

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



IN THE CROSS
IS OUR SALVATION

Mother Bernarda

September 14, 2023

Dear Sisters
and friends of Holy Cross

I greet you with much affection in the name of the Congregational Leadership.

I want to share with you my reflection on an article¹ which can accompany us to see how even the path of Consecrated Life today is marked by the mystery of the Cross, Mystery of weakness and strength, Mystery of humble and gratuitous love. Mystery of new life that also arises from knowing how to "die" to a type of presence and recognition to which we are accustomed.

We are faced with realities that challenge us and push us to look beyond what our eyes are capable of seeing because Jesus is still alive beyond limited human categories. We are called to be contemplatives in action to create, liberate and transform.



We know that consecrated life today is not seen as something that can give newness, but we are certain that there are still those who need us. We also know that our numbers have diminished and with it our motivation, strength and courage.

We go through times in which television stars are created, sensationalism sells and amuses; everything is vertigo and haste.

The consecrated life is a different calling and as soon as one goes a little deeper one perceives it. I think we need *to stop, listen and think*. Three verbs that seem simple but in our present reality are terribly complex.

¹ My reflection is linked to an article in the Magazine Vida Religiosa published by the Claretian Missionaries of Colombia (N.7 volume 133).

The mystery of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross invites us to introspection that enables us to be challenged by reality in order to overcome a certain air of "*it is no more possible*" that often closes our expectations and possibilities. However, we are women who, being part of this history, propose nothing less than recreating the History of Jesus for this time. And this is where the key to everything lies: in freedom and gratuitousness, in prolonged times of silence and frugality; of serenity and ecology. Consecrated life, in order to have light, needs to "appear" little.

In fact, we are no longer considered unique even when we know how to be close to the joys and sorrows of our humanity of which we are part and bring hope. We do not make headlines for our vision of necessary social, political and economic transformation, and seek to create justice. We don't make news when we open up to cultures and diversities. We are nothing new when we dare to denounce exploitation and are "the voice of the voiceless". We are no longer seen as something new to plan peace, to remind us that the values of the Kingdom are possible today. We are not considered something new and we don't want to be: we want to be the sign of evangelical freedom that never loses strength.

Indeed, the brilliance of consecrated life is found in the daily cultivation of values that do not expire; trust in people, in the insecure certainty that God takes care of the house and "*gives it to his friends while they sleep*".

We are the ones who, in love with Love, understand the meaning of life by spending ourselves on all those we meet on the street and who often hear themselves called by name and with affection for the first time, making them feel a whole person. *We are pilgrims, walkers, agile travelers...*



Even when we become elderly, our mission of spiritually accompanying the Congregation and the people we meet daily does not end. Despite our weaknesses we continue the mission of being Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Mother Bernarda, despite all the difficulties, knew how to faithfully carry her ideal; she was a woman full of God, prudent and profoundly wise. She knew how to carry the Cross with courage and patience and from that Cross life has been born for us and for the world.

I wish you a blessed Feast of the Holy Cross!

Sr. Matilde.

Sr Matilde Inostroza
On behalf of the CLT

*"Jesus walks to the Cross, he dies on the Cross
so that our soul may smile".*

Pope Francis

