

# HOSPITALER - MISSIONARY WEEK

13-19 OCTOBER, 2014

TITLE OF THE WORLD DAY

# JOY REBORN

INSTITUTIONAL TITLE

## HOSPITALITY: CREATIVITY AND BOLDNESS



## PRESENTATION:

# "The Church is the people of the Beatitudes" (Papa Francesco)

### **Dear Co-workers, Volunteers, Sisters and Brothers,**

This year, the week of prayer will be incorporated into the framework of the celebrations of the CENTENARY of the death of St Benedict Menni.

The proposed title, **JOY REBORN**, is reflected in the way we are, and practise, Hospitality, and in the various ways in which it is expressed in the five continents. It is a Hospitality that we wish to practise **CREATIVELY** and **BOLDLY** and which, for us, must be an updated reading of the Beatitudes.

This is what St John of God did, and what Benedict Menni did following in his footsteps with his capacity to imbue his mission of Hospitality with a "heart without borders", **HOPEFULLY** and **BOLDLY**.

**HOPEFULLY** because, despite all the difficulties, we are looking confidently to the future of which we are dreaming. In other words, we are building up **HOSPITALITY**, and to do that we must be **BOLD**, and we need the passion that will lead us on to work with courage and creativity to ensure the well-being of the people we care for, working to make the ordinary extraordinary, to influence and allow ourselves to be influenced following the Gospel command, "Go and do likewise", as our founders did in their day, by going out to the places where it was necessary for them to go.

We are offering the following food for thought on the theme of the week of prayer, which we will share with the guests we care for in our Centres, and with our Co-workers and Volunteers, together with a few extracts from Pope Francis's message for World Missions Day and the messages of our Superiors General for the Centenary of St Benedict Menni.

In the hope that by all pulling together we shall be able to attain new goals in our Hospitaller-Missionary commitment,

**We greet you all, united in prayer and in the mission  
to live the GOSPEL OF THE BEATITUDES boldly and creatively.**

**MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Theme: Blessed are the poor in spirit**

**Biblical:** "... for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 5, 3; Lc. 6, 20)

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." (Lc. 4, 18-19)

**Institutional:**

"By our consecrated life we show forth the love which God has for all people; we are a message of hope and we witness that the world cannot be transformed without the spirit of the beatitudes." (Const. HSC. 13)

"If, personally and as communities, *we are moral guides, critical and creative consciences* - today we would use the term *re-founders*"... "...Spirituality in the mission is expressed through the enthusiasm, the prophetic imagination and the apostolic creativity we exhibit. When the Spirit is lacking, there is routine, monotony, mere repetition. But the presence of the Spirit is the fire which animates and re-creates all. A Brother with a Hospitaller spirit never settles into routine. He always discovers the novelty of the Kingdom of God in everything he does." (The path of Hospitality no. 126)

**Social:**

"The fight against poverty finds a strong motivation in the option or preferential love of the Church for the poor. In the whole of her social teaching the Church never tires of emphasizing certain fundamental principles of this teaching, first and foremost, the *universal destination of goods*. Constantly reaffirming the principle of *solidarity*, the Church's social doctrine demands action to promote



"the good of all and of each individual, because we are *all* really responsible for *all*". The principle of solidarity, even in the fight against poverty, must always be appropriately accompanied by that of *subsidiarity*, thanks to which it is possible to foster the spirit of initiative, the fundamental basis of all social and economic development in poor countries. The poor should be seen "not as a problem, but as people who can become the principal builders of a new and more human future for everyone" (Compendium of CSD, no. 449b)

**TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Theme: Blessed are the afflicted and the destitute**

**Biblical:** "...for they shall be comforted" (Mt 5, 4) "...for they will inherit the earth" (Mt 5, 5) "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh," (Lk 6, 21)

**"For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many" The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus**

"They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.'" (Mk 10, 45-52)

**Institutional:**

"The numbers of immigrants and refugees are rising steeply today in every Western country. Although the problems this raises are mainly social (cultural and religious integration, employment problems etc.) it is also an area in which the charism of hospitality may find specific expression. Responses to this problem vary enormously, depending upon the creativity of those who heed the promptings of the Spirit, and they may also be encouraged by the specific needs of each individual country or social situation. Naturally, in addition to the fact of making migrants welcome, there are also healthcare problems for people who often are unable to use any other form of public assistance or care. The Order must also work to solve these needs both by setting up special structures where possible, and by finding appropriate solutions to these problems within its own Centres. A similar situation arises with another group of persons classified variously as *homeless*, *vagrants*, *squatters*, who share the common feature of suffering from such radical poverty that they cannot possess any form of stable abode because they are forced to live in the streets, in doorways, and in railway station waiting rooms." (Charter of Hospitality, 5.2.6.6)



"Urged on by the Spirit, let us commit ourselves to recreating Hospitality, making Mary's prophecy come true: "He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with

good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.” Those who seek our services must feel welcomed, acknowledged, healed; they have to experience, day by day, the Hospitaller Visitation.” (**Doc. C. HSC. Conclusion**)

### **Social:**

“The presence of the Christian faithful in these human groups should be inspired by that charity with which God has loved us, and with which He wills that we should love one another (**cf. 1 Jn 4:11**). Christian charity truly extends to all, without distinction of race, creed, or social condition: it looks for neither gain nor gratitude. For as God loved us with an unselfish love, so also the faithful should in their charity care for the human person himself, loving him with the same affection with which God sought out man. Just as Christ, then, went about all the towns and villages, curing every kind of disease and infirmity as a sign that the kingdom of God had come (**cf. Mt. 9:35ff; Acts 10:38**), so also the Church, through her children, is one with men of every condition, but especially with the poor and the afflicted. For them, she gladly spends and is spent (**cf. 2 Cor. 12:15**), sharing in their joys and sorrows, knowing of their longings and problems, suffering with them in death's anxieties. To those in quest of peace, she wishes to answer in fraternal dialogue, bearing them the peace and the light of the Gospel.” (**Ad Gentes, n. 12a**)

## **WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup>**

### **Lema: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness**

**Biblical:** “... for they will be filled” (**Mt 5, 6**) (**Lk 6, 21**)

“Look, we have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.” (**Mk 10, 28-31**)

### **Institutional:**

“Being creative in hospitality means generating and constantly bearing witness to a living, productive and constructive love for our brothers and sisters in pain; constantly stopping *to plan and think out* the future without creating something NEW might place the Order outside history.

The epoch-making changes through which we are living forces us to evaluate and then decide and concretely produce the most appropriate responses stemming from growing cultural pluralism, the human rights movements, population ageing, the increase in old and new forms of poverty, the desire for peace and the decline in available financial resources to defend the welfare state.

Today, our task as Brothers and Co-workers is to be prophets of hope, prophets of the dignity of those who suffer, prophets of love which is often snuffed out by technology and by the laws of the market, which have penetrated the world of healthcare ... The Order must follow a path which will translate into practice the social teaching of the Church, using competent technicians, who will leave scope for the creativity of love and the spirituality of the Order.” (**Charter of Hospitality OH, 8.1.**)

“But our centres are not sitting on the sidelines in the struggle for justice. Our work covers a multifaceted and varied range of social, legislative, administrative and cultural activities to foster around revive the spiritual forces which constitute justice and make it prosper.



As Church institutions we are always the bearers of one specific feature, “love is not self-seeking”. There will always be a need of love – *caritas* –, even in the most just societies. There will always be suffering, which will always require help and consolation. There will always be material, psychological and spiritual needs in which a commitment that manifests tangible love for our neighbour is indispensable.” **(Identity framework, 23)**

### **Social:**

“Let Christians labour and collaborate with others in rightly regulating the affairs of social and economic life. With special care, let them devote themselves to the education of children and young people by means of different kinds of schools, which should be considered not only as the most excellent means of forming and developing Christian youth, but also as a valuable public service, especially in the developing nations, working toward the uplifting of human dignity, and toward better living conditions. Furthermore, let them take part in the strivings of those peoples who, waging war on famine, ignorance, and disease, are struggling to better their way of life and to secure peace in the world. In this activity, the faithful should be eager to offer prudent aid to projects sponsored by public and private organizations, by governments, by various Christian communities, and even by non-Christian religions.

However, the Church has no desire at all to intrude itself into the government of the earthly city. It claims no other authority than that of ministering to men with the help of God, in a spirit of charity and faithful service.” **(Ad Gentes, n. 12b, c)**

THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup>

## Theme: **Blessed are the merciful**

**Biblical:** "...for they will receive mercy" (Mt 5, 7)

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Mt 25, 34-40)

### **Institutional:**

Our hospitality has its source in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. (Const. 20) whom our Founder St John of God faithfully imitated, devoting himself entirely to the service and salvation of the poor and sick (Const. 1a). Now we are John of God: we share his gift, his faith, his sensitivity to human suffering, his unconditional self-giving to serve them, his humility and his loving creativity. His spiritual path is the pedagogical proposal offered to us by the Holy Spirit to develop within us the charism of hospitality. Like him, we are people on a path, wanderers and pilgrims in a globalised and enormously complex world. His interior pilgrimage, his spiritual path to the lowest depths of human misery are the best proposal for the spirituality of the mission and communion (Const. OH 5): a house and school of spirituality! (The Path of Hospitality OH, n. 79)



"Benedict Menni having developed a profound and dynamic relationship with the merciful and healing Christ, Maria Josefa Recio and Maria Angustias Giménez, along with eight other sisters, responded to the gift they received by developing such creativity, that it continues to be a challenge for us today. From them we can learn to live out and fulfil our mission in a relevant and prophetic manner. Looking at them, we pose ourselves the question, how should we be and what should we be as hospitallers today?" (Identity Framework HSC.3)

### **Social:**

"Love presupposes and transcends justice, which "must find its fulfillment in charity". If justice is "in itself suitable for 'arbitration' between people concerning the reciprocal distribution of objective goods in an equitable manner, love and only love (including that kindly love that we call 'mercy') is capable of restoring man to himself" (Compendium CSD, no. 206)

FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup>

## Theme: **Blessed are the pure in heart**

**Biblical:** "...for they will see God " (Mt 5, 8)

"Be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something



to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. (Eph 4, 23-32)

### **Institutional:**

"Our Founders have taught us to fashion a new Congregational era, boldly and creatively, by creating new forms of expressing spirituality, of experiencing communion, of governance, and of commitment to the Hospitaller project of serving suffering humanity. Following their example we intend to open up a more inculturated and prophetic mission pathways, to take Hospitality beyond anything we can imagine, because "this love knows no bounds". We will continue pursuing this pathway, trusting fully in God. Jesus, today he is sending us as a Religious community and as a Hospitaller Community with the one single mission: to take peace, to heal the sick, and to call others together to join us in this project of service to those who suffer, and to proclaim the presence of the Kingdom." (Doc. C. HSC, Introduction)

"...notwithstanding the diversity of the persons of which it is composed, - our community accepts and respects the young people who have only recently embraced our Hospitaller life, enriching us by their enthusiasm and creativity; - cares for and loves our sick and elderly brothers who, with their experience, sacrifice and prayer, are fruitful members of both the Church and the Order, (Const. OH, 37a)

### **Social:**

*Among the numerous implications of the common good, immediate significance is taken on by the principle of the universal destination of goods: "God destined the earth and all it contains for all men and all peoples so that all created things would be shared fairly by all mankind under the guidance of justice tempered by charity."* This principle is based on the fact that "the original source of all that is good is the very act of God, who created both the earth and man, and who gave the earth to man so that he might have dominion over it by his work and enjoy its fruits (Gen 1:28-29). God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, without excluding or favouring anyone.



This is *the foundation of the universal destination of the earth's goods*. The earth, by reason of its fruitfulness and its capacity to satisfy human needs, is God's first gift for the sustenance of human life. The human person cannot do without the material goods that correspond to his primary needs and constitute the basic conditions for his existence; these goods are absolutely indispensable if he is to feed himself, grow, communicate, associate with others, and attain the highest purposes to which he is called. **(Compendium CSD, no. 171)**

**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Theme: Blessed are the peacemakers**

**Biblical:** "...for they will be called children of God" **(Mt 5, 9)**

"Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" **(Lk 10, 5)**

"So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also." **(1 Jn 4, 16-21)**

**Institutional:**

"The central core of Jesus' mission was to be a peacemaker and to announce the Kingdom. Staying in the same house, with the Sisters and Co-workers exchanging the gift of peace means sitting around the same table, which is our mission; feeding on the same bread which is the history of our Congregation, drinking at the same source, which is our charism, recreating hospitality, which is the project that we are all pursuing, to which each one of us can contribute with our own identity and professional commitment. It is a matter of sharing courage and inspiration, knowledge and spirituality. Jesus tells us that our joy is genuine when the mission is being performed in his name and the outcome is entrusted to the hands of God; he teaches us that generous and freely-given service is both liberating and inclusive; he assures us that we can confront the daily difficulties we face because our names are written in the heart of the Father." **(Doc. C. HSC, Andate, io vi mando)**



"Today we need that creative imagination which the younger generations are best endowed with. Under these historical circumstances, in our multi-centric and global world, in this Catholic Church of particular Churches,

the Order will be capable of perceiving new responses, and new paths of the Spirit. In addition to the Brothers, we also have other people who are knocking at the doors of the Order and who are also aware that they have received the grace of the charism of John of God. This is why today there is a new outreach to "shared mission" and "shared spirituality", as the new definition of the Order's identity. Today, the Order reveals a plural, intercultural and interracial face. It feels that it is being called to offer the spiritual path of John of God to men and women who do not belong to the Western cultures, as has been the case hitherto." (**The Path of Hospitality OH, 2.5**)

### **Social:**

*Among the numerous implications of the common good, immediate significance is taken on by the principle of the universal destination of goods:* "God destined the earth and all it contains for all men and all peoples so that all created things would be shared fairly by all mankind under the guidance of justice tempered by charity." This principle is based on the fact that "the original source of all that is good is the very act of God, who created both the earth and man, and who gave the earth to man so that he might have dominion over it by his work and enjoy its fruits (**Gen 1:28-29**). God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members, without excluding or favouring anyone.

This is *the foundation of the universal destination of the earth's goods*. The earth, by reason of its fruitfulness and its capacity to satisfy human needs, is God's first gift for the sustenance of human life. The human person cannot do without the material goods that correspond to his primary needs and constitute the basic conditions for his existence; these goods are absolutely indispensable if he is to feed himself, grow, communicate, associate with others, and attain the highest purposes to which he is called. (**Compendium CSD, no. 171**)

## **SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup>**

### **Theme: Blessed those who are persecuted for righteousness's sake**

**Biblical:** "For theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (**Mt 5, 10**)

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (**Mt 5, 11-16**)



### **Institutional:**

“...This is a source which enables us to constantly review and revise our attitudes and motivations, urging us to ascertain that the suffering person is *"the centre of our whole apostolic activity and of all our concerns"* (**Const. 103b**); if we devote all our energies and talents to serving God in the sick and needy (**Const. 22b; 1d**); if, personally and as communities, *we are moral guides, critical and creative consciences* – today we would use the term *re-founders* – of a style of hospitality which is on the same wavelength as the hospitality of St John of God; if we keep his spirit alive and promote it, individually and as Communities (**GS: 127b**); if we are so closely identified with our mission and *"it is always clear that our chief concern is the sick or needy person, and we are so imbued with our mission that those who work with us feel inspired to behave in the same way"* (**Const. 23a**). With our Co-workers we are committed to cultivating and promoting the values of the human person and to contributing to develop and deepen what we are calling **"the culture of hospitality"**... “Spirituality in the mission is expressed through the enthusiasm, the prophetic imagination and the apostolic creativity we exhibit. When the Spirit is lacking, there is routine, monotony, mere repetition. But the presence of the Spirit is the fire which animates and re-creates all. A Brother with a Hospitaller spirit never settles into routine. He always discovers the novelty of the Kingdom of God in everything he does.” (**The Path of Hospitality OH, n. 126**)

“The Master is sending us out “like sheep among wolves”. This is the classic image of vulnerability in the face of violence, of limitations in the face of need, of the little notice of the human being in comparison with the huge magnitude of the work awaiting us. It will not be an easy enterprise, not always shall we be given the welcome we expect, not always shall we be able to gather the fruits. We need skill and effectiveness, quality and wisdom, faith and perseverance, humility and willing readiness. The time has come to focus on the charism, to broaden our horizons, and to move forward towards new goals. The time has come to allow ourselves to be guided by the Spirit to recreate Hospitality. All others, Sisters in Co-workers, each one of us with their own vocation, **is called and invited to live and practice hospitality** as a universal value. To boost its development we have to stimulate our sense of belonging, foster the ethos and values of hospitality and guarantee that everyone performs the mission with dedication, professional quality, creativity and humanisation.” (**Doc. C. HSC, n. 23**)

### **Social:**

“The pilgrim Church is missionary by her very nature, since it is from the mission of the Son and the mission of the Holy Spirit that she draws her origin, in accordance with the decree of God the Father. This decree, however, flows from the “fount - like love” or charity of God the Father who, being the “principle without principle” from whom the Son is begotten and Holy Spirit proceeds through the Son, freely creating us on account of His surpassing and merciful kindness and graciously calling us moreover to share with Him His life and His cry, has generously poured out, and does not cease to pour out still, His divine goodness. Thus He who created all things may at last be “all in all” (**1 Cor. 15:28**), bringing about at one and the same time His own glory and our happiness. But it pleased God to call men to share His life, not just singly, apart from any mutual bond, but rather to mould them into a people in which His sons, once scattered abroad might be gathered together (**Cf. Jn, 11,52**).” (**Ad Gentes, n. 2**)

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ‘But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ‘Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. ‘Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ‘Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets. ‘But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. ‘If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ‘Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.’ (Lk 6, 22-38).

“Institutes of the active life, whether they pursue a strictly mission ideal or not, should ask themselves sincerely in the presence of God, whether they would not be able to extend their activity for the expansion of the Kingdom of God among the nations; whether they could possibly leave certain ministries to others so that they themselves could expend their forces for the missions, whether they could possibly undertake activity in the missions, adapting their constitutions if necessary, but according to the spirit of their founder; whether their members are involved as totally as possible in the mission effort; and whether their type of life is a witness to the Gospel accommodated to the character and condition of the people.” (Ad Gentes, n. 40,c)

## POPE FRANCIS:

“In our day, Jesus’ command to “go and make disciples” resounds in the changing scenarios and ever new challenges to the Church’s mission of evangelization, and all of us are called to take part in this new missionary “going forth”. Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the “peripheries” in need of the light of the Gospel.” (**Evangelii gaudium, 21**). Neither our weaknesses, nor our sins, nor the many obstacles that are placed in the way of witnessing and proclaiming the Gospel can hold us back. The experience of an encounter with the Lord is what spurs us on and gives us the joy of announcing him to all peoples.

The Church, which is missionary by her nature, carries out the service of charity to all as a fundamental prerogative. Universal fraternity and solidarity are connatural to her life and to her mission in the world and for the world.

Evangelization, which must reach everyone, is nevertheless called to begin with the least, with the poor, with those who are weighed down by the burden and strain of life. In so doing the Church prolongs the mission of Christ himself, who “came in order that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (**Jn 10:10**). The Church is the people of the Beatitudes, the home of the poor, of the afflicted, of the excluded and persecuted, of those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. You are asked to work and endeavour so that the ecclesial community may be ready to receive the poor with preferential love, keeping the doors of the Church open so that all may enter and find refuge therein.” (**9 May 2014, to the National Directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies attending the General Assembly**)

“The wonder and joy of being a child who knows he is served and loved by the Father. Fear of the Lord, therefore, does not make of us Christians who are shy and submissive, but stirs in us courage and strength! It is a gift that makes of us Christians who are convinced, enthusiastic, who aren't submissive to the Lord out of fear but because we are moved and conquered by his love!” (**General Audience, St Peter’s Square, Rome, 11 June 2014**)



## FINAL PRAYER

Eternal God, whose image is  
in the hearts of every people,  
we are living among diverse peoples  
with beliefs that are alien to us  
speaking languages we do not understand.

Help us to remember  
that you give your love to all peoples,  
that every religion is an attempt to respond to you,  
that the longings of other hearts  
are similar to ours, and you know them.

Help us to recognise you in truthful words,  
in beautiful things,  
in the acts of love towards us.

We ask this through Christ,  
to whom no people is alien  
together with Mary, the Queen of the Missions.

**Amen**

**HOSPITALLER ORDER  
OF ST JOHN OF GOD**

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**SISTERS HOSPITALLERS  
OF THE SACRED HEART  
OF JESUS**

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1914 - 2014  
**SAINT  
BENEDICT  
MENNI**  
CENTENARY  
OF HIS DEATH

