



Rome, 1 October 2015

To All the Sisters

IN RESPONSE TO THE POPE'S PLEA

Dearest Sisters,

We are all aware of and sympathize intensely with the sufferings of the populations forced to abandon their homelands to escape violence, terror and extreme poverty. Refugees and migrants are knocking by the tens of thousands on the doors of European countries. They are knocking on the doors of the hearts of all people of good will.

The Pope has strongly urged Catholic communities to become active promoters of solidarity and hospitality by responding creatively and generously to this need, which is especially meaningful in the context of our preparations for the Jubilee Year of Mercy: "Faced with the tragedy of tens of thousands of people who are fleeing the death provoked by war and hunger and who are 'on the move' toward the hope of new life, the Gospel is calling all of us to be a neighbor to the most needy and most abandoned of his children. It is calling us to give them concrete hope."

As a Congregation, how can we respond to this plea? Our houses, in general, were not constructed with the apostolate of hospitality in mind, so we have decided, in agreement with the Italian Provincial Government, to give *Caritas* or another charitable organization the Institute's house in Torre Mondovì (Piedmont, Italy) to use for accommodating refugees. The building consists of three floors and contains about 20 rooms.

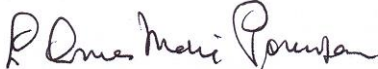
In addition, I would like to invite all of you to make some concrete acts of renunciation, to be joined to the ones we customarily make for Advent, in favor of this flood of people who are suffering immensely. You can send your offerings as you usually do to the Bursar General, who will present them to Caritas as a Christmas gift.

I am sure that your *creative charity* will inspire you with other acts that can be carried out to help these brothers and sisters of ours. Perhaps some renunciations could be made on the personal level: a few days less of vacation? The renunciation of a trip or of purchases that are not really necessary? The designation of a financial gift you might receive to this end? On the apostolic level, perhaps an initiative could be organized to collect funds for this goal.

Let us welcome the Pope's heartfelt plea: "We are already doing a lot, but perhaps we are called to do more.... Let us open our eyes to the miseries of the world, to the wounds of countless brothers and sisters. Let us listen to their cries for help and allow them to goad us into action."

I am sure that each of our communities and each of you individually will respond generously to this appeal. Together, let us "break the barrier of indifference" so as to become "a living memorial of Jesus' way of living and acting" (VC 22).

Thank you.


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General