



## MARIAN ITINERARY - MAY 2020

### IN PREPARATION FOR THE 34<sup>th</sup> GENERAL CHAPTER

This particular time in which we are living in communion with the whole Human Family, affected by the outbreak of COVID-19, the General Council offers **this itinerary for the month of May**, which can be used for our **Community meditation**. Maintaining the centrality of the Word that the Liturgy offers us every day (an extract of the Gospel is given), let us take up again and delve deeper into the *Lineamenta* (referred to as **L**) in preparation for the General Chapter. We pray for all humanity, for those who are most affected by both - the contagion and the social consequences of the pandemic, for all the people who are doing their utmost to alleviate the sufferings of the people and for those who govern and those who have to make decisions for the common good. For all of us we ask “Mary, the Mother of God and of the Church, to sustain us in fidelity to our vocation, and make the divine life grow in us” (Cf. C 109).

➤ **May 1 - Mary: Virgin Spouse of Joseph**  
(St. Joseph, the Worker)

*Jesus went to his hometown and taught the people in their synagogue. They were amazed and said, «Where did He get this wisdom and these special powers? **Isn't he the carpenter's son? Isn't Mary his mother** and aren't James, Joseph, Simon and Judas his brothers? Aren't all his sisters living here? How did he get all this?». And so they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, «The only place where prophets are not welcome is their hometown and in their own family». And he did not perform many miracles there because of their lack of faith. (Mt 13:54-58)*

“Jesus, for 30 years, knowing He had to be concerned about the things of His Father, remained obedient also to Mary and Joseph, and from them He learned to pray, to work, to adhere to the mysterious plan of the Father. **In this environment, helped by the testimony and words of His parents,** He learnt the religious traditions and those of worship of His people, **He lived in obedience to the Holy Scriptures, He came to know the truth about God.**” (L 1.3)

*O Mary, pilgrim of goodness, you have walked beside Jesus and have been the joyful Mother and servant of God's plan. **O Mary, watch over the growth of Christ in us and in our families:** may each of our houses be a Holy House and each family be a Holy Family inhabited by peace and love. Mat the yes that made you the Mother of God and of all the children of God, resound in each of us. **Teach us your yes every day, oh Mary,** to love Heaven while remaining on earth, to stay in the world without belonging to it, to live industriously and serenely, while waiting to reach our heavenly home with You. (Card. Angelo Comastri)*

➤ **May 2 - Mary: Faithful disciple of Christ**

*When many of his disciples heard it, they said, «This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?» [...] So Jesus asked the twelve, «Do you also wish to go away?» Simon Peter answered him, «**Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.**» (Jn 6:60,67-69)*

“We too find ourselves together in Community, not because we have chosen and wanted it, but because we have been sent there by obedience, “called by the initiative of God”. Perhaps we are sometimes tempted to think that certain “arrangements” of

communities are not really proper, yet deep down we also know that **there is a Providential Plan of God that guides our personal and community history, and we believe that every Sister is a providential gift of God to us.**" (L 2.1)

*Mother, help our faith! **Open our ears to hear God's Word and to recognize His voice and call.** Awaken in us a desire to follow in His footsteps, to go forth from our own land and to receive His promise [...]. Sow in our faith the joy of the Risen One. Remind us that those who believe are never alone. **Teach us to see all things with the eyes of Jesus, that He may be light for our path.** And may this light of faith always increase in us, until the dawn of that undying day!* (Pope Francis)

### ➤ May 3 - Mary: A Sign of the Maternal Face of God

*So again Jesus said to them, «Very truly, I tell you, [...] whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.**» (Jn 10:9-10)*

*“**«Laudato Si»** is a compelling call to care for our common home, and to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it. **We are called to an ecological conversion, to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, to be protectors of God's handiwork.** Not to ignore the wounds of nature but be responsible in the mission that God has entrusted to us, to work and protect the garden in which He has placed us.” (L 3.5)*

*Mary, You who have experienced the tribulations of the poor, help us to put our life at their disposal with the discreet gestures of silence and not with the advertising spots of a protagonist. Make us aware that, under the guise of the fatigued and oppressed, the King is hiding. **Open our hearts to the sufferings of our brothers and sisters. Give us eyes filled with tenderness and hope so that we may be ready to perceive their needs.** The eyes which you had that day. In Cana of Galilee. (Bishop Tonino Bello)*

### ➤ May 4 - Mary: Hope of the Poor

***«I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.***

*For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.» (Jn 10:16-18)*

“Our Founders, who being themselves a pious couple and having lived in good Christian families, with the joys and sorrows of daily life, **were not only able to understand, but actively involved themselves in the sufferings and struggles of the poor families.**[...] They welcomed the little ones abandoned to themselves and opened their hearts and their home! Yes, they offered their lives for the families, for the future of the families, to build happy families!” (L 3.3)

*Holy Mother of the Redeemer, **show yourself Mother of the Poor, of people dying of hunger and disease, who suffer wrongs and abuses of power, those who cannot find work, home and refuge, of the oppressed and exploited,** who despair or vainly seek peace and tranquility away from God. Help us to defend life, a reflection of divine love, help us to always defend it, from dawn until its natural end. Show yourself a Mother of unity and peace. May violence and injustice cease everywhere, harmony and unity grow in families, and respect and understanding among peoples! (St. John Paul II)*

### ➤ **May 5 - Mary: Mother of communion**

*Jesus answered, «I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. **My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. **What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.**» (Jn 10:25-30)*

“We cannot understand God if we separate Him from the relationship of communion of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: “The Triune God is **a communion of love, and the family is its living reflection.** Saint John Paul II shed light on this when he said, «**Our God** in His deepest mystery **is not solitude, but a family,** for He has within Himself fatherhood, sonship and the essence of the family, which is love. That love, in the divine family, is the Holy Spirit»”. (L 1.2)

*Mary, woman of listening, open our ears; **grant us to know how to listen to the Word of your Son Jesus among the thousands of words of this world; grant that we may listen to the reality in which we live,** to every person we encounter, especially those who are poor, in need, in hardship. Mary, woman of decision, enlighten our mind and our heart, so that we may obey, unhesitatingly, the Word of your Son Jesus; give us the courage to decide, not to let ourselves be dragged along, letting others direct our life. Mary, woman of action, obtain that our hands and feet move “with haste” toward others, to bring them the charity and love of your Son Jesus, to bring the light of the Gospel to the world, as you did. (Pope Francis)*

➤ **May 6 - Mary: Mother of conversion**

*«**Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.**» (Jn 12:44-47)*

*“The whole of Mother Enrichetta’s Spiritual Diary is filled with references to the Holy Trinity with filial and confidential tones. **From her we learn** to live in constant dialogue with the three Divine Persons: **total abandonment to the Father, imitation of the Son who gives His life and constant docility to the action of the Spirit.**” (L 1.2)*

*Our Lady of Tears, look with motherly goodness at the pain of the world! Wipe away the tears of the suffering, the forgotten, the desperate, the victims of all violence. **Obtain for all tears of repentance and of new life, which open the hearts to the regenerating gift of God's love.** Obtain for all the tears of joy after seeing the deep tenderness of your heart. (St. John Paul II)*

➤ **May 7 - Mary: Welcoming woman**

*(Anniversary of the Beatification of Mother Enrichetta)*

*After he had washed their feet, [...] he said to them, [...] «**Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. [...] I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and **whoever receives me receives him who sent me.**» (Jn13:16, 19-20)***

**“Only “with Jesus at the centre” it is beautiful and possible to nourish our family spirit every day, that is, to commit ourselves to cultivate simple, sincere and cordial relationships, to create occasions for joyful fraternity, sustain ourselves in times of trial and feel responsible for one another.” (L 2.2)**

*We trustfully commend ourselves to you. **With you we intend to follow Christ, the Redeemer of humankind: may tiredness not weigh us down nor fatigue slow us down, may difficulties not extinguish the courage nor sadness the joy of the heart.** You Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, continue to show yourself as Mother of all, watch over our path, obtain for us the fullness of joy of seeing your Son in Heaven (St. John Paul II)*

➤ **May 8 - Maria: in haste towards the other**  
(Our Lady of Pompei)

**«And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.» Thomas said to him, «Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?» Jesus said to him, «I am the way, and the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through me.**» (Jn 14:3-6)**

**“To journey towards interculturality is a process, a spiritual journey that becomes a sign of prophetic hope for humanity, since **to live unity in diversity within our Communities, sets us in motion, not only within, but also outside,** to encounter diversity that populates the world around us.” (L 2.3)**

*At your feet in the footsteps of the Saints we feel we are the family of God. Mother and model of the Church, you are our sure guide and support. **Make us of one heart and one soul,** people strengthened on their way to the homeland of heaven. We give you our miseries, the many paths of hatred and bloodshed, the thousand old and new types of poverty and above all our sin. We entrust ourselves to you, Mother of Mercy: **obtain God's forgiveness for us, help us to build a world according to your heart.** (Brief Petition to Our Lady of Pompei)*

➤ **May 9 - Mary: Door open to the mystery of the Trinity**

*«Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father' Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. **Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.** Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.» (Jn 14:9b-12)*

“By observing and listening to what Jesus said and did, the disciples were led to understand the relationship of the Son with the Father and the mystery of the three Divine Persons. In the same way **we too, on the path of following Christ, enter more and more into the mystery of the Trinitarian Life.**” (L 1.2)

*Holy Mary, servant of the Lord, whom grace introduced into the Trinitarian intimacy and made a treasure chest of divine secrets, make the Gospel become for us the inspiring norm of all our daily choices. **Preserve us from the temptation of making excuses before your requests. Make us capable of joyful obedience.** And finally, give wings at our feet so that we can render the missionary service of the proclamation of the good News to the far ends of the earth. (Bishop Tonino Bello)*

➤ **May 10 - Mary: Door of trust**

*«**Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.** In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.» (Jn.14:1-3)*

“We cannot grow up by ourselves, we cannot journey on our own, in isolation; rather, **we journey and grow in a Community, in a family.** And so it is in the Church!... The Church is Catholic because she is **everyone's home.** Everyone is a child of the Church and in her all find their home...” **Our presence as consecrated persons, which is a living expression and privileged realization of the great Trinitarian communion, is grafted into this communion of the Church, born and gathered as a Family by the Holy Spirit.**” (L 1.6)

*O Beloved Mother, you who know well the ways of Holiness and Love, teach us to raise often our spirits and our hearts to the Trinity, to fix our respectful and affectionate attention on It. Turn your merciful gaze on us, draw us into your brightness, flood us with your sweetness, take us into the Light and Love, take us higher and higher into the splendors of Heaven. **Let nothing disturb our peace or move us away from the thought of God, but every minute be a step towards the depths of the august Mystery,** until the day when our soul, fully open to the illuminations of the divine union, will see everything in the Eternal Love and Unity.* (Marthe Robin)

### ➤ May 11 - Mary: Dwelling of God

*«They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them». [...] «**Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. [...]** But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.»* (Jn 14:21,23b,26)

**“There are many ways and means through which the Spirit continues to manifest the fidelity of God who fulfils His work, keeping alive the Charism transmitted through our Founders, giving meaning to the lives of so many children, young people and families, persons of every class, profession and culture.[...] The LASA groups are a gift for us, but also a commitment and a responsibility, towards those persons who trust in our Religious Family and depend on it for their spiritual journey, and also towards the Charism itself. In fact, it has been placed in our hands, to be passed on, to find ever new ways and means of being actualized in different times and in different geographical areas.”** (L 2.4)

*You, Mary, are invoked with the insistent prayer of the faithful throughout the world, so that you, exalted above all the angels and saints, will intercede before your Son for us, "until **all families of peoples**, whether they are honoured with the title of Christian or whether they still do not know the Saviour, **may be happily gathered together in peace and harmony into one People of God, for the glory of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity**".* (Pope Benedict XVI)



### ➤ May 12 - Mary: Star of evangelization

*«Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, **'I am going away, and I am coming to you.'** [...] I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but **I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.**» (Jn 14:27-,28a,30-31a)*

**“As Sisters of St. Ann, we too are called to go to the peripheries and spread the Gospel with a missionary heart, bearing witness with our life and works that Christ loves and saves every person.” (L 3.4)**

*Virgin of listening and contemplation, Mother of love, Bride of the eternal wedding feast, **pray for the Church**, whose pure icon you are, **that she may never be closed in on herself or lose her passion for establishing God's kingdom.** (Pope Francis)*

### ➤ May 13 - Mary: Help to remain in the Son

(Blessed V. Mary of Fatima)

*«I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. [...] Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. **Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.**» (Jn 15:1,4-5)*

**“We are all aware of our weaknesses, and in everyday life there are encounters and conflicts with our Sisters. Yet **precisely in Community we find our strength:** we draw from the **Word of God** and the **Eucharist the capacity to love, forgive and serve.**” (L 2.1)**

*Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima, with renewed gratitude for your motherly presence we join in the voice of all generations that call you blessed. We celebrate in you the great works of God, who never tires of lowering himself in mercy over humanity, afflicted by evil and wounded by sin, to heal and to save it. [...] Guard our life with your embrace: **bless and strengthen every desire for good;** give new life and nourishment to faith; sustain and enlighten hope; awaken and animate charity; guide us all on the path to holiness. **Teach us your own special love for the little and the poor, for the excluded and the suffering, for sinners and the wounded of heart:** gather*

*all people under your protection and give us all to your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus. Amen. (Pope Francis)*

➤ **May 14 - Maria: Mother of Joy and of Love**

**«As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. [...] You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.»** (Jn 15:9-11, 16-17)

**“Right from birth, the human person is invited to communion and dialogue with God and with others. The vocation to love and to communion is inscribed in the humanity of man and woman In this consists the dignity of each one of us. In following this call, lies our responsibility and happiness.”** (L 1.1)

*O Mary, Temple of the purest and always shining light, **intercede with your only-begotten Son**, through whom we have now been reconciled, so that he may have mercy on our shortcomings, **remove any kind of separation and grant us the joy of loving our brothers and sisters**. We entrust to your immaculate Heart, O Virgin Mother of God, all humankind; guide them to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, the only and true Saviour; remove from them the harm that sins carry and obtain for them peace which is truth, justice, freedom and love. (St. Paul VI)*

➤ **May 15 - Mary: Queen of the Families**

*«I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. **You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last**, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.» (Jn 15:15-17)*

**“A couple, Carlo Tancredi and Giulia, became a family, in a harmony of relationships that enriched and enriches many. Our Congregation bears imprinted in its DNA, being a family and living as a family: this is**

the indelible sign of the matrimonial fruitfulness of Carlo Tancredi and Giulia. Focused on God and responding to the then reality, they lived a mission that made them *father and mother* of a larger family, that of the little ones and the poor whom they loved and continue to love through the heart of each one of us.” (L 1.4)

*Most beloved Mother, you, who in embracing the divine will without reserve were consecrated with all of your energies to the person and work of your Son, **teach us to keep in our heart and to meditate in silence, as you did, upon the mysteries of Christ's life.** [...] To you, a "sign of certain hope and comfort", we trustfully turn our gaze "until the day of the Lord shall come".* (Pope Benedict XVI)

➤ **May 16 - Mary: Consecrated to God and to the brothers and sisters**

*«If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. **Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.** Remember the word that I said to you, 'Servants are not greater than their master.»* (Jn 15:18-20a)

**“Innumerable are the challenges to which the families are subjected today, in a world that is in continuous and rapid transformation. These challenges can be from within:** like personality types, expectations, behaviour, seeking one’s own pleasure and realization, various forms of addictions and so on...” (L 3.2)

*Here we stand before you, to entrust to your maternal care ourselves, the Church, the entire world Plead for us with your beloved Son, that he may give us in abundance the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, which is the fountain of life. [...] We entrust to you all troubled families, the elderly with no one to help them, and all who are alone and without hope. **O Mother, you know the sufferings and hopes of the Church and the world, come to the aid of your children in the daily trials which life brings to each one,** and grant that, thanks to the efforts of all, the darkness will not prevail over the light.* (St. John Paul II)

➤ **May 17 - Mary: Mother who teaches us to love the Church**

*Jesus again said to his disciples: «If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another*

**Advocate, to be with you forever.** This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. **I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.**» (Jn 14:15-18a)

**“Our Religious Family, which was born in the Church willed by God, is called to live under the loving care of His Providence, the core of its identity.** It has been entrusted, not by chance, to St. Ann, Patroness of the Institute model of a mother and educator who teaches us to “to grow daily in humility, prudence, chastity, patience, love of God and in all the virtues of great religious perfection”. (L 1.5)

*Plead for us with your beloved Son, that he may give us in abundance the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, which is the fountain of life. [...] **May the Spirit open our hearts to justice and love, and guide people and nations to mutual understanding and a firm desire for peace.** We entrust to you all people, beginning with the weakest: the babies yet unborn, and those born into poverty and suffering, the young in search of meaning, the unemployed, and those suffering hunger and disease.* (St. John Paul II)

### ➤ **May 18 - Mary: Queen of the disciples of Christ**

*«When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, **he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.** I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when **those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God.** And they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.» (Jn 15:26-16:4)*

**“A community that lives the values of our family spirit becomes a community that witnesses and educates the new generations. Such a community is a concrete response to the expectations of many young people** who, in a fragmented and individualistic world, look for a presence that welcomes, loves, values; a presence that is also demanding while it instils trust and hope, a presence that sheds light on the great choices of life.” (L 2.2)

Mary, Queen of martyrs, associated with the Son in a single martyrdom, **accompany each of us on small and large occasions in which it is required our faithful evangelical witness.** Comfort us with your love of Mother in the daily commitment to follow Christ, especially in complex and difficult situations. (St. John Paul II)

➤ **May 19 - Mary: Mother of the new times**

«But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: **it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.**» (Jn 16:5-7)

**“Living unity in diversity drives us, with the power of the Spirit, to go beyond mere tolerance of differences and to live a process of transformation and conversion.”** (L 2.3)

*“O Mary, you who are Mother of all of us, **obtain for the Church the gift of the Holy Spirit, so that she will be able to continue steadfastly towards the future** on the path of renewal marked by the Holy Spirit and who knows how to assume in this renewing work, all that is true and good, constantly discerning among the signs of the times what is needed for the coming of the Kingdom of God”. (St. John Paul II)*

➤ **May 20 - Mary: Woman of daily life**

«I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth;** for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine.** For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.» (Jn 16:12-15)

**“This “sister” earth now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation.”**(L 3.5)

*Holy Mary, missionary woman, invigorate our Christian life with that ardour that drove you, bearer of light, on the roads of Palestine. **Vessel of the Spirit, pour out His gifts on us, so that the nostalgia for the «extreme ends of the earth» may be placed in our hearts. Open our eyes wide so that we can see the afflictions of the world. Do not prevent the clamour of the poor from taking away our peace.** Do not let words of hope sound false on our lips. Help us gladly pay the price of our loyalty to the Lord and free us from resignation.* (Bishop Tonino Bello)

➤ **May 21 - Mary: Guide towards the fullness of joy**

*Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, «Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, ‘A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’? Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; **you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy.**» (Jn 16:19-20)*

“This process leads us to put our different “cultures” in interrelation, in order **to give life to a “new culture”, founded on the Gospel and animated by charismatic values:** in it all feel at home, the differences are not cancelled but we try to know them, appreciate them and integrate them. **Each one can give the best of herself, share her gifts and be challenged and purified by the encounter with what is “different”.** (L 2.3)

*Immaculate Mother, we are mindful that, without Jesus, we can do nothing good (cf. Jn 15:5) and that only through him, with him and in him, will we be instruments of salvation for the world. **Bride of the Holy Spirit, obtain for us the inestimable gift of transformation in Christ.** Through the same power of the Spirit that overshadowed you, making you the Mother of the Saviour, help us to bring Christ your Son to birth in ourselves too.* (Pope Benedict XVI)

➤ **May 22 - Mary: New Eve**

*«Very truly, I tell you, [...] When a woman is in labour, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. **So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.** On that day you will ask nothing of me.» (Jn 16:21-23a)*

“The whole of Scripture, starting from the Old Testament, highlights the figure of a **God of Love who is Father**, because He loves His children and stoops over them to free them, to help them, to save them. He is a God of **Love who is also “Mother”** because **He is always beside His children, and He never abandons them.**” (L 1.2)

*Virgin spouse beneath the Cross, the new Eve, be our guide along the paths of the world. Teach us to experience and to spread the love of Christ, to stand with you before the innumerable crosses on which your Son is still crucified. Hail Mary, Woman of faith, first of the disciples! Virgin Mother of the Church, **help us always to account for the hope that is in us, with trust in human goodness and the Father’s love.** Teach us to build up the world beginning from within: in the depths of silence and prayer, in the joy of fraternal love, in the unique fruitfulness of the Cross.* (St. John Paul II)

### ➤ **May 23 - Mary: Woman of prayer and of action**

*«I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but will tell you plainly of the Father. **On that day you will ask in my name. I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.** I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father.»* (Jn 16:25-28)

**“To keep our missionary fervour alive calls for firm trust in the Holy Spirit. The Spirit-filled evangelizers are evangelizers who pray and work.** Mystical notions without a solid social and missionary outreach are of no help to evangelization, nor are dissertations or social or pastoral practices which lack a spirituality which can change hearts”. (L 3.4)

*Virgin "full of grace", **show yourself as a provident and merciful Mother to the whole world so that, by respecting human dignity and rejecting every form of violence and exploitation, sound foundations may be laid for the civilization of love.** Show yourself as Mother, especially to those most in need: the defenceless, the marginalized and outcasts, to the victims of a society that all too often sacrifices the human person for other ends and interests. Show yourself, O Mary, as Mother of all, and give us Christ, the Hope of the world!* (Pope Benedict XVI)

### ➤ May 24 - Mary: Help of missionaries

(Ascension of Our Lord, B.V. Mary Help of Christians)

*Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, «All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Go therefore and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, **I am with you always, to the end of the age.**» (Mt 28,16-20)*

“Pope Francis repeatedly urges us to go to the existential peripheries of our modern world. **«The Church is called to come out of herself and to go to the peripheries, not only geographically, but also the existential peripheries:** the mystery of sin, of pain, of injustice, of ignorance and indifference to religion, of intellectual currents, and of all misery» (L 3.4)

*You, who stood firm before the Cross with an unshakable faith, and received the joyful consolation of the resurrection, gathered the disciples in anticipation of the Spirit for the evangelizing Church to be born. **Obtain us a new ardour of resurrection to bring to everyone the Gospel of life that conquers death. Give us the holy audacity to seek new paths so that the gift of beauty that does not go out reaches everyone.** (Pope Francis)*

### ➤ May 25 - Mary: Woman of discernment

*Jesus answered them, «Do you now believe? The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because **the Father is with me. I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!**» (Jn 16:31-33)*

“In the present day world there is no stereotype of a family, but rather **“a challenging mosaic”** made up of many different realities, with all their joys, tragedies and dreams. Even the problems about which we are concerned are challenges which are a test for our educational service and **stimulate us to missionary creativity.**” (L 3.2)

*Mary, Mother of hope, walk with us! Teach us to proclaim the living God; **help us to witness Jesus, the only Saviour; make us helpful to our neighbor,***



**welcoming to the needy, justice operators, passionate builders of a more just world; intercede for us who work in history certain that the Father's plan will be fulfilled.** (St. John Paul II)

➤ **May 26 - Mary: Mother of humanity**

**«Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.»** (Jn 17:1b-2,7-11a)

**“An individual Sister’s dedication to this cause is contagious to the community and the ripple effect spreads to the society at large. My ecological conversion can be achieved also by living the vow of poverty responsibly through moderate usage of all things, including the modern gadgets, saving water and energy, reducing wastage etc.”**  
(L 3.5)

**O Immaculate Mother, who is for all a sign of sure hope and consolation, let us allow ourselves to be attracted by your immaculate candor. [...] Yes, O Mary, you help us to believe with more confidence in the good, to bet on gratuity, on service, on non-violence, on the force of truth; encourage us to stay awake, not to give in to the temptation of easy evasions, to face reality, with its problems, with courage and responsibility.** (Pope Benedict XVI)

➤ **May 27 - Mary: Woman with a universal heart**

**«Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.»**  
(Jn 17: 11b, 15-19)

**“Not only our charismatic origins but also the signs of the times, in a world totally globalized, compels us to live unity in diversity, which commits us to accept and integrate in the Community the diversities of character, culture, generation and formation. This acceptance of diversity is not an end in itself, but is at the service of the divine plan of making the whole of humanity the great family of the children of God.” (L 2.3)**

*We pray you, faithful Virgin, instill in all Christians the desire to proclaim soon in full harmony the faith of the Apostles, in order to celebrate at one table the sacrifice of the Body and Blood of the Lord. **Open their hearts to trust and dialogue, so that they may be credible witnesses of the gospel of salvation in the world.*** (St. John Paul II)

### ➤ **May 28 - Mary: Mother of unity**

*«I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, **that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.** The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, **that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.**» (Jn 17:20-23)*

**“All of you are one in Christ Jesus”** writes St. Paul to the Galatians, **therefore communion in diversity is above all a baptismal gift** proper to the new life in Christ. **It is not a question of our efforts, made with clenched teeth, but it is the gratuitous acceptance of a gift that opens the heart of each one and of our communities to the surprises of God, to the continuous creative innovation of the Holy Spirit.” (L 2.3).**

*O Mary, Queen of Peace, **help us to live the path of peace, to “be peace”, to intercede and atone for the peace in the Church and humanity, to witness and give peace to others.** May our path of peace be shared with all people of good will. O Mother of the Church, who with your intercession sustains our prayer, **obtain for us and with us the gift of the Holy Spirit for the Church, so that it finds its unity, being of one heart and one soul in Christ,** with you and with the successor of the apostle Peter, to be an instrument of reconciliation of every person with God and of a new civilization of love.* (Fr. Davorin Dobaj)

## ➤ May 29 - Mary: Mother of Love

Jesus said to Simon Peter, «**Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?**» He said to him, «Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.» Jesus said to him, «**Feed my lambs.**» A second time he said to him, «Simon son of John, do you love me?» He said to him, «Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.» Jesus said to him, «**Tend my sheep.**» He said to him the third time, «Simon son of John, do you love me?» Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, «Do you love me?» And he said to him, «**Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.**» Jesus said to him «**Feed my sheep.** After this he said to him, «**Follow me.**» (Jn 21:15-17,19)

**“The sense of the Church was then, very much alive in our Blessed Mother Enrichetta: it had strongly penetrated her soul. Her love for it, her “feeling part” of it, making its sufferings her own, was the fundamental motive of her prayer and self-sacrifice.[...] We too, today as before, “in communion with the Church”, are invited by the Spirit to proclaim the Love of Christ to the ends of the world.” (L 1.6)**

*To you, Mother, who want the spiritual and apostolic renewal of your sons and daughters in the response of love and total dedication to Christ, we confidently address our prayers. **You who have done the will of the Father, ready in obedience, courageous in poverty, welcoming in fruitful virginity, obtain from your divine Son that those who have received the gift of following him in the consecrated life know how to witness it with a transfigured existence,** walking joyfully, with all the other brothers and sisters, towards the heavenly homeland and the light that knows no sunset.* (St. John Paul II)

## ➤ May 30 - Mary: Light on the path of following Christ

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, «Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?» When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, «**Lord, what about him?**» Jesus said to him, «If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? **Follow me!**» (Jn 21:20-22)

**“Jesus calls us to continue to journey to where He is most needed. “We don’t walk alone or comfortably, but we walk with a heart that does not**

rest, that does not close in on itself **but beats to the rhythm of a journey undertaken together with all the people faithful to God**” (L 3.4)

*You who have been, with humility and magnanimity, «The handmaid of the Lord», **give us your same availability for the service of God and for the salvation of the world.** Open our hearts to the immense prospects of the Kingdom of God and the proclamation of the Gospel to every creature. (St. John Paul II)*

➤ **May 31 - Mary: Bride of the Holy Spirit**

(Pentecost, Visitation of the B.V. Mary)

*When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, «Peace be with you.» After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, «**Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.**» When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, «**Receive the Holy Spirit.** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.» (Jn 20:19-23)*

**“With the power that comes from the Spirit we are enabled to address the challenges faced by families, inspired also by the “Saints” of our Institute. In doing so, we participate in the plan God has for His people, and collaborate with the Church in serving the domestic Church, the families for their happiness and salvation, because a healthy family means a healthy Church and a healthy society.” (L 3.3)**

*Virgin and Mother Mary, you who, moved by the Spirit, accepted the Word of life in the depth of your humble faith, totally given to the Eternal, **help us to say our "yes" in the urgency, more demanding than ever, of making the Good News of Jesus resound.** Star of the new evangelization, **help us to be shining witnesses of communion, service, ardent and generous faith, justice and love for the poor, so that the joy of the Gospel reaches the ends of the earth and no periphery is deprived of its light.** Mother of the living Gospel, source of joy for the little ones, pray for us. (Pope Francis)*