



**Curia Generalizia**

***Figlie della Carità Canossiane – Roma***

Via della Stazione di Ottavia, 70 – 00135 Roma



Rome, 26 August 2022

Dearest Pope Francis,

On behalf of all the Sisters, Daughters of St. Magdalene of Canossa, our Foundress, I thank You from the depth of my heart for the gift of this long-awaited and desired encounter.

### **What to say and present to Pope Francis...?**

I have tried to listen to my heart and I express three things to You simply:

1. We are 67 capitulars representing 32 Countries, we hold in our hearts all our Sisters living in the 294 Communities spread across the 5 continents and the many, many Lay Canossians, represented here, who share the same Charism, in the mission. We are culturally different, yet united by the Universal Charity that made St. Magdalene, our Mother, say: *“Charity knows no other Countries or boundaries except those that lead from the imperfect practice of charity here on earth to the perfect exercise of it in Heaven.”* (UR, On the Virtue of Fraternal Charity, p. 243)

2. Holy Father, we are close to the conclusion of the XVII General Chapter which involves us in reflecting on the theme:

***“Women of the Word loving without measure in and for the mission, today.”***

We are convinced that the world's new socio-cultural contexts demand that we know how to tread new paths, to be **courageous and daring witnesses**, who feel burning in their hearts what St Paul writes to the Corinthians: ***“Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel!”*** (1Cor 9:16). Our Foundress also had this Pauline yearning in her heart, she did it in her time and we, in this time: ***“Woe to me if I do not make Jesus known and loved, for He is not loved because He is not known.”***

We carry in our hearts the "joy of fatigue" of living relationships every day in the culture of encounter. As an International Congregation, we take up the challenge of renewing our Formation, the Missionary Passion, through a more synodal and less institutional form of governance.

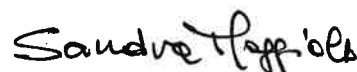
Like St Magdalene, we wish to incarnate ourselves in the spiritual horizon of interculturality by making our own the cry of the poor and the care of our common home through fraternities that seek to bear witness to the humanity of the Gospel: the fire of Charity.

3. Holy Father, we are here as daughters. Daughters who wish to express gratitude and appreciation for your courageous magisterium and wish to hear a word from you that gives them new courage and new parresia.

We are grateful to the Lord for the gift of the Church that is our Mother, for the gift of the Charism which the Spirit renews, for St. Josephine Bakhita, our Universal Sister.

We are Daughters of Charity Servants of the little ones and the poor to whom we owe our thoughts, care and bread of dignity. The poor, we know, are the precious treasure that You, Pope Francis, have always carried in your heart.

Thank You, Holy Father, for this encounter, we assure You of our affection and our prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sandra Maggiolo". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Sandra" and last name "Maggiolo" clearly distinguishable.

Sr. Sandra Maggiolo  
Superior General