

HOSPITALLER MISSIONARY WEEK
12-18th October 2009

WORLD DAY THEME:

The Word, a Light for all peoples

INSTITUTIONAL THEME:

Hospitality: a Path and a Service



PRESENTATION

The way we practise missionary animation in our Communities will be a sign of our maturity in the faith, of our Consecrated Life centred on Christ and committed to the advancement and salvation of all humanity, thereby building up the Kingdom of God in the world (MDHO. Chap.8. 2/cf. RMI 77).

The Hospitaller Community, which is built upon the basis of pluralism, becomes an evangelising agent in the exercise of the ministry of healing, in different tasks and fostering the different dimensions of the ministry with quality, prophecy and creativity. (cf. Doc. XIX CG-HSC?????. No. 21)

“People who pray are not wasting their time, even though the situation appears desperate and seems to call for action alone” (Deus Caritas Est, 36).

This year we shall be celebrating Hospitaller Missionary Week jointly with the Congregation of the Sisters Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Sisters Hospitallers of St John of God, as one single family united by the Charism and our evangelising work, based on the Light of the Word which drives us to take out Good News, which is mercy, to the poor, the sick and needy.

This third shared Week of Prayer and reflection for the Hospitaller Brothers and the Sisters Hospitallers offers us an opportunity to live it and share it whenever possible with our Co-workers, Volunteers and those in our care, gratefully remembering all the Missionary Brothers, Sisters and Co-Workers who left their homes to go out to spread the Good News of the Gospel, THE WORD, made light and life, also through many acts of care and attention.

We want them to hear our thanks which are now converted into prayer, memory and action.

These acts and this care, nurtured by the Word, as the Church reminds us on this Annual Missions Day, are for us a PATHWAY.

A Pathway which lays down routes, objectives and goals, and a Service which presupposes self-giving, dedication and sharing with others the invitation that we have received from the Gospel, interpreted in the manner in which John God and Benedict Menni and all the early witnesses who went before us worked, and which has been handed down to us Sisters, Brothers and Co-Workers, together with all those who continue to be committed to the day-to-day practice of Hospitality.

A Pathway which requires us to be led on by the novelty of the Spirit; it is the experience of having been visited by God which leads us to practise Hospitality, reaching out and welcoming others, outsiders, those who are different, and the needy.

Today the statistics provide us with figures on worsening human poverty and increasing mobility, and on people suffering from new needs who are knocking at our doors, questioning our Hospitality. The fact that of knowing we have been visited by God who makes Himself present through the people who come to our Centres or whom we meet in the streets, calls out to us, driving us to respond creatively with Hospitality based on the essence and value of the Good News, which is the Mercy of God.

Based on this experience we shall be able to offer men and women of our contemporary society that great gift, which is Jesus, the Light and the Way.

My Dear Sisters, Brothers and Friends, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” (Hebrews 13,2).

This prayer and reflection guide is a proposal to draw all the Hospitallers together, based on their experience of God, to become an act of welcome, in fraternity, and along the pathway that we take together with our Co-workers and Volunteers, based on service to the needy, together without Co-workers and Volunteers, showing the same willingness and readiness that Mary showed with her total response, and converting this commitment to hand on our Charism to deliver humanity from all forms of poverty, sickness and slavery.

4th WEEK OF THE PSALTER

MORNING PRAYER/EVENING PRAYER

Monday, 12th: HOSPITALITY: THE PLACE FOR MEETING GOD IS NEAR US



- Gen. 18, 1-15.
- Caritas in Veritate, 2 and 6.

The real sense of our life is to make Christ present in our apostolate of charity, who invites us to dedicate the whole of our existence to the evangelisation of the poor and the sick. (cf. DCG.OH. 5.6; cf Const. 1984, 2b, 5.OH).

Tuesday 13th: HOSPITALITY, PATH OF SERVICE

- Jn. 13, 1-20
- Evangelii Nuntiandi 26. Testimonio.

Like Christ, who passed through the towns casting out evil and healing sickness, as a sign of the coming of the Kingdom, we do likewise in the exercise of the Hospitaller mission. We nurture our apostolic readiness and joyfully accept being sent to any part of the world, according to the needs of the Church and the plan of the Institute. (cf. Const 64 HSC)

Wednesday 14th: HOSPITALITY, THE PATH TO AN ENCOUNTER WITH OTHERS

- Lk. 10, 25-35
- Redemptoris Missio, 26. Comuni3n.

Another great task of our pastoral mission is to try to bring the good, merciful Christ, the Good News, close to the sick and needy, who have sometimes turned their backs on God and perhaps live in a situation which causes them to rebel against the ill fate that they have had in their lives. (MDHO. Chap 8.

Jueves dia 15: HOSPITALITY, THE PATH TO AN ENCOUNTER WITH OTHERS

- Is. 58, 6-8.
- Caritas in Veritate, 2 and 6.

The realisation that our Charism is based on our grass-roots work; that at its centre are those who are most limited and do not count. And that it is in these people in particular that we find Jesus Christ our Saviour who has led us to make a preferential option for them. (cf. Doc. XIX C.G. HSC no. 7)

LAUDES/VISPERAS



Friday 16TH: HOSPITALITY, GOD IN OUR NEIGHBOUR

- Mt. 25, 31-46.
- Populorum Progressio 67. The duty of hospitality.

The sick enable us to discover new horizons for our mission and challengers to work out responses that are signs of the Kingdom, adopting prophetic attitudes in the fields of health care and social work. (cf. Doc CG HSC no. 30) How have we deserved the grace of our Lord designing to use us in His service and in helping His living images? (Letter 406 B. Menni Correspondence)

Saturday 17th: MARY, HOSPITALITY, ON THE MOVE

- Lc. 1, 46-56
- Ad Gentes 8. Missionary activity in life.

The Order is present where no one has ever heard of Jesus Christ, sharing our lives with Muslim, Hindu, Confucianist and Animist cultures. The fact that our mission is not that to directly proclaim the Word means that we realise that our contribution to the Kingdom is to practise signs of Church with our service, even though perhaps others may not know how to read them or may even misinterpret them. (MDHO. Chap 8. N° 5).

SUNDAY 18th: 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME HOSPITALITY, ANNUNCIATION AND LIBERATION

- Lk. 4, 16-22.
- Evangelii Nuntiandi, 27. Salvation in Jesus.
- Redemptoris Missio, 8.

Embodying the dynamics of the Easter mystery in everyday life means bringing God's resurrecting a liberating life to the very limits of human existence and the uttermost ends of the earth. (cf. Doc XIX CG HSC no. 16)

We are called to be the Good News. We must be the Good News in an attitude of respect for the being of each one, in communion with the local Church, and be ecumenically open to different denominations and confessions, drawing on our own charism. (MDHO. Chap 8. N° 5).



The Church's mission is spread hope to all peoples. For this, Christ calls, justifies, sanctifies and sends His disciples to announce the Kingdom of God, so that all nations can become the People of God.

It is only as part of this mission that one can understand and authenticate the true historical path of humanity. The universal mission must become a fundamental constant in the life of the Church. Proclaiming the Gospel for us, as it was the apostle Paul, must be an ineluctable and primary commitment (...). It is therefore necessary to renew our commitment to proclaiming the Gospel, which is the leaven of freedom and progress, fraternity, unity and peace.

Message of Benedict XVI
Domund 2009.

Evangelisation is a demand of our vocation. The tangible way in which we proclaim the Gospel is by living the Hospitaller life. With our identity as Sisters Hospitallers we form part of the local Church making present its evangelising work in the world of suffering.

(cf. Const no. 64 HSC)

"Having given our lives to the love of God in serving the poor and those in need, we announce the Kingdom as Jesus did (...). Thus we render our assistance to the sick and our service to those in need as a proclamation and sign of the new and eternal life won by Christ's redemption"

(Const 21 OH).

O Lord,

PRAYER: your voice continues to resound in our ears:
"The harvest is great ... but the workers are few..."
"Go and make disciples...
baptising them... teaching them ..."
"I am with you until the end of the world..."
We trust in your word ,
we open up our hearts to your missionary message
and we pray to you with the strength of the faith we have received.
May this Missions Day
be a "new Pentecost of love".
May our Communities
be missionary, and reject the temptation
to become inward-looking,
and may the new Churches in the mission
co-operate with the other more needy ones
and give of their poverty;
May young people, the sick and consecrated men and women
participate in the missionary commitment,
and may those who are called with a missionary vocation
respond to it with generosity,
and may we, as baptised members of the faithful,
participate in the Church's missionary work
responding responsibly for your missionary marching orders.
We pray this with Mary, Queen of the Missions.
Amen

**HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF ST JOHN OF GOD**

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

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