



Superiora general
RR. Adoratrices Esclavas
del Smo. Sto. y de la Caridad

C 1/2022

Rome, 1 January 2022

165th Anniversary

"Looking to the origins to revitalise the future".

Dear Adorer family, Happy New Year!

I greet you with this beautiful biblical blessing:

"The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace." (Num 6:24-26).

We still hear the sound of beautiful carols and angels announcing the great news: *"Today in Bethlehem of Judah a Saviour is born to you"* (Lk 2,10-11). God's promise is fulfilled, from beginning to end and in various ways, He assures us of his presence, He walks beside us as one of many, He is the Emmanuel, God with us, ready to guide our paths and illuminate our shadows. To contemplate him frail and poor in the manger is a powerful message, *"He, the Word of God, is an infant; he does not speak, but he offers life. God was born as a child to move us to care for others"* (Cf. Francis, homily Christmas Eve). This is God's great gift to humanity. ¡And how can we not rejoice and celebrate!

The first day of the year is dedicated to Mary Mother of God by the Church, Mother of God, believing woman, disciple. Her Fiat triggered the event that brought us joy, peace and freedom: the incarnation of Jesus. She teaches us that each *"Let it be done"* from faith, generates Life, unleashes unexpected events and signs that change the course of history, of our lives on a personal, family, community, congregational and ecclesial level.

We begin 2022 **together on the way** and in a special way, until the feast of St. Micaela on 15th June, we continue to celebrate the 165th anniversary of our congregational family. I thank the sisters of America and now Asia, then Europe/Africa for their efforts to energize and motivate this time with the materials of the Saint. It invites us to reflect, to look at and be grateful for our origins. It begins with the 'Yes' of St. Maria Micaela and the fidelity of the sisters who supported her. They committed themselves to the vocation of Adorer, to the mission, with passion for the charism and for developing it by taking it to the whole world. The sum of so many "Let it be done" have

brought us to the present day, our commitment and responsibility are to project it - revitalised - into the future.

Dear family, this is a year full of provocations from the Holy Spirit who urges us to build bridges and to walk the paths of fraternity *and "synodality"*. The universal Church is calling us to participate actively in the Synod for "**synodality**", a challenge that commits us as Religious Life. Let us accept this call that has come to you from the Dioceses and Conferences of Religious in the different countries, let us do it with a sense of co-responsibility, the Church is all of us and we are also on the way together. From the UISG they ask us to share the experience of the Adorers and to participate in the work of the Synod. The Area of Formation will send you some indications in this regard.

As every year, we echo the Pope's Message for the **55th World Day of Peace**. Pope Francis proposes three necessary ways to build lasting peace today: *a dialogue between generations, as a basis for the realisation of shared projects; education as a factor of freedom, responsibility and development; and work to achieve a realisation of human dignity*. These three paths are part of our apostolic task, which can always be improved, let us accept them and let us allow ourselves to be imbued with the newness of the present time. In every age, peace is not only a gift of God but also the fruit of a shared commitment.

We have bid farewell to the year 2021 still suffering the effects of the COVID pandemic, its end is delayed, the process is slow. Let us continue to ask God to inspire international solidarity so that no one lacks the vaccine and there are global proposals to respond to so many other pandemics suffered by thousands of human beings, such as forced migrations due to violence, hunger and exploitation of people and creation. A good way to achieve that longed-for lasting peace is to listen to the cry of the poor and the earth.

Finally, I invite you to celebrate today, **1 January, another anniversary of Micaela's birth**. May there be in the homes of her daughters an encounter and thanksgiving for the gift of her life and charismatic legacy. We want her to accompany us each day of the year we are beginning and all the work of her Adorer family, sisters, women and laypeople with whom we make our way as we go.

Let us go through this new year "**together on the way**" under the protection of Holy Mary, Mother of God.

Affectionately Happy New Year 2022!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa Valenzuela', enclosed within a simple, hand-drawn rectangular border.