

Rome, 25th March 2008

Dear Sisters,

We continue in this time of grace! Looking back at our experiences in the spiritual exercises, our hearts are filled with gratitude to God and to all of you. Because we feel so much a part of the one body in the Institute, three reasons move us to write to you today.

First of all we want to thank each one of you for all your prayers. The Lord always listens to His people and we experienced it! In this encounter with Him, his grace overflowed into each one of us unconditionally and is still filling us generously with more gifts...

Secondly, as you accompanied us with your prayers, in the same way you are one with us in our thanksgiving to the Lord for all that we have received, for all the inspiring words and the calls that He has put into our hearts. We pray that they might become life in the the Institute and in the world; may these desires of fidelity and availability that are stirring within us come to reality, and seek only and always “the interests of His heart”.

Finally, we want to share some of our personal experiences because once they are shared, they grow and give life. We desire to communicate the joy we experience in His call to be fruitful in our self giving and in our relationship with Him.

Here are some of our experiences:

“Everything comes from God and everything will return back to God. I feel that I too belong to God and one day I will return back to Him. I feel that I am a pilgrim in this world. And in this pilgrimage I want to have a relationship that is vertical, a deeper relationship with God, and want to use all my talents and gifts for His greater glory. With my experience I feel God has been very generous to me and so I too want to be generous with Him. I want to live out the Magis and for this: His grace is enough for me”.

“My soul proclaims the wonders He has done in my life; my spirit exults in gratitude to Him, because He has called me to be His Handmaid. Yes, I want to be a blessing to His people, for He has challenged me to look at the world with hope. Holy are His words that inspire me. His compassionate look has changed my life. His humility has struck my heart. His love has liberated me. His spirit of service has awakened me. His passion has strengthened me. Yes, He is my Lord, my Saviour. He is my light to see in darkness. He is my Salvation, my treasure. Yes, I want to live for Him forever and ever.”

“This retreat was a fundamental experience for me. It was an experience of Jesus passing through all the dimensions and levels of my life. His loving heart and His mercy are expressed throughout His life, till the cross. He shows me and invites me to way of reparation which is of compassion. The Icon that has accompanied me all through the retreat is the washing of the feet, that is, the painting of Koeder. In this, Jesus shares His humble love with us, giving himself completely in loving service to me, to my

brothers and sisters, to the little ones, to those who are lost; to the Institute, to the Church and to everyone. Loving in this way, God has engraved himself in our hearts and in our history and in a mysterious way has completely overcome every form of death.

“I praise you, Lord; for you raised me up... you have changed my mourning into dancing. O Lord my God, for ever will I give you thanks.”

“During this month I was gifted with the grace to be able to contemplate Jesus who passed by ATTENDING and REPARING, inviting me to do the same. I was taken up by the word REPARATION and its essence of MISSION and SENDING. Nothing was new but at the same time everything was new... Jesus who was crucified calls me to quench His thirst in the people who are thirsting, and the resurrected Jesus calls me to proclaim that He is alive and to take His life where I feel there is no life...It is all about a God who urges me to renew my “yes” and live it wholeheartedly, as he did, and through the Institute to become available to be sent”.

“One of thee experiences that accompanied me in my long retreat and which enriched me was the conviction of the closeness and prayer of the Sisters who interceded for us. The Stations of the Cross at Torricella spoke to me of the presence of the Sisters who have gone before us. The gift of encounter with God has accompanied many Handmaids in this same place; God has spoken to their hearts, loved, reconciled, chosen and called them. This helped me to experience of richness of the gift of universality. I thank God for all the goodness I received from Him”.

“Lord let me be your EYES to look at the world with compassion and mercy, let me be your LIPS to proclaim your word to the world, let me be your HANDS to heal the sick and console the sorrowful and to serve the needy, let me be your LEGS that may walk miles and miles carrying your good news, let me be your HEART that may love you and your people unconditionally. Accept Lord this offering of mine. Amen”.

“To be fully yours, totally yours, MORE OF YOU... I surrender all that I am and all that I have”

“It was a profound encounter with JESUS, His Words echo within: Remain in my LOVE as I remain in you.”

“A call to live ABANDONMENT, surrendering everything with courage and without fear of risk; I am confident that my life is in His hand”.

“The contemplation of the love of Jesus to the end, in His surrender into the form of bread and wine and to the Cross, has been at the same time an experience of the eruption of love and of the force that drives one towards who continue to suffer today. This is a love that broadens our vision to see the concrete faces that are living with injustice and exploitation, today. I feel that all His suffering and surrender is redeeming and liberating and it makes me come back once again and say Yes and offer myself so that He can send me, and I want to spend my life loving and serving”.

“In the house of Matthew, the strength and mercy of the Father was revealed to me”.

“My experience of the spiritual exercises has been a time of grace. The Lord reconfirmed the call that once He made me and I renewed my response and above all, in His infinite love, He engraved in my heart the unique law of love”.

“The experience of the free gift of the Father’s love in my life and the encounter with Jesus poor and humble who wanted to stay with those who were His own, in the Eucharist. This urges me to be the presence of His love, with my eyes focussed on the “one who was pierced” searching always to do the Father’s will.

Thanks to all of you once again for accompanying us!

The group of sisters in the third probation 2008.



Group of the sisters with the Srs. Inmaculada Fukasawa, Rita Burley and Ana Maria Hernez