

Together on the Journey...

Sisters of the Holy Cross

INFO n.1/ January 2020

Dear Sister

During my first few weeks in Lucerne I was struck by many things. One thing that touched me deeply and on which I have reflected is the Sisters of "House Bernarda". There are three sisters, Sr Ancilla Pia, Sr Erica Maria and Sr Armanda, who have been in "House Bernarda" for many years, serving only the Generalate. I was touched from the moment when these sisters said goodbye to the members of the previous Congregational Leadership to how they welcomed the new team. Their farewell tears showed me how much affection they felt for the outgoing team. At the same time, I noticed how they immediately opened up to the new members of the CLT. They desired to get to know us and show us that they would take care of us too, although none of us spoke German and none of them spoke English. They are sisters who are over 80 years old, yet they are here only for us...

Looking at their age and the readiness to serve, I thought about the question that the Lord posed to the prophet Jeremiah: "What do you see, Jeremiah?" and Jeremiah replied: "I see an almond tree branch." (cf. Jer 1:11)

It is a strange answer ... In fact, Jeremiah lives in a very difficult moment for his country: it is a time of profound political and religious crisis. Yet in the time when everything seems to be lost, Jeremiah sees an "almond tree branch" ... He sees the life that still blossoms within the folds of that winter, which envelops the history and faith of the people of Israel.

In the winter of some part or some dimension of our Congregation, we are called to be attentive to

*the life that is being born not ending
and trusting in what God is doing now..*

It is a gift and a challenge!

Mother Bernarda taught us this with her life and her choices. She chose to live as a consecrated woman in villages in a time when convents were closed. She chose to educate the poorest because she saw in them not what was missing but the potential that could come to light. She **knew how to see the almond branch in the winter of the history of her time** and trusted that God would bring about its flowering, **thus transforming her society** ... And after her, many other sisters... Even today.

And you, dear Sister, what do you see?

*Thanks for every time you help the Congregation
to look at "the almond tree branch" present in our time ...*

Sr. Dolina

Sr. Bernadette, Sr. Fatima, Sr. Matilde, Sr. Rose Paul

*I see a branch
almond tree ...*



Sharing
of the
Responsibilities



We live together
the charism of
the Holy Cross

In communion
also through
Social Media

Above all, let ourselves
be surprised by God...

⇒ **In the CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

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SR ROSE PAUL PUTHUSSERRIL	Bursar General
SR BERNADETTE DUFFY	Secretary General
SR MATILDE INOSTROZA	Delegated Councillor for "House Italy"

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Until we move to Menzingen Sr Ursula Wyss will assist with all legal matters. We sincerely thank her for her help in arranging our necessary documentation.

We believe it is important to meet the Provincial Superiors, or their delegates, on each continent, to seek together how to live our charism in the social and cultural contexts in which we are immersed, thus creating an increasingly shared journey of Congregation. We will choose with them the concrete modalities for such meetings, also using the new means of communication (Skype, video calls...)

We believe it is valuable to continue the communion between us also through the social media used by the previous General Governments:

- the publication of the magazine "Life, Vita, Vida, Leben"
- our website
- the INFO and the Feast Letters of the Congregation (Easter, Feast of the Holy Cross, Christmas)



A new year awaits us. Let us trust and entrust each other to God, so that He may inspire us, transform us, surprise us....

Happy New Year to each of you! With love and prayer

The Congregational Leadership Community