Dear Sisters,

You will receive this issue of INFO a little later than usual, at a time of a world-wide health crisis that has us all confined within our communities, in quarantine, and hearing in the news that we have not yet experienced the worst. In this communication, it would be difficult not to consider this.

According to the programming that we have for this year’s INFO, we will continue to share the themes of the Apostolic Plan of the Congregation that guides our mission over the next few years.
You will find in this issue the reflection of various communities on the challenges of our Consecration as Women Called.

We will see that some highlight the importance of strengthening our spiritual life from the Word of God, the Eucharist and reparatory adoration, remembering the ministry of each sister, regardless of her age or state of health. There are those who speak of deepening the knowledge of the charism so that our life will always follow the example of the founders who knew how to embrace their crosses and suffer peacefully and courageously. We will also find calls to strengthen values, to create bonds, to weave bridges by listening attentively, keeping in mind the family spirit so that the places where we find ourselves are "healing". Others emphasize the need for more communion and dialogue so that we may be signs of God's tenderness in today's world; that our mission may make us face the evil in the world by always putting ourselves on the side of the oppressed, with living testimonies that renew our consecration... All the reflections of the communities point to what we must strengthen so that our Consecration may be meaningful in today's society and touch on the essential dimensions of our life.

At a time when the whole world is in anguish, fighting a virus that is killing many people, there is fear, much suffering and despair. The news is not comforting, and many feel frightened and insecure about what will happen next economically and socially. For others the confinement, sometimes in small spaces, is affecting their psychological health and they have signs of depression, there are family misunderstandings, boredom... It is not easy to be forced to stay at home, and even more so with the inevitable stress of the new situation we are experiencing.

Our consecration makes us prophets of faith and hope. We are sent to encourage, accompany, console others. It is a good time to ask ourselves how we can help, what we can do for others, even from our own confines. Prayer is certainly very important. Our adoration should present to the Lord, the pain of our world, the deceased and their families, the health personnel, the health authorities, ... Let us also try to discover those who may need us. Those who are alone, distressed or too stressed, and who, with a phone call or a WhatsApp message with a word of reassurance, could be encouraged. We do this so often among ourselves, or with our friends. Let us look a little further these days... Let us be creative in finding ways to reach out to others with the hope that faith gives us, and with the certainty that our founders had that in a society that was breaking apart, God was present, in some way, loving his sons and daughters with his Father/Mother tenderness.

With every Good wish,

Patricia Villarroel Garay, ss.cc.
Superior General
Sharing with the Congregation

ACTIVITIES OF GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Annual retreat of the Sisters of Ecuador

From January 31 to February 7, 42 sisters from Ecuador gathered at the SS.CC. House of Prayer in Conocoto – Quito, to live their annual retreat.

On this occasion, the theme was “Recreating the Vows”. Aurora Laguarda ss.cc., from the General Government, guided it. Then, on February 7 and 8, the local superiors met in the same place.

Mission Seminar Brothers and Sisters of Asia

From 5 to 10 February the Asian Mission Seminar was held in Gopalpur, Odisha - India. The proposed theme was ‘sscc spirituality and pastoral conversion in the Asian context’. The Brothers and Sisters shared their mission with the families of their place and the priorities of the family ministry in their context. Together they drew up the final document containing six work proposals with commitments at the personal, community and CAP-Pacific Zone/USA-Asia levels. Derek Laverty ss.cc. and Margarita Orozco ss.cc. participated on behalf of the General Government.

Assembly of the Sister in India

After the Asian Brothers-Sisters Ministry Seminar held from February 5-10 in Gopalpur, the Sisters in India held their Assembly in Bhubaneswar from February 12-15. This was facilitated by Romeka Situmorang, Coordinator of Asia. Irene Barboza, Superior Delegate of the Zone and Margarita Orozco, from the General Government, also participated.
The main objectives were to reflect together on fraternal life in community and to evaluate the Apostolic Plan. The basic document for this reflection, read previously, was “Fraternal Life in Community”, from the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CIVCSVA).

Each day began with the Eucharist presided over by our ss.cC. Brothers, some of whom were participating in the CAP or Formators’ Meeting. The Assembly ended with commitments for the communities and sentiments of gratitude for the life shared during these days.

Meeting with the General Administrator
On February 10, in Rome, the sisters of the General Government met with Evelyne Royer, General Administrator, to review the 2019 accounts and to work together on the 2020 budget.

Canonical visit to the Territory of Africa (February 13 – March 20)

Mozambique. On 13 February, the canonical visitation of the Territory of Africa began. Mozambique was the first to be visited. Here there is a community with two presences. We began the visit in Boane. We had meetings with the sisters and visited the mission they have there: Kindergarten, work in the Faith and Meeting Foundation, collaboration in the Parish, etc. There was also a meeting with the sccc laity of this area.

The other presence in Boane is St. Joseph. The visit took place from 19 to 22 February 2020. It was a very peaceful visit and at the same time very energised by the mission that the sisters have in this reality. There are 4 sisters, one in perpetual vows, who is the mistress of the junior sisters of the Territory of Africa and the other three are sisters in temporary vows. It is a presence that is entirely dedicated to the mission of Lar Mamana wa Kurula (Home of Our Lady of Peace). At present in this house 38 girls from 4 to 18 years old, in situations of great vulnerability, are living.
On the 22nd the Lar celebrated its 10th anniversary, and they did so in a simple and beautiful way. We, Patricia and Goyi, were lucky enough to participate in this event, where joy and thanksgiving reigned above all.

**Canonical Visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo (February 25 - March 20)**

The visit to the Damien community took place from February 25 to March 3. At present it is composed of four sisters in perpetual vows, among them Colette Buhangize ss.cc., Territorial Coordinator, and four sisters in temporary vows.

On March 4 they visited the Brother’s community in Micondo where they had the opportunity to speak with Camille Sapu ss.cc., provincial, and to share a meal with the Novitiate Community.

They also visited the Coudrin community where the Postulancy is located.

In addition to the visit to the community, they visited the Fr Damien Centre, the sections that make up the Centre and met with the teachers. It has been a time of grace that has helped them to get to know the life of the communities and the mission.

**OTHER NEWS**

**ZONE EUROPE – AFRICA**

**TERRITORY OF AFRICA: TESTIMONY**

What aspects of our religious consecration to the Sacred Hearts do we need to rekindle in order to be a visible sign of the Kingdom of God, in the style of Jesus, in our mission today?

After reflecting personally and as a community, we find that our life as ss.cc. requires us to have a missionary spirit. For this reason, we must take care of the following elements in order to respond faithfully to our vocation:

- Renew our spirituality personally and as a congregation, that is, to ensure that we prepare our prayer and pray in the style of our congregation, making known to people our way of
praying, opening the doors of our communities to pray with parish members and other interested people in our localities.

- Deepen our knowledge of our charism in order to respond better in the mission and to live the consecrated life in the style of our Founders. At the same time we seek to transmit this charism of ours through our lifestyle in mission, to the people who we meet us each day, as well as within our communities.

- To care for and rekindle our fraternity, that is, not to lose sight of the life we have received by our Founders – one that is rich in the family spirit SS.CC.

- To ensure that our fraternal life is centred on Jesus who is the model of our life;

- To renew communion with the people of God.

- Given that Prayer is the basis of our life, we are invited to rekindle our understanding of prayer as incarnate and close to God's people.

- We also stress the importance of reviving community discernment so that together we can feel we are participating members of it.

- Adoration is the important dimension of our life as transmitted by our Founders and must be rekindle in the style they taught us, in an attitude of reconciliation. Its presence in the lives we live today will help us to restore a balance between being and doing and also revive our presence with the people of God. In this way we can make present our missionary spirit in the particular ways we are sent. For this, care of personal and community prayer must take first place.

Community of Mozambique

**TERRITORY OF ESPAÑA: TESTIMONY**

**Women called – Consecrated**

Dear Sisters, this community of Salamanca, inserted in the district of Pizarrales, received an invitation to share with all of you, what aspects of our consecration we need to rekindle in order to respond to our present world.

The first thing that came to us when we received the letter was to realize that we could not respond superficially and it was not easy for us either. Therefore, we spent a week in personal prayer and, together with the articles of the Constitutions and some texts for reflection, we prayed and reflected on this topic.

The first thing that we want to share is our gratitude, because it has been very good for us, personally and communally.

The first aspect on which we all agree is to recognize that although we all use a common language, with the passage of time the contents have been changing, so that we will try to express ourselves from the content and not so much from the concept, so that we can understand and all can be helped.

Having said that, we recognize that we need to learn to look at our world as God is looking at it. To contemplate in Jesus and like Jesus, our inner world and our present society. Thus, as He restores our life and our sin, it is from there that we understand our ministry of intercession. From this perspective, we see the need to deepen and reshape our reparative adoration. We note that to
do this, it is not a question of seeking empty structures, but rather the quality of time, the quality of intention, “the quality of vocation”\(^1\).

Another very important dimension that we detect that needs to be recovered is Discernment, both personal and communal. The word discernment is used so often that some people speak of discernment to choose the taste of a soft drink. In the face of this and other uses, we see of vital importance, to recover the habit, the depth and the time that this prayerful attitude implies, in order to be able to say and see, how our world is and what is the response that we can offer. So that, we know in what way we are expressing evangelical values. And by touching these values, to update the evangelical counsels in today's world.

As a third aspect, we see the key to taking up again the relational experience with the heart of Jesus and Mary. To keep it updated, to continue offering, living and participating in these hearts in which our life as consecrated women is based and sustained. Mary, who was among the little ones, the poor, can show us how to live today from these principles. Consecration to the Heart of Jesus is our home, it is the school for understanding the origin and the goal of our existence as a religious vocation.

If we look closely at what our Constitutions invite us to do, they remind us that our Consecration to the Heart of Jesus and Mary is the foundation, the cornerstone of our life. This leads us to affirm that this is what we need today:
To contemplate and contemplation cannot be separated from our reparative adoration.
To live, we cannot live alone, nor can we promote communities of well-being, but we must take up gain the importance of reviving the community and fraternal aspect.
To proclaim to those who need it most, to the poorest, to the most abandoned. From the joy that comes from a close relationship, experienced from the Love of God.

By way of conclusion, we emphasize that Jesus, to those in consecrated life, invites us to put our own existence at the service of the KINGDOM, leaving everything to assume this form of life. But, there is no Kingdom if there is no relationship with Jesus. Therefore, as consecrated women, we must shield our hearts, to give them only to God and with him and from him, to go out to the world and give witness.

The challenge of witnessing is the final aspect that we must take up in order to revive our consecration. What do they see in me, when they look at me? What do they see of God in my way of living?

Community of Salamanca

**LATIN AMERICAN ZONE**

**TERRITORY OF CHILE-PARAGUAY: TESTIMONY**

To rekindle our authenticity as consecrated women from within our SS.CC. spirituality.
Our reflection revolved around the different realities that we have to live out in our communities, schools, parishes, retreat houses, listening to the situations of abused women, abused children, unbelief, and practiced atheism. For a long time we have also experienced a strong presence of

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\(^1\) Cencini, 2003.
religious life that is valued and recognized by the external signs (uniforms, habits). To be credible, today, we perceive a devaluation of the true meaning of consecrated life. In the face of these realities we feel challenged to return to the source of our spirituality in order to clothe ourselves with the characteristics proper to a Sacred Hearts family, to experience deeply reparatory Adoration in our daily work, the family spirit in our different communities and also diverse pastoral commitments, being faithful to the Eucharist, daily prayer in communion with Christ from where our interior life resurfaces which leads us to be true credible witnesses and living signs of the presence of God in the world.

Living signs of God’s tenderness in a world that is devoid of Love, to revive our charism, with simplicity, with a dedication that reflects the feelings and attitudes of Jesus and Mary. As consecrated women, to promote values by example, with a capacity for dialogue, creating links, building bridges by listening profoundly, accompanying the search for God with our close presence, simply without ostentation, announcing the truth, stopping at the smallest details, doing good to everyone without exception, looking at people without a special interest, giving dignity to each human being from his or her core.

We concluded the community reflection with the hope and confidence that our religious family of the Sacred Hearts will continue to revive its religious consecration in order to continue to be credible signs of the Kingdom of God in our mission today.

Sisters ss.cc. of Paraguay

TERRITORY OF PERU-BRASIL-MEXICO-BOLIVIA: TESTIMONY

Testimony of Mexico
We believe that this question is to be asked in a personal and communitarian way in a constant manner since in the comings and goings of life it can lose strength and meaning.

For this reason, the Eucharist and Adoration are important aspects of our Consecrated Life, where we enter into communion with the Church and discover, from the Word of God, the new calls that the world and society are making to us.
Also the constant encounter with the Gospel, which will always be new, makes us enter into that disturbing dynamism that Jesus always left in his listeners and encouraged them to find within themselves the “pearl”, to sell everything and “buy” what is most precious.

Other aspects that we will always and at all times have to “revive” are: community life, where these bonds of fraternity-sorority are developed, in which dialogue, listening, sharing dreams and desires are in view of common projects; family spirit, simplicity, which will make those places where we find ourselves to be “restorers” because from the encounter with Jesus we are always restoring ourselves.

Finally, we also believe that reviving the sense of why we are in such and such a project or ministry, makes our faith, solidarity and commitment continue to be signs of hope wherever we are.

**Atotonilco de Tula Community, Mexico**

**Testimony of Bolivia**

After giving ourselves some time for personal reflection, we shared that our spirituality is very rich and we feel called to revive it in these times when things are moving faster.

Although we are consecrated to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, we express this consecration in the three dimensions of our religious life: in the spiritual, community and missionary life. In our **spiritual life** we are challenged to strengthen our friendship and commitment to Jesus and his Kingdom, from within the Word of God, making the Eucharist alive, presenting as an offering our own and our people's sadness, joy and hope. The profound encounter with God sustains our consecration and leads us to have the attitudes and feelings of Jesus and Mary.

The Good Mother kept faith in divine providence and in our times where everything is measured and calculated, we forget God's fidelity to us, we need to reawaken trust in the God who made an alliance with his people, leaving our securities and abandoning ourselves to his spirit.

In the **community dimension**, we are invited to revive the family spirit, to be in communion, to strengthen our relationships with dialogue and more fluid communication, to be attentive to the needs of each one, to give witness to religious life in communion. People perceive our way of relating to one another, and so there is a call to be more human with one another; in this there is
reparation: to amend our ways of looking, thinking, assuming our weaknesses, our poverty, and learning to live with them.

In the missionary dimension we are called to revive our missionary zeal by approaching people with simplicity, respect and without prejudice, aware of our human fragility. Our religious life is meaningful from what is simple: visiting the sick, those in prison, listening to those who need to speak, giving words of hope, sharing life. And we cannot forget our commitment also to Mother Earth.

Pope Francis makes this call to ecological conversion: to attack nature is to attack ourselves and God, the cries of the earth are related to the cries of the poor. Therefore, the call to ecological conversion is to create a new style of life that implies interior conversion, being aware of a common origin, a mutual belonging and a future shared by all.

In the midst of these great challenges we feel called to live out our consecration by entrusting our work and mission as our Good Mother always did with this phrase: May the Heart of Jesus be our strength, and the Heart of Mary our consolation!

The Betania Community (Obrajes, Ovejuyo) – La Paz, Bolivia

PACIFIC-U.S.A. – ASIA ZONE

TERRITORY OF PACIFIC-U.S.A.: TESTIMONY

The three “threads”
As we discussed the meaning and living out of our consecration as ss.cc. Religious, we saw 3 ‘threads’ making up our need for revival of our witness to the Kingdom of God - Love made flesh in Jesus and in us. These ‘threads’ are woven into a tapestry centered in our ministry of Reparative Adoration.

First ‘thread’: We live our heritage of Reparative Adoration expressed as praying to repair our own woundedness and on behalf of the hurting and those who cause hurt in the whole world. This gift of presence before the Blessed Sacrament from our Founders to the Church is a ministry of each Sister, no matter her age or state of health. We pray for light to guide our actions on behalf of the suffering, including actions to change systems and policies that cause pain to the Heart of Christ, to the children of God.
Second ‘thread’: Availability and flexibility are fruits of our Adoration. We don’t build ‘nests’ or expect the security of stability of place or purpose; this means obedience to what and where we are needed, despite the challenges of transitions and changes from the comfortable. Trust in the call of God to supply a felt lack of gifts or talents necessary for a new ministry, a new community, is essential to availability and flexibility. We must look to the example of our Founders and those going before us, and be ready and willing to give our ‘Yes’ to God.

Third ‘thread’: Our Prophetic Vocation is awakened by the Spirit to speak truth to power at all levels and on behalf of all of God’s Creation, as Jesus did. We confront evil, stand with the poor, oppressed, marginalized in whatever way is possible for us. Beginning with the Word become Flesh, reflecting on the word spoken to us through Scripture, listening for God’s call to each Sister – all done with love, because of Love.

Sisters and Brothers, religious, clergy, and laity as Sacred Hearts family, is our foundational prophetic statement and stance in the Church and the world. Our primary witness in mission is the quality of our community life, fostered by a spirit of openness of each Sister and Brother which is nourished in both initial and on-going formation.

SS.CC. Sisters of Paewalani-Puawakea Community

**TERRITORY OF ASIA: TESTIMONY**

Love begins from the inner heart
Community life is our source of happiness and of strength to proclaim God’s Kingdom. It is also a place where we are challenged to grow as a person and as a follower of Christ. Being a member of SS.CC., we identify ourselves as a woman of heart. We see the important of reviving the spirituality of heart in order to be a credible sign of the Kingdom.

Since early stage of our formation we are trained in this heart spirituality, and even more when we are in our on going formation. How to find and spend time regularly in solitude where we can be true to ourselves and allowing God to speak to our heart. It is an interior journey to the heart that we really need. How to allow the heart to feel and to seek the true happiness in our being and doing. Not spiritualizing or analyzing our experiences when we are aware of them in our solitude, rather we humbly place ourselves before God, accepting truth emerging out of it, and then with heart opened we welcome God’s grace.

God wishes that we are content with His love and the love of one another. We unite the brokenness of ourself, our community, and our world to His Heart. It is the heart that continues to fell and...
longs for the true happiness and true peace. It is also the heart that enables and moves us forward to build our community and world. Therefore, how not we lose our indentity as a woman of heart.

Nurture our faith. “God is every where, God is inspire everyone”. We need to feel and experience God in our community and mission. Yet, it is not always easy because God is not always presence. When the influence of secularized world, consumerism, the 4G world’s temptations, and the heavy load of responsibilities weaken our love and passion for the good shake of community life, we start to lose contact the “mystery” or “the sacred space”. They hinder us to get into a dept meaning of life. We are trapped in superficiality or focus on external matters.

Faithfulness to dialogue with God will help us to stay in track, give us courage in difficult and tempting situation, and even make us grow deeper in our knowledge and love for Him. We need to remember our Good Mother and Good Father who are always faithfulness to prayer life and embracing their crosses and suffering peacefully and courageously. To be a credible sign of the Kingdom, we need to be a woman of deep God experience. It is our experience of God that we share and withness with God’s people.

“Love your neighbor as you love yourself”. It is a beautiful statement to say but very difficult and challenging to do. We begin our mission first in the community. And this mission of love starts from love of oneself. We have to love ourself first then it will enable us to love our sisters in the community. When we love one another, people will see that God is presence. So, people who come to our community will not see our Congregation but see how the heart of Jesus and Mary shining through the community members living there.

We end our reflection by restating three “to be” we need to have in order to be a credible sign of the kingdom of God: to be a woman of heart, to be a woman of deep God experience and to be a woman of love.

Maria Ratu Damai Community, Yogyakarta (Indonesia)

TERRITORY OF ASIA: SEMINARY IN INDIA

Asian Ministry Seminar ss.cc., Gopalpur on Sea, Odisha, India
The Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary had initiated a week long Asian Ministry Seminar on 5-10 Feb-2020, Gopalpur, Odisha. Altogether 35 Brothers and Sisters of ss.cc. family from Asia and French-Polynesia were the representative, including General Government Fr. Derek Laverty, Sr. Claudia Margarita Orozco from Rome and Superior delegate Sr. Irene Barboza and CAP Superior Fr. Bonie Payon were present in this event.

The resource persons were Fr. Prasad Pinto, OFM and Sr. Sujata Jena ss.cc. They presented the theological perspective of the mission and its practical implications and challenges for religious life and mission.
‘Charism is a God given gift, a response to the given situations so that new life will flow’. Radicalism is to ask for small service and instead given much more. Mission within our community and outside is to balance between being and doing. The delegate brothers and sisters from various communities creatively presented their ministry which inspired and strengthened brothers and sisters to reach out to the most vulnerable people at the margin with compassionate hearts.

The creative liturgy prepared by each country enlightened our hearts and minds to reflect and evaluate the mission of God ‘Mission Dei’ which has been entrusted to each one of us in our respective ministry.

The experience of Asian Ministry Seminar filled our hearts with joy and enthusiasm and motivated all to bring the Good News in and through our Charism by living, proclaiming God’s redemptive love in their respective ministry and taking initiative for family ministry especially to the broken families, abused children, single parents and many more issues and challenges of the families.

We also had the opportunity to talk to Sr. Margarita above the experience of Ministry Seminar and all the sisters shared their experiences. Also, we ask ourselves what are my personal and community challenges? Irene and Margarita encouraged us to feel and treat each other as sisters, fostering unity.

Each mission helps us to grow and each mission demands something new from us. Integration is very important to work on fraternal equality.
**Agenda of the General government**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity and persons responsible</th>
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<td></td>
<td>The Enlarged General Council, which was scheduled to take place from 20 to 24 April, was suspended.</td>
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<td>The new date will be informed in due course.</td>
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**Chronica Congregationis**

**JUBILEES**

**APRIL**

LOMA OSSORIO Inmaculada 05/04/1970 Gold Chile/Paraguay

FERNÁNDEZ María Nuria 05/04/1970 Gold Spain

**In Memoriam**

COSTA BRUM, Juliana 15/03/2020 Hawaii Pacific/USA

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www.sscpicpus.com