



Buenos Aires, 25 October 2015
Feast of Jesus, Divine Master

To All the Sisters

Dearest Sisters,

Let us offer one another our very best wishes for the Feast of Jesus, Divine Master—a Feast which takes on special significance in this Centenary Year during which we are contemplating our history. For this reason, we want to reflect more deeply on the meaning that our spirituality, centered on Christ the Master, had in the life of the sisters who came before us. In fact, we walk in the footsteps of Paul, Alberione and Thecla...but also in the footsteps of the many sisters who lived this precious heritage prior to us.

Let us try to grasp the mystical depth and, at the same time, the prophetic power of the Pauline spirituality by drawing on the experience of *Sr. Nazarena Morando* (1904-1984)—a sister who lived to an extraordinary degree the wealth of this heritage pointed out by our Founder. Reading some of her spiritual notes dating from the last twenty years of her life, it is clear that Sr. Nazarena made the indications of Fr. Alberione the decisive goal of her spiritual journey. For her, Jesus was “*my Divine Master*,” and she wanted everything to converge on him: “May my conversion be total convergence on Christ. May my entire being—mind, will, heart, senses, body, everything—all converge on Christ my Master, my Rabbuni!”

Here are some extracts from her program of life:

“The goal to which I aspire with my entire being is unity of life with the Divine Master: to enable Jesus to live in me; total conformity to him.... Lord, through the intercession of my Father St. Paul, grant me complete transformation in you! May you live and work in my mind, will, heart.... Oh, if only I could reach the point of truly being able to say with [Paul]: “It is no longer I who live; it is Jesus who lives in me.” St. Paul, my Father, teach me your ‘*Christ lives in me.*’ Teach me! Even more, transform me.... To profit from ‘inactivity’ so as to grow in contemplation. Help me to contemplate you [Lord], so as to prepare myself for the eternal contemplation of you in heaven. The apostolate is effective if it springs from contemplation. The center of our mission is Christ....”

Sr. Nazarena clearly grasped that devotion to the Divine Master is a style of life, a way of thinking and acting that reaches the point of “total transformation in Jesus Christ, in which both parties (Jesus Christ and the soul) give themselves to each other—each transfusing into the other complete possession of self...” (Fr. Alberione, 23 February 1961).

She understood that holiness is truly the “incarnation” of Jesus in our entire being so that his life is manifested in our evangelization activities (cf. DF 36). Here is another excerpt from her notes:

“To not only do everything for Christ, but to do it *in* him and *with* him. I feel you inviting me, urging me on, drawing me to be one with you, to identify with you. Live in me! Take possession of me! Holiness is your gift. Form me, shape me, re-create me with a new heart. Even better, live in me! Live in my mind, will, heart, body. May everything converge on you, my Master! To make the radical shift from ‘I live’ to ‘you live.’ I want to live in intimacy with you; indeed, I want you to live in me!”

Perhaps it comes spontaneously to ask ourselves if this goal of the Pauline spirituality is a utopia, a beautiful ideal, and nothing more. Almost interpreting our doubts, Fr. Alberione would say: “It is an ideal but nevertheless it is the center of the devotion. It is the goal all Paulines must reach.”

May our best wishes for one another be that, through the grace of the Spirit, we will arrive at the heart of this devotion—the destination that we too must all reach.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General