

12-18 october

2015

# Hospitaller Mission Week

Theme of the World Day:  
Missionaries  
of Mercy

Institutional theme:  
Hospitality on the rise



## Presentation

---

"Mercy will allow you to open up promptly to current needs and to be industriously present in the new areopagus of evangelisation" (Pope Francis, 5 June 2015)

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

This year, the Church has adopted the theme Missionaries of Mercy for World Mission Day, based on Pope Francis's message for the day.

From this viewpoint, and as the Hospitaller Family, we wish to use this week to share and reflect, inviting everyone to pursue HOSPITALITY ON THE RISE. As Hospitallers, RISING means ENTERING – entering into the circumstances of life, of people, to be together with them and to share what they wish to share of their lives, what they lack or need, respectfully, and not taking the front-line role which is theirs to perform in their lives.

We will be suggesting one of the Corporal Works of Mercy for each day of the week, a specific geographic situation, and people to be borne in mind.

The Works of Mercy are charitable acts with which we help our neighbour prójimo to meet necesidades their corporal and spiritual needs (cf. Is 58, 6-7; Heb 13, 3). The Corporal Works of Mercy include feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and prisoners, enterrar a los muertos (cf Mt 25,31-46). These Works include limosna pobres (cf Tb 4, 5-11; Si 17, 22) as one of the main examples of fraternal charity; it is also acting with justicia which is pleasing to God (cf Mt 6, 2-4): "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." (Lk 3, 11). " So give for alms those things that are within; and see, everything will be clean for you " (Lk 11, 41). "If a brother or sister is naked and have nothing to eat and one of you says, "go peace, warm yourselves or eat you fill" but fail to give them what they need for the body, what is the use?" (St 2, 15-16; cf Jn 3, 17).

Today this manifestation of Jesus is renewed in us:" "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Lk 4, 18), which becomes mission.

Based on the hope that with the efforts of all we can reach new goals in our Missionary Hospitaller commitment.

**We greet you, united in prayer and in the challenge to live the MISSION OF MERCY with Hospitality that ENTERS, REMAINS WITH, AND ACCOMPANIES the person in need.**

## Monday 12th

### Theme: Visiting and comforting the sick

"If we reflected on the breadth of God's mercy, we would never cease doing good while we were able because, while for his love we give the poor what he himself gives us, he promises to reward us one hundredfold in the joy of heaven. What a happy reward and exchange!

Who will not give what he possesses to this blessed merchant, seeing that he offers us such a good bargain and with open arms begs us to be converted, to mourn over our sins and to have charity first towards our own souls and then towards our neighbour? For, as water puts out fire, so charity wipes out sin." **(SJG.1st LETTER TO THE DUCHESS OF SESSA, 13)**

"When one of the patients tried to escape from the unit, he was so frantic and fought back so furiously that our Father, helped by Father John of the Cross, lovingly stood in his way to prevent him from going upstairs. Without taking my eyes off him for a second I saw what effort it took for our Father to hold the patient back, without occasioning the slightest harm to him. Full of goodness that he was, he saw that man, bereft of reason, as representing Jesus Christ in person. Since the patient reacted so violently in his bid to evade him, our Father struggled lovingly and affectionately until he was soaked in sweat trying to restrain him" **(HSC. RELACIÓN DE MARIA ANGUSTIAS. p. 134)**

#### Personal reflection/prayer:

Who and what do I need to visit and care for today?

What more can I share?

## LET US PRAY FOR AFRICA

Our Father, and Father of all humankind and King of Peace, grant peace to the continent of Africa, to all her peoples suffering from hatred, rancour and racism. Let them feel of your protective presence to be able to overcome the consequences of natural disasters which so frequently afflict the continent, scourges, droughts and epidemics. Give to those who possess most a generous heart to enable them to show solidarity and practise charity towards those who live immersed in poverty and marginalisation.

Rally together all the sons and daughters of this continent, in the Church founded by your Son. May all who do not know Jesus be attracted by his light.

You, who sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles at Pentecost to kindle their hearts with missionary fervour, keep the fire of the apostles burning today, to unflinchingly proclaim the Word in the African continent. Make Charity and Hospitality win over the hearts of all the people of Africa and unite them, so that all can sing praise to the glory of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**



## Thursday 13th

### Theme: Feeding the hungry

"Since this house is for everybody, without making any distinctions we take in people suffering from every disease and people of every type, so that there are cripples, the maimed, lepers, mutes, the insane, paralytics, people with ringworm, and also very old people and many children - and this is without counting the large numbers of other pilgrims and wayfarers who come here and to whom we give fire, water, salt, and pots, so that they can cook. There is no income at all for all this, but Jesus Christ looks after everything, for there is never a day on which four and a half crowns - and sometimes five - are not needed for household provisions (bread, meat, chickens, and wood), not to mention medicine and clothing, which is another quite separate expense" **(SJG. 2nd LETTER TO GUTIERRE LASSO. 5-6)**

"Fraternity is identified with the union of hearts, the ultimate horizon of Hospitaller charity according to experience of the first sisters. All of us are responsible for building up Samaritan communities in which people freely give themselves in relation to others, sharing goods and undertaking joint responsibility for a common project and sharing the sense of belonging to a mission" **(HSC. Chapter Document 2012)**

#### **Personal reflection/ prayer:**

What forms of hunger around me can I help to satiate with my involvement in Hospitality?

## LET US PRAY FOR AMERICA

Our Father, and Father of all humankind, look graciously on the American continent which is seeking Jesus Christ tinged by the red blood of the martyrs who gave their lives to preach the Gospel.

Grant this continent the grace to commit to a New Evangelisation to which all of the so-called, consecrated and lay men and women alike, especially the young, committed to continuously educating them themselves in the faith, celebrating your praise and proclaiming your son, Jesus Christ, far from their own borders in a decidedly missionary Church.

Encourage the American continent to commit to the comprehensive promotion of men and women driven by a Gospel-based and renewed preference to side with the poor and to serve life and the family. Encourage their efforts to build up the continent of hope based on solidarity, truth, justice and love.

Help all the American people to work for incultured evangelisation which can penetrate into the cities and towns, through any effective education system and by modern media. **Amen.**



## Wednesday 14th

### Theme: Giving drink to the thirsty

We talk of God when our commitment is deeply rooted in the love of our God and is a source of fraternity; when it makes us show an interest in one another and carry them with us; when it helps us to discover the face of God in the faces of every human being and leads us to foster their comprehensive development; when we denounce injustice and transform people and structures; when a successful and profitable culture places its wager on the weakest and fragile, the least; when we live life as a gift and help to supersede the rationale of the market, with and replace it by the rationale of free-giving; when we live in communion, when we help to configure a Samaritan Church at the service of the poor and are led to share our goods and services; when we live a life freely given, nurtured and celebrated in the Eucharist; when we become witnesses of an experience of love of which we ourselves have become the protagonists, and open up pathways, by our words and deeds, to experience the meeting with God in Jesus Christ. **(Contribution by CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS to The Synod on the new Evangelisation, 2012)**

May your thirst, your desire, your yearning be to imitate the glorious Father and Patriarch, Saint John of God, whose sole concern was to see how to sacrifice himself to help the poor out of love for Jesus Christ. Yes my daughters think what great glory will be ours in Heaven for each poor person we have taken in, washed, clothed and fed! **(Letters of Benedict Menni, L. 346).**

#### Personal Reflection/Prayer:

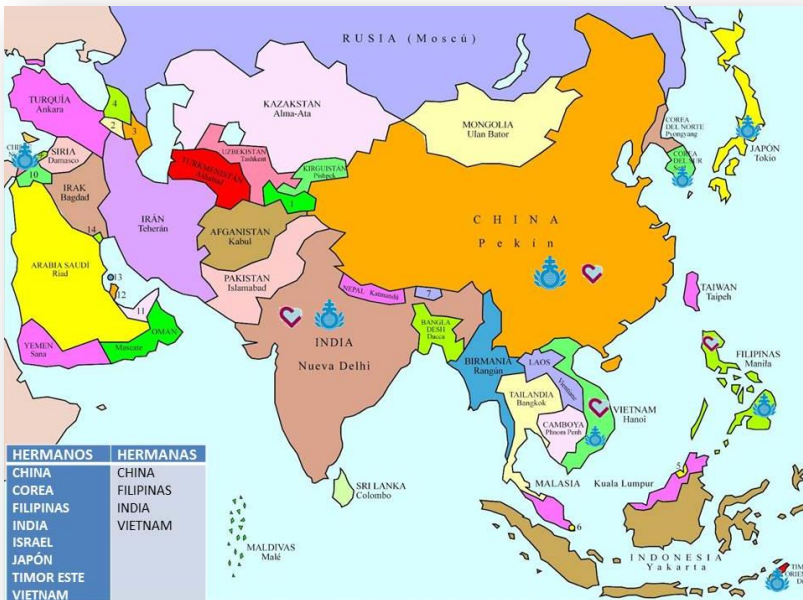
What thirst can I quench in my daily doings?

## LET US PRAY FOR ASIA

Our Father and Father of all humankind, turn your loving eyes to the Church which your Son has planted in Asia. Welcome in this continent and help it as it continues to perform the mission of love and service of your Son in Asia.

Protect the Church in Asia from all the forces which threaten her, particularly where the Church is being persecuted and outlawed. Help her to become the true image of the Most Holy Trinity. We pray that, through the service lovingly given by the Church, all the people of Asia will come to know your Son, Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of the world, and thereby enjoy life in its fullness.

**Amen.**





## Thursday 15th

### Theme: Sheltering the pilgrim

"The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. THREE said, "My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." **(Gen 18,1-5)**

" Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." **(Heb 13,2)**

COMMITMENT is the word that can best express the conduct and feelings of the Good Samaritan. That man could have walked on the other side, like the priest and the Levite. You could have closed his eyes and his heart and refused to meet a genuine and real need which he saw before him. But he stopped. He bent over. He lowered himself in order to enrich himself. At that very moment in which he stopped and humbled himself to give succour to a stranger knocked it down by thieves, that is where a neighbour was born. Mercy driven by love is creative, and creates a neighbour. "We might almost talk in terms of a kind of sacrament", wrote the philosopher Romano Guardini, "a sacrament of love: when a person places their living self, heart and strength and energy at the disposal of another, God sends down his creative power and the relationship with the neighbour comes into being" **(Cf. Card. Franc RODÉ. 3 October 2006. OH General Chapter)**

#### Personal reflection/ prayer:

Who, for me, are today's pilgrims in need of shelter?  
Shouldn't I also be a pilgrim?

## LET US PRAY FOR EUROPE

Our Father, and Father of all humankind, turn your eyes to the peoples of Europe.

Endow the families of Europe with a generous spirit, to drive them on their mission to transmit life. Liberate forgotten how would you use it I think it happened message role this continent from the culture of death and hedonism which is trying to impregnate it and distance it from God.

We pray for the Church in Europe, to make her transparent in the proclamation of the Gospel; may she be a genuine place of communion; may she perform her mission of proclaiming, celebrating and serving the Gospel of hope to help bring peace and joy to all.

Keep watch over all the Christians of Europe, to enable them to trust in and pursue the path of unity as the means of fomenting peace and concord in the continent. Keep watch over Europe's younger generation, the hope of tomorrow: may they respond generously to Jesus's call; watch over those who govern the nations of Europe: may they be committed to building up a common home, in which the dignity and rights of all are respected. May all of us follow and love Jesus, the hope of the Church, of Europe and of all men and women. **Amen**



**Friday 16th****Theme: Clothing the naked**

"My sister, I am always causing you problems and trouble, but I hope in God that one day your soul will find repose.

I must tell you that while I was walking through the city of Córdoba the other day I came across a household in very dire need. There were two girls whose parents had both been sick and bedridden for ten years. They were so poor and in such distress that it broke my heart. They were half-naked and totally lice-ridden, and their bed consisted simply of bundles of straw. I gave them what little assistance I could, since I was in a hurry to go and talk with Master Avila; however, I did not give them as much as I should have.

....

Thus, good Duchess, if it so pleases God I should like you to gain these alms which the others have lost. They consist of four ducats: three for those poor girls, so that they may buy two blankets and two skirts, because a soul is worth more than all the treasures of the world and those girls should be saved from sinning for such a small thing;" **(Cft. SJG.1st LETTER TO THE DUCHESS OF SESSA. 15,17)**

This morning the sisters came to our House to hear Mass and take communion, and after breakfast I let them see the hundred children we have in our care. You should have seen Sister Trinidad! if I had not held her back, she would have smothered some of the young boys with kisses and hugs, and asked me to provide a large bale of cloth to make clothes to smarten up these little orphaned angels for whom we are responsible in loco parentis. **(CARTAS BENITO MENNI, L.7)**

**Personal reflection/prayer:**

Giving clothes and shoes... Should I strip off my clothes and remove my shoes.... ?

## LET US PRAY FOR OCEANIA

Our Father, and Father of all humanity, turn your eyes to the continent of Oceania, which calls on you from its millions of scattered islands around the blue waters of the Pacific Ocean.

Safely steer the people of Oceania across the dark and stormy seas of life, to enable them to reach the heaven of peace and light, prepared for them by your Son who calms the sea. We pray for all the women and men of this continent so that they may all hear the annunciation of the Good News, and thereby come to know your son, the only Way, Truth and Life which will remove them to ask, "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey?"

God of Peace in whom all tempests are quelled, we pray that the Church in Oceania will not cease to grow and will reveal the glorious face so your Son, full of Grace and Truth for all those who live in the islands in this continent, so that God will reign in the hearts of the peoples of the Pacific, and they may find peace in the Saviour of the world. **Amen.**



## Saturday 17th

### Theme: Freeing the prisoners

Immigrants are the poorest of the poor. Immigrants suffer more than anyone else from the crisis for which they had no responsibility at all. In recent times, because of concern about the present economic situation, their rights are being restricted. The poorest among us are undocumented foreigners, who are not entitled to basic social services, ignoring these words of Saint John Paul II: "As a member of the human family, each person becomes as it were a citizen of the world, with consequent duties and rights, since all human beings are united by a common origin and the same supreme destiny." (Cf. **St JOHN PAUL II, Message for the celebration of the World Day of Peace, 6.2005**)

Spirit of humour: try it, and your life will change. The place where God certainly exists. The best gift. Producing contagion and attraction. Evident symptom of a healed life. Which gives confidence and security to everything around. The option to enable others to breathe, to rest. Opening breaches that lead to Jesus. The crucial requirement is to narrow horizons, sharing with others and, sometimes, applying it to yourself. Accompanying everybody who reaches out and faces a future with broad shoulders, where other people are. The thermometer of time given over, of a price paid knowingly, of a cross carried high that can liberate many. The language of novelty, the indefeasible offering and, perhaps, the most necessary challenge: reminding the world that Father is pronounced smilingly, that Son is pronounced smilingly, and this is the undeniable sign of a Spirit which can only be Holy. (**PastoralSJ. Íñigo H. Alcaraz, sj**)

#### Personal reflection/prayer:

Are there others around me who do not cooperate to liberate others?

**LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK, THE OLD, IMMIGRANTS, DEPORTEES AND THE MARGINALISED**

Our Father, and Father of all those who suffer, we entrust into your hands all the sick, the old, the immigrants, deportees and marginalised in the world. Heed the prayers of all those who are suffering from restrictions, and want, forgotten by those who in good health and have solved their problems.

Let us stay by their side, speak up for them, and encourage them, defend and appreciate them, and following the example of the Good Samaritan may we spread faith, hope and charity which comes from you, and through Hospitality may we help to sustain and accompany them in this state of weakness and want, and marginalisation. **Amen**



## Sunday 18th

### Theme: Burying the dead

He went to the house of a rich man and asked him to pay the cost of burying a poor man who needed a burial shroud. The rich man said that he had no money. John quietly went to the place where the dead man lay, picked up on the shoulders and knocked at the door of the rich man, waiting at the entrance and said, "Brother, you are under the same obligation to bury him as I am. God knows that one of us have to bury him". The rich man, seeing that, took out the money and had a shroud prepared for him, and had him buried." **(Cf. Chapter XXII of the biography by Mgr. Antonio de Govea. 1624)**

Everyone knows that our Order was established primarily or secondarily for such a hugely attractive and meritorious task that if God himself practised it many times, both by himself while he was a pilgrim in flesh and blood in this valley of tears, and through the ministry of his Angels, it is no wonder that people of goodwill, in every age and at every age and condition, has felt profound gratitude and admiration for it: this is the apostolate of saving the souls of our neighbours by practising every kind of acts of Mercy, both Corporal and Spiritual or, what means the same thing, through the practice of the holy Hospitality which we profess **(Cf. PERFIL JUANDEDIANO DEL P. MENNI, L 42,4)**

#### Personal reflection/prayer:

What signs of the life of resurrection can I see and continue to offer in the environment around me?

**LET US PRAY FOR THE MISSIONARIES AD GENTES**

Our Father, and Father of the Church, we entrust into your hands all those generous men and women, priests, religious or laity who have left behind their homes and their homeland, to take the Gospel to distant lands. Bless their work and grant them the grace to break the bread of the Word with those beg for Truth. May they feel that You are with them in their work and in their concerns, and given them the grace to persevere to the end, in the life of self-denial for which you have chosen them. Give them the strength and the courage they need to remain steadfast in their deeds, persevering in their difficulties, patient and strong in supporting loneliness, fatigue and fruitless work.

Raise up in the hearts of all baptised Christians the desire to respond to the call of your son Jesus Christ to the missionary vocation, to increase the number of heralds of the Gospel who have the courage to "leave their homeland" and go to the places where Christ is as-yet unknown, to preach His Good News and, through Hospitality, grow the Kingdom of God. **Amen.**





**OTHER TEXTS:**

On the ship there was a poor woman travelling in the poor class, surrounded by five or six small children who were happy and content when the going was smooth, because they did think about their poverty, and one supposes that their poor father was waiting for them somewhere in Mexico, where he had gone to earn bread for his unfortunate family.

One of thoughts that came to mind when seeing the great needs and the hard work of these poor people travelling so uncomfortably, resting on a pile of straw, eating unappetising food, subject to the bad weather on the deck, close to the animals which we were carrying to slaughter when more food is needed to feed so many people -- in the midst, as I was saying -- of the oxen, sheep, cows, lambs, pigs, chickens and other things, there were these poor people. And we said to ourselves, "what a great difference there is in the way we are travelling!" For we travelled in nice cabins, with plentiful called food, sleeping on a bed which, while was rather narrow, was more than enough to be able to rest properly; we will had made a vow of poverty were in trying so many convenient things (we said to ourselves) and these poor people, with so many needs were content. What a lesson it was for us, as Brothers, who are so quick to complain as soon as something is missing! This, we said, must be one of the most important things about which we have to be judged as people whom God has called to the religious life. **(CARTAS BENITO. MENNI, L. 432)**

When the first sisters received the first patient, our Foundress María Josefa shifted her bed to the patient's bedside to look after her. Fearing that she might come to harm, I said to her: be careful that she does not strangle you in the middle of the night. To which she replied: do not worry, go and take your rest for God will not allow me to be harmed. Having been entrusted with caring for good sister who, having lost her mental faculties, needed our assistance, the joy and jubilation in our hearts ways more than we can ever explain, whenever we saw our beloved Jesus in her, in their dressed him in the garb of a madman for the love of his creatures. (RMA pg.201) In the final months of her life I saw that she had greatly developed all the virtues, and in particular great charity to be able to care for her beloved mentally sick women" **(RMA, testimonio sobre nuestra Fundadora)**

Maria Josefa Recio, (the Foundress) gave her life in the cause of the poor and sick and died on October 30, 1883 while practising Hospitaller charity and, thinking more of this sick patient and of the sisters she had attacked than of herself, she begged them not to punish Delores Soler for anything whatsoever, for she had no idea what she had done; and then she asked them to give her something to calm her down because she was too agitated. She also asked the sisters to prepare her a cup of lime flower tea ... When she knew that her end was near, and seeing all of us around her bed, she said: My sisters ... Show great charity to these poor sick women, serving them lovingly and trying even harder with those who are the most objectionable, remembering that they represent our Lord Jesus Christ **(Relación de Maria Angustias)**.

### CONCLUDING PRAYER<sup>1</sup>:

God of love,  
 show us our place in this world  
 as channels of your love  
 to be and to practise Hospitality  
 for all the creatures of this earth,  
 for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.  
 Enlighten those who possess power and money  
 that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
 that they may love the common good, advance the weak,  
 and care for this world in which we live.  
 The poor and the earth are crying out.  
 O Lord, seize us with your power and light,  
 help us to protect all life,  
 to prepare for a better future,  
 for the coming of your Kingdom  
 of justice, peace, love and beauty.  
 Praise be to you!  
 Amen.

---

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Encyclical Letter. LAUDATO SI'. Pope Francis. 24 May, 2015

**ORDINE OSPEDALIERO DI SAN GIOVANNI DI DIO**

Ufficio Missioni e Cooperazione Internazionale

Via della Nocetta, 263 00164 Roma (Italia)

[cooperazione@ohsjd.org](mailto:cooperazione@ohsjd.org)

**SUORE OSPEDALIERE DEL SACRO CUORE DI GESÙ**

Ufficio di Cooperazione allo Sviluppo

Piazza Salerno, 3 00161 Roma (Italia)

[consejera4@hscgen.org](mailto:consejera4@hscgen.org)

