

Rome, 20th June 2026
Our Lady of Consolation

Dearest Sisters,

I am writing to you today, on the Feast of Our Lady of Consolation, very dear to us. Our Mother House was built in the “shadow” of her Shrine, and our Founders and Mother Enrichetta were devoted to her. Through her intercession, they and many of our Sisters in the course of history have received many spiritual and material graces. From Mary, we too receive consolation (cf. C 24). *“It signifies consolation in the deepest meaning of the word: it restores strength to the human spirit, illuminates, comforts, and strengthens faith, and transforms it into trustful abandonment to Providence and spiritual joy”* (St. John Paul II, *Address at the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation*, Turin, 13th April 1980). With this consolation, which is our strength and light, we continue our journey as a Congregation, abandoned to the Plan of Divine Providence.

Placing all our trust in the faithfulness of God who has always guided our history and sustained by the intercession of Mary and our Saints, in accordance with art. 180 of the Constitutions and art. 88 of the Directory, with the consent of my Council,

**I announce the 35th Ordinary General Chapter
of our Congregation
and convoke the Capitular Assembly,
on 8th September 2027, Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
at 4 p.m., in our Generalate, Rome.**

From the time of the preparation and the realization of the General Consultative Assembly, as General Council, we have questioned ourselves about what step or steps the Lord is asking of our Congregation at this moment, in view of the General Chapter. We sought to listen to the Spirit, guided also by the Project of the Congregation for this sessennium and drawing light from the evaluation of the paths covered at the level of the different Provinces and Delegations, from the sharing of values and experiences during the General Consultative Assembly, and then from the canonical and fraternal visits undertaken and from our contacts with many Sisters and Communities. With the insights received and the challenges identified, we have understood that in these times in which we are living, the Lord is calling us to be happy and fruitful, and therefore to rediscover and live our *generativity* starting from *communion* with Him and among us. Therefore, the General Chapter will have the following theme:

From communion to generativity

It will be divided into four nuclei or subthemes:

1. In Communion with the Trinity
2. In Communion among us
3. In the mission of the Church, being faithful to the intentions of our Founders
4. Witnesses and generators of peace and hope for the new generations.

Only by starting from true communion with the Triune God, through the means He gives us, will we be able to establish authentic and mature relationships among ourselves, will we know how to care for one another, creating missionary and ecclesially fruitful communities, not self-referential but open to God and to the world, in order to generate peace and hope for the new generations.

Let us now ask ourselves: what is this **generativity**? In fact, it seems that we are living in a time of crisis, sterile and dark, in which it seems difficult, if not downright absurd, to speak of generativity. An ancient Latin prayer goes like this: *“A peste, fame et bello libera nos, Domine”*, that

is, “*From plague, hunger and war, deliver us, O Lord*”. And someone has ironically observed that in recent years instead of disappearing, these things have all taken place! It seems as if God is not listening. The **plague** was the pandemic that devastated us and plunged humanity into a state of fear and profound insecurity; **hunger** still grips a large part of humanity, indeed we see millions of families living below the poverty line; and **wars** have intensified and multiplied: wars that are much talked about and on which international balances of power are at stake, and wars that are little talked about, but which are destroying lives and civilizations. These things have happened and are still happening.

And if we look at the microcosm of our Communities and our Congregation, we too experience fear and uncertainty. Within the Congregation too, physical and spiritual illnesses seem to be on the rise, and vocations are decreasing or completely absent, even in places that until a few years ago seemed to be flourishing with life. Why is all this happening? What is God’s call hidden behind all this?

Looking at the history of the people of Israel and of the Church, we see that precisely times of uncertainty and crisis are those of greater generativity. Let us think of the ancient and modern martyrs, of the great Saints of the Middle Ages, of those of the XIX century... It is the logic of the Paschal Mystery, of the seed that dies. So **we too are at the right time to generate!** We are at the right time to generate, at whatever age and in whatever latitude we find ourselves. The words that Pope Francis pronounced a few years ago can help us: “If we can recover the **courage** and **humility** to admit that **a time of crisis is a time of the Spirit**, whenever we are faced with the experience of darkness, weakness, vulnerability, contradiction and loss, we will no longer feel overwhelmed. Instead, we will **keep trusting** that things are about to take **a new shape, emerging exclusively from the experience of a grace hidden in the darkness**. «For gold is tested in the fire and those found acceptable, in the furnace of humiliation» (*Sir 2:5*). [...] **The newness born of crisis and willed by the Spirit is never a newness opposed to the old, but one that springs from the old and makes it continually fruitful**. [...] The dying of a seed is ambivalent: it is both an end and the beginning of something new” (Pope Francis, *Address to the Roman Curia*, 21st December 2020).

Therefore, with the theme of communion and generativity, the XXXV General Chapter does not seek to find new methods and formulae to increase the number of vocations, no! It wants to lead us to discover what Grace lies hidden in the darkness, what newness the Spirit desires for us in the Church today. Pope Leo, recalling Pope Francis, emphasizes that “the Church is called to live with confident courage, as **a small flock bringing hope to all**, mindful that the aim of mission **is not its own survival, but the communication of the love with which God loves the world**” (Pope Leo XIV, *Letter to the Cardinals*, 12th April 2026). Our Congregation wishes to pursue this ecclesial goal in the upcoming Chapter event. Let us prepare for it with **confidence** and **prayer**, recalling its importance: “*The General Chapter is a representative assembly of the entire Institute, a sign of its unity in charity. It is an ecclesial event and a moment of grace in discerning the plan of God for the Congregation, in creative fidelity to the spirit of our origins*” (C 179).

Finally, I would like to inform you that at the level of the General Council we have decided that the Vicar General, Sr. Anitha Lobo, will be the point of reference for any practical and juridical clarification regarding the election of the Representatives and the preparation and celebration of the General and Provincial Chapters and the Capitular Assemblies of the Delegations, while the General Councillors, Sr. Jesintha Mariappa and Sr. Guadalupe Neri, will coordinate the work for the drawing up of the Working Paper of the General Chapter with a particular Commission. In the Enclosure you will find the Deliberation of the General Council regarding the criterion of representation at the Chapters and Capitular Assemblies.

Entrusting the preparation and subsequent celebration of the General Chapter to the protection of Mary Most Holy, Woman of communion and hope, generative Woman *par excellence* as Mother of the Son of God and Mother of the Church and of humanity, and counting on the intercession of our Saints and the prayers of our deceased Sisters, I embrace you all, also on behalf of the Sisters of the Council.

Your affectionate Mother

Sr. Francesca Sarcia