



Rome, 29 November 2015  
First Sunday of Advent

## LIVING TOGETHER THE JUBILEE OF MERCY

*Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing  
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,  
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,  
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed  
and restore sight to the blind.*

(From the Jubilee Prayer of Pope Francis)

Dearest Sisters,

Along with the whole Church, we are preparing to begin the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which will open on 8 December 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and end on 20 November 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe, the living Face of the Father's mercy.

I am sure that in every circumscription steps are being taken to favor, through the forms and languages of communication, the discovery of this merciful Face, which "profoundly touches the flesh of humanity and does so with a love that has the power to change one's life."

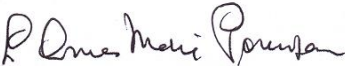
But what meaning does this important ecclesial event have for us as we celebrate our Centenary Year? "Mercy is the architrave that supports the life of the Church," and thus it also supports the life of our Congregation.

Looking at Jesus, who is Mercy Incarnate, we are called to be persons overflowing with compassion, love, tenderness...persons of reconciliation who bear one another's burdens, who embrace their personal weaknesses in the knowledge that they are loved by the Father and who are therefore willing to embrace the weaknesses of their sisters, of their communities and of the Congregation itself; persons who feel the need for mercy, who believe in the possibility and power of change, who allow themselves to be touched by the material and spiritual miseries of our peoples and by the sufferings, perhaps silent, of those who live beside us, of the sister longing for a smile, a word of encouragement, consolation, forgiveness, hope. Let us remember that "the humanizing power of the Gospel is demonstrated by the fraternity lived in community, comprised of welcome, respect, mutual help, understanding, kindness, forgiveness and joy" (Pope Francis).

In this world torn apart by violence, in this difficult moment in history, let us strive to be *merciful* toward everyone, especially the members of our communities. Let us dedicate ourselves to irradiating peace, serenity and love. Maestra Thecla urges us on, saying:

"Concord, peace, humility, mutual compassion and sincerity: all are virtues that will make our religious houses warm nests of affection, where one can grow in wisdom and grace and enjoy a foretaste of the joys of heaven" (VPC 118).

Warmest best wishes to all of you!

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General