

Ariceia, 2 September 2013

Dearest Sisters,

The Chapter is for all of us a time of intense prayer and of special commitment to reflection and a comparison of ideas so as to pinpoint the paths the Spirit is opening for our Congregation. This, however, does not cut us off from the world and from the events that all humanity is currently living.

Even in this Chapter “cenacle,” the sorrowful cries of our sisters and brothers of Syria resound in our ears, along with the anguished appeal of Pope Francis to stop fanning the winds of war and instead call upon the Prince of Peace, begging him to point out paths of dialogue, reconciliation and peace.

Yesterday evening, reflecting on the Holy Father’s *Angelus* message, the Chapter Assembly welcomed with deep emotion his proposal to observe 7 September as a day of prayer and fasting. We have also decided to dedicate our prayer each evening to Mary, Queen of Peace, during these days leading up to the vote of the United States Congress. This vote, requested by President Barack Obama, will take place on 9 September and will decide whether or not armed force will be used in Syria.

Sisters, the present moment is one of the most tragic in history but we have unshakable trust in the Lord. Because of this, in full communion with everyone, I cordially invite you to unite yourselves to us in praying the Rosary as a community each day, and in adhering to the Pope’s request to observe a vigil and fast this coming Saturday.

I am sure that our closeness to the sufferings of many persons, reinforced by communal prayer, will also strengthen communion among ourselves, with the Universal Church and with all humanity, tried by fear and grief, but united in the plea for love, justice and peace.

Our warmest greetings to all of you. We carry you in our hearts.

  
Superior General