

Dearest Sisters,

We have reached the conclusion of the first Plenary Session of the General Council that involved us in the elaboration of the Program for the six-year term 2022-2027. We perceived the power and the light of the Holy Spirit and the active presence of Mary who, as at Cana, directed energies in a creative way. Our lives, fragile and vulnerable, are the object of thoughtful care on the part of God who loves us and continues to call us to give 'good wine' to a thirsty world.

The international crisis we are living, characterized by violent armed conflicts present in many parts of the world, economic precariousness, social-political instability, and the persistence of the pandemic are a call to be educators of peace, in solidarity with the most fragile, within a contradictory and suffering contemporaneity. With humility, tenacity, and hope we commit ourselves to understand the challenges of the world and to face them in the community search for God's will, in fidelity to the spirit of the origins, for a passionate sequela of Christ, and a new missionary dynamism.

From a re-generated life to a generative life

In this 150th anniversary of foundation, the Institute, confirmed by the 'sign' of Cana, opens itself to new horizons of life and of hope. The road towards Capharnum is open. It is up to us to follow it with the eyes of believing women, full of courage and passion, aware of the responsibility to be like Mary, helpers, mediators, missionaries who know how to transmit the attraction of Jesus, committed to work in favor of the life of the young people, especially those who are marginalized or risk being excluded from a fully human life.

The synodal reflection that involves us as Church, was the frame for General Chapter XXIV. So too, in the elaboration of the Programming, we desired to have an experience of synodality together with the Sisters who collaborate with us and with the contribution of some experts, to favor the actualization of the choices and deliberations of the Chapter. The journey of community building allowed us to listen to various voices, dialogue, and search together, favoring inter-sector work in order to offer the Institute a unified Program. You will not receive a booklet with the program of each Animation Sector, keeping in mind what the Provinces expressed in the evaluation of the last six-years and of the choice made to have all energies and resources converge on the identified processes. Each Sector will have as a point of reference, the guidelines for action contained in the Program.

The Program is placed in continuity with the journey of the Institute and intends to encourage the commitment of every Province and Community to actualize in daily life the mandate of GC XXIV:

« With Mary be a presenza that generates life ».

The process of elaboration was guided by the criteria of essentiality, involvement, participation, coordination, discernment, shared decisions: a true workshop of missionary synodality as in Mornese. We want to share the joy of our experience that becomes the invitation to live together being a generative presence and to continue to write a new page in the history of our Institute.

In our reflection, we identified the great horizons towards which we are walking:

**" Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5).
As at Cana and at Mornese we are a
"presence"
that generates, promotes, and takes care of life
in contemporaneity.**

The biblical passage of the wedding at Cana (Jn 2: 1-12) continues to illumine our journey. Being of Mary, with all the richness of her humanity, maternity, and powerful intercession, is a call to take on a new style of presence that flows from an 'overview', a typically feminine gift that sees, ponders in the heart, and lets itself be involved.

The Program actualizes the three Priority Choices and Deliberations contained in the Acts of GC XXIV: be in on-going formation, walk in synodality, act networking in the perspective of an integral ecology.

"The guiding thread is the quality of presence, that is, our 'being there' as persons and as community in the heart of contemporaneity" (Concluding words of the Superior General, Mother Chiara Cazzuola at GC XXIV).

Some processes have been identified whose synergistic actualization will already be an experience of listening, of discernment, of networking to be *a presence regenerated by the Spirit, sign and prophecy of missionary synodality and vocational fruitfulness*. We have chosen some transversal ways: listening that enables us to unlearn, learn, and re-learn; accompaniment of the processes; work in inter-sector teams; involvement of the laity and young people.

In the six-year term just begun, we desire to continue to live the style of discernment, of valuing Mother's Circulars as the Magisterium of the Institute, the Canonical and Animation Visits of the various Sectors, the journeys of the Interprovincial Conferences, of the Provinces, and of the Educating Communities. We are aware that life flourishes in the local realities and we wish to place every resource at its service to favor its growth.

The Program will be reviewed by evaluations aimed at the gradual assumption of the Priority Choices and Deliberations of GC XXIV, that will direct the triennial Evaluations.

Attached in the Calendar of activities that will take place during the six-year term, the Canonical Visits and the Triennial Evaluations.

On a journey like the Church

The six-year term will be traversed by a flow of graces and blessings, marked by anniversaries and significant events. First among them is the Celebration of the XVI Ordinary Assembly of the Bishops Synod scheduled for the month of October 2023, on the theme: "For a synodal Church: communion, participation, mission". Let us walk together in this dynamic of reciprocal listening, lived at all levels of the Church with the People of God.

For the Jubilee Year 2025, Pope Francis gave the Church the theme, *Pilgrims of Hope*. The pilgrimage towards the Jubilee can reinforce and express the common journey that as Church, we are called to accomplish in order to be instruments of unity and harmony in diversity. May this time of preparation be the occasion to vitalize the Word of God that invites us to listen to the cry of the poor and to restore to each one access to the fruits of the earth (Cf. Letter of Pope Francis for Jubilee 2025, 11 February 2022).

El Papa Francisco entregó a toda la Iglesia el tema *Peregrinos de la Esperanza* para el Año Jubilar de 2025. La peregrinación hacia el Jubileo podrá fortalecer y expresar el camino común que como Iglesia estamos llamados a realizar para ser instrumento de unidad y armonía en la diversidad. Que este tiempo de preparación sea una oportunidad para hacer vital la Palabra de Dios, que nos invita a escuchar el grito de los pobres y a restituir a cada uno el acceso a los frutos de la tierra (cf. Carta del Papa Francisco para el Jubileo de 2025, 11 de febrero de 2022).

In 2027, it will be the 150th Anniversary of the First FMA Missionary Expedition (14 November 1877). May the Spirit maintain alive the grateful memory of our Sisters who, inflamed by love for Jesus, at the school of Don Bosco and Mary Mazzarello, listened to the missionary mandate with great and generous hearts. From the generative power of our origins, let us gather the call to be Mornese outgoing, living missionary passion with joy together with the young.

With the consignment of the Program to each Sister, we desire to continue the journey of missionary synodality that we can recognize in the experience of consecrated life of all times and in the community of the first Sisters of Mornese. We feel ourselves ever more deeply involved in an experience of generative life, open to the world of young people whom we love so much, and to whom we want to offer the gift of new and good wine that we ourselves have received.

To Mary, ever present in our life and in our communities, we entrust the new journey in the certainty of her attentive, active, and thoughtful ‘presence’. As the Pope reminded us, “Accompanied by Her, go ahead with enthusiasm on the journey that the Spirit suggests to you” (Discourse of Pope Francis in the encounter with the participants at GCXXIV in the Generalate, 22 October 2021).

With Mary, let us walk together towards Easter! We wish to celebrate it with exultation born from the awareness of being regenerated in Christ. He is our peace and in Him is all the fullness of new life.

May the Lord’s blessings inundate the joy of our existence and help us to rejoice over every sign of new life that continually blossoms in us and in every reality of the Institute.

Rome, 24 March 2022

Mother and the Council Sisters