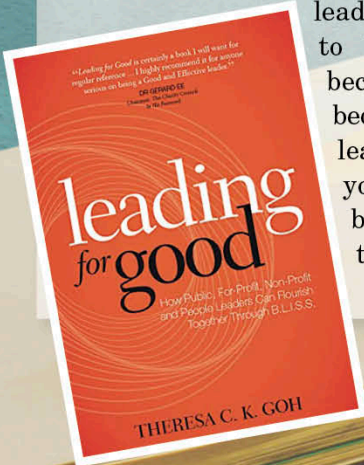
HINTS ON LINE AND OFFLINE

A BOOK TO RETHINK LEADERSHIP AS A SERVICE

"Leading for good: How public leaders, profits and nonprofits can thrive together"

by Theresa C. K. Goh

The author of the book proposes the formula B.L.I.S.S. (English acronym for Behaviors, Purpose of Leadership, Information Detection, Shared Values, and Systemic Thinking) to guide and help people called to leadership roles to be effective because you become better leaders only if you also become better people.



A VIDEO TO FRAME THE MIGRATION ISSUE

"Our reception system does not work. Here's how we can get it going again"

by Alexander Betts

In recent years, millions and millions of refugees have arrived in Europe, but as Alexander Betts points out, our response has not been adequate for the problem. Betts has studied forced migration, the impossible choice for families between camps, urban poverty, and dangerous illegal journeys to safety. In this lucid and passionate discourse, he proposes four ways to change the way we treat refugees so that they can contribute and integrate into the countries that welcome them. Betts says: "Migrants are human beings with capacities, talents, aspirations, with the ability to make a significant contribution. It's up to us to give them the right conditions to do so." [YOUTUBE.COM/watch?v=KLIfG-fINp8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLIfG-fINp8)

NURTURING REFLECTION

WALKING WITH THE POPE "The Wounded Pastor: Pope Francis and His Struggle to Convert the Catholic Church"

by Austen Ivereigh

A biography of Pope Francis rich in details and insights focused on the challenges and resistances that the Holy Father's reforming action has faced to purify the Church from the temptation of power and traditions that have become outdated and hardened and achieve humanity with the mercy of God. In the portrait by the American journalist and founder of the site crux.com, Austen Ivereigh, Francis emerges as a world leader of great vision and skill who never loses sight of spiritual attention, a leader who is at peace even in the turmoil that surrounds him. With amusing anecdotes, insider reports, and expert analysis, Ivereigh's journey through the key episodes of Francis' reform in

Rome and in the universal Church focuses on the joys and labors of a pontificate that has already entered history.

Wounded Shepherd
Pope Francis
and His Struggle
to Convert the
Catholic
Church
Austen
Ivereigh

AUTHOR OF
THE GREAT REFORMER

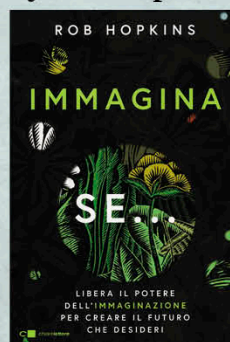


A BOOK FOR REDISCOVER THE POWER OF IMAGINATION

"Imagine if...

Unleash the power of
imagination to create the
future you want"

by Rob Hopkins



Che idea abbiamo oggi del futuro? Nel dibattito pubblico e anche nelle conversazioni private sembrano spesso prevalere paure e preoccupazioni. Oltre il Covid-19, alimentata dalla crisi epocale che stiamo attraversando, c'è

una pandemia di solitudine, depressione, ansia, rispetto a cui nemmeno i più giovani sono immuni. Ma è proprio vero che non possiamo cambiare le cose, che non siamo in grado di trovare soluzioni comunitarie alle crisi ecologiche e sociali in corso? Niente affatto, anzi: il libro di Rob Hopkins raccoglie decine e decine di storie che dimostrano come in tutto il mondo cittadini e comunità sono già al lavoro per creare un futuro desiderabile e felice.

Da nuovi modi per rendere la scuola un'esperienza vivificante, alla produzione di energia pulita, a ingegnose soluzioni di mobilità sostenibile fino a nuovi progetti per garantire sicurezza del cibo che mangiamo, la chiave proposta da Hopkins è quella di riscoprire e sprigionare l'immaginazione come forza per cambiare per cambiare in meglio il mondo di oggi.

E V E TO ACCOMPANY OCTOBER MISSIONARY MONTH

5

WORLD TEACHER'S DAY

"In a society increasingly upset by great challenges that question contemporary man, teachers are the true architects of the future. May the Lord help you to become protagonists of a more just and fraternal world, more welcoming and supportive, where peace can triumph in the rejection of all forms of violence."

[Pope Francis]

16

WORLD FOOD DAY

"There are four areas in which action is urgent: in agriculture, in the sea, what we eat at table and in the reduction of food loss and waste. Our lifestyles and daily consumption practices affect global and environmental dynamics, but if we aspire to real change, we must urge producers and consumers to make ethical and sustainable decisions and raise the awareness of younger generations about the important task they perform. to make a world without hunger a reality."

[Pope Francis]

23

WORLD MISSION DAY: "LIVES THAT SPEAK"

The experience of the missionaries engaged in the Churches scattered throughout the continents can really help us even in our daily reality to become witnesses of Jesus. The choice of the Gospel is not made of words but of concrete gestures of incarnate spirituality.

N O V E M B E R ' 2 2

1

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are the persecuted for righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
[Mt 5: 8-10]

2

COMMEMORATION OF THE DEAD

"Hope attracts us and gives us meaning in life. I cannot see the afterlife. But hope is the gift of God that draws us towards life, towards eternal joy. Hope is like an anchor that we have on the other side: clinging to the rope, we support each other. I know that my Redeemer is alive and I will see him." [Pope Francis]

20

OUR LORD CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

"To all the seekers of y show yourself, Lord; re of all the pilgrims of the o Lord; of those who set o road and do not know go; show yourself to th seek a friendly look."
[David Maria Turolfo]

N T S

THE JOURNEY

DECEMBER '22

8

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY

"Immaculate Conception; this means that Mary anticipated, in some way, the ultimate condition towards which we are going. In her, our future condition is manifested as privileged transparency." [Ernesto Balducci]

10

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

"No man is an island, complete in himself; each man is a piece of the continent, a part of the whole. If even a single rock was washed away from the sea, Europe would be diminished, as if a stronghold were missing, as if a home of your friends, or your own home, were missing." [John Donne]

18

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

In 2000, the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 18th December the International Day for the Rights of Migrants: ten years earlier it had, in fact, approved the International Convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families.

25

SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS

The mystery of Christmas is certainly a mystery of poverty and impoverishment: Christ, rich as he was, made himself poor for us, to become similar to us, for the love of us and, above all, for the love of the poorest. A poverty accompanied by joy. [Carlo Maria Martini]

JESUS
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25

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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"The various forms of mistreatment that many women suffer are sheer cowardice and degradation for men and for all humanity. We cannot look the other way. Women victims of violence must be protected by society." [Pope Francis]

27

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"He must come, He will come, if I resist blossoming unseen, He will come suddenly. When I least perceive him: He will almost forgive what kills, He will come to make me sure Of his and my treasure Of my and his pains, He will come, perhaps His whisper is already coming." [Clemente Rebora]

"I WOULD LIKE TO GO TO SCHOOL. CAN I?"

There where the future takes shape.

The question is written in their eyes, in the eyes of all the children of the world. It is a question full of colour, the colours of their future and we can give them the answer. Only us.

There are about 115,000 students who are welcomed every day in the countless Canossian educational realities scattered across all continents. They are many, many, but there are still many more who are still waiting to enter a school where they can receive a hot meal, be welcomed into a clean and dignified environment and be followed by trained teachers who really take care of them.

40 We would like to do more for many more boys and girls. We dream of new classrooms and spaces to accommodate more, with desks and chairs because the floor is no longer the most suitable place to study. We want to guarantee all students the necessary learning tools: books, exercise books, pens and computers. We would like to ensure they have trained and adequate teachers to take care of the hearts and minds of these girls and boys. We dream of being able to support young people coming from poor families, in their higher education studies to become teachers, nurses and social workers.

"I would like to go to school. Can I?"
Yes! This is the best answer we can give together.

We can do this in many different ways, because the needs and realities that arise are different.

Laripani, North India

Scholarships for girls



Since 2011, the Canossian Sisters have started promotion and education activities in favour of the poor population of the rural and tribal areas surrounding the village of Laripani, a small rural village located in the Raigarh district, in the State of Chhattisgarh. Here, the socio-educational structures are very few, while the population is extremely poor and the local economy is mainly made up of basic sustenance activities such as livestock and agriculture. During their visits to families in the area, the Canossian Sisters met many girls who had interrupted their studies due to the difficulty of their families to meet the expenses that would give them the opportunity to become nurses, teachers or other workers. Thanks to the Scholarships, it will be possible to ensure a complete cycle of studies for 9 girls (14-18 years) who will thus be able to prepare for a dignified professional life which will allow them to contribute to the support of their families and the study for their own brothers and sisters.

Payakaraopeta, South-East India

Evening school support centres



Payakaraopeta is a village located in one of the most backward areas of Andhra Pradesh. In almost all the villages of that rural area there are government primary schools which are not, however, able to guarantee an adequate instruction due to the serious lack of suitable buildings and equipment as well as trained and motivated teachers.

Considering the poor level of education of the children of these schools and the illiteracy of their parents, the Canossian Sisters have decided to start up three evening school support centres in as many rural villages: Calvary colony, Indira Colony and Payakaraopeta. Each of these Centres will ensure the presence of three teachers and three classes of 25 children. Thus, there will be 225 girls and boys who can thus be helped to overcome their learning difficulties. In each village, with the help of local people, an easily accessible building has been identified for all children to be used as a Support Centre. The teachers of each Centre will be identified and selected within the villages themselves, so as to ensure a constant presence on site, facilitate contacts with students and parents and avoid the problem of travel. At each meeting, all children will be guaranteed a snack, as well as some materials such as school bags, pens and paper.

Distance Support (SAD)

We want to promote and make known this precious form of educational solidarity more and more.

The beneficiaries of Distance Support are the many boys and girls who live in the countries where the Canossian missions operate, all coming from poor families; orphans, street children, child workers. It is a gesture of solidarity and concrete help that aims at promoting the development of the person and especially of children and young people in conditions of risk, poverty and marginalization in their places of origin. Thanks to Distance Support, Ca-



nossian missionary Sisters guarantee less fortunate children a quality education, mainly within Canossian Schools, without any discrimination. Each of them is guaranteed a snack and a meal on a daily basis, a protected and clean environment, school material and health assistance.

There are 1,004 girls and boys from 15 countries who can go to school today thanks to the precious help of Distance Support. By the end of 2023, we would like to be able to support 1,200 children.

For information and reception of material regarding Distance Support: adozioni@fondazionecanossiana.org

Yes! You can go to school too.

The best answer we can give together to every child!

by **Giancarlo Urbani,**
Project Manager

PROJECTS

"I would like to go to school. Can I?"

The question is written in the eyes, in the eyes of all the children of the world. It is a question full of colours, the colours of their future.

"The School is the harvest that costs the most, but which yields the most, since the conduct of a lifetime usually depends on education."

(St. Magdalene of Canossa)

Yes!

This is the best answer we can give together thanks to ...



Laripani, India Nord - Scholarships for girls

ENSURE a complete course of studies for a girl (14-18 years) who will thus be able to prepare herself for a dignified professional life that allows her to contribute to supporting her family and an education for her brothers and sisters.

1.100,00 € / YEAR for a girl

REASON: Laripani scholarship (Name of the girl)

Payakaraopeta, South-East India School support centres

SUPPORT the activities of an evening school support centre in a rural village for 75 children by providing them with a snack, some school material such as a school bag, pens, paper and a trained teacher.



1.500,00 € / YEAR for a Centre

REASON: Payakaraopeta School Support



Distance Support (SAD)

EDUCATE a child by providing him/her with a snack and a meal a day, a protected and clean environment, teaching materials, health care and a trained teacher.

250 -300 € for child

REASON: Distance Support (Name / Country of the child)

Canossian Foundation Voica For a better life...

Address:
via della Stazione di Ottavia, 70
00135 Roma

email: fondazione@canossian.org
C:F: 08069261009
Telephone: +39 06 308280676

How to make a donation:

BANK TRANSFER IN EURO

Banca Popolare di Sondrio – Roma
Code IBAN:
IT83 E056 9603 2110 0000 5128X88
BIC/SWIFT: POSOIT22
In favour of:
Fondazione Canossiana VOICA
Reason for payment:
(Name the project or Mission to support)

CREDIT TRANSFER IN US DOLLARS

BANCA POPOLARE DI SONDRIO – Roma
CODE IBAN:
IT53 D056 9603 211V ARUS 0005 128
Code BIC / SWIFT: POSOIT22
In favour of:
Fondazione Canossiana VOICA
Reason for transfer:
(Name the project or Mission to support)

POSTAL ORDER: N. 62011531

In favour of:
Fondazione Canossiana VOICA
Reason for Payment:
(Name the project or Mission to support)

ASSEGNO BANCARIO non trasferibile

In favour of:
Fondazione Canossiana VOICA

SEE YOU SOON



Now that you have read this issue of Vita Più, we would like to suggest some questions to help you to embody in your life and translate into concrete action, some of the points which gave you food for thought as you read the articles in our Canossian magazine.

– Meeting the Chapter Sisters in Rome on 26 August 2022, the Holy Father Francis entrusted the Canossian family with three words that can act as a compass for the way we are called to live in the present time. The three key words were closeness, compassion, and tenderness. Let's ask ourselves "What step can I take to embody this style?"

– In her message at the conclusion of the XVII General Chapter, the new Superior General of the Institute M. Sandra Maggiolo invited the Canossian sisters to "be witnesses of a fresh, transformed, transforming, and missionary religious life which is nourished by the humanity of the Gospel". Am I able to continually re-center my life by anchoring it to the Gospel, to allow myself to be transformed by the Word?

– How do I look to the future with Maddalena in my heart? What is the "more" to which I feel that I am called to love without measure, today, in the concrete situation in which I am?

“*Father of Mercy,*

All praise be to You through Jesus Christ,
our Saviour, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for all ages and ages.

We thank you for the family and friends.
Blessed be you, Father, for all the gifts you give us.
Blessed be you for the gift of community,
Sisters and Brothers
who remain with us in times of joy and suffering,
who help us in the days of need
and rejoice with us in moments of celebration.

Good Father, we praise you for your Son Jesus,
who knew the happiness of belonging to a family
and to have friends in the love of your Holy Spirit.

Blessed be You, forever and ever.”

**CASA GENERALIZIA DELLE FIGLIE
DELLA CARITÀ CANOSSIANE**

*via della Stazione di Ottavia, 70
00135 Roma - Italia*