

MARY OF THE PASSION

Transformation

Embrace the change



Letting go...

*Each leaf in the air whispers in the ear of my soul:
"Let go, surrender yourself, abandon yourself and
trust."*

*Transformation- Leaflet 2
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“God, who acts unceasingly within us and transforms us, invites us to enter into communion with Him, and in Him, with our brothers and sisters. In welcoming His presence our life become prayer.” (CS 8)

PREPARATION FOR THE RECOLLECTION

This is a privileged time as Tagore said “***to sit quiet, face to face with thee and to sing dedication of life in this silent and overflowing leisure.***” Let us slowly repeat the words of verse 10 of Psalm 46 a few times “***Be still, and know that I am God.***”

“To be still in God’s presence” means to stop the frantic activity of our minds and let go of our plans, our desire to control, and open ourselves to the transforming power of the Spirit. Our dear Blessed Maria Assunta has not written very much, but just a few short texts containing little pearls, like shells in the depths of the ocean.

O Blessed Maria Assunta, on whom God bestowed the mission to recall to us that only humility and love have value in His eyes, help us to understand your message and to imitate you in doing each of our actions, great or small, with purity of intention and with the sole desire of giving love and glory to our Heavenly Father. Amen.

Embracing Change

“My nature says no, my reason says no! It must be admitted that in my soul I hear: “Go ahead!” Stopping would mean blocking God’s work on one’s own initiative. Something within me is pushing me forward and telling me, “Go ahead!” (Mary of the Passion)

Mary of the Passion embraced the unforeseen and painful changes in her life in order to give birth to our Institute. It was born because of the openness of our foundress who in humility and purity of heart embraced the call to dare to walk into an uncharted territory. This walk into the unknown still continues and the responsibility is ours.

Mary of the Passion called this aspect of our charism ‘total availability or victimhood’. Today we speak of Kenosis, “What must die?” and “The U Process”: **Letting go, making present our collective reality and letting it come** at all levels; at the individual and at the Institute level.

“Today as daughters of Mary of the Passion, we ask ourselves what characterizes our specific way of reflecting the face of God’s love, which has the power to change every life that we touch? What is our FMM presence called to bring that is different?” (Post EGC no. 1)

This demands openness of heart, spirit and will to listen **in the depths of our being to the Spirit of the Son continually crying Abba, Father.** “When gifting us with

the charism, the Lord called us to incarnate certain characteristics of His face: the face of the One who gives himself totally to us: the face of the One who gives himself freely to carry out the plan of the Father's love for the world, in a way of closeness, humility, poverty and kenosis. It is the face that we contemplate in the Eucharist. It is He who makes us capable to begin and begin again His way of discipleship.” (Françoise Massy)

Embracing this way of discipleship challenges us “to leave things behind for the love of the Lord, leave behind those weights that slow down our mission, the strings that tie us to the world ...for a heart unburdened by possessions, that freely loves the Lord, always spreads joy, that joy for which there is so much need today...

Jesus invites us to return to the source of joy, which is the encounter with him, the courageous choice to risk everything to follow him, the satisfaction of leaving something behind in order to embrace his way.” (Pope Francis – Homily, October 14, 2018)

The Institute is guiding us to a new Vision with its questions, hopes and challenges. What is it that I have to leave behind to journey forward with the province and the Institute? “Am I really prepared to leave something behind for Him?” (Pope Francis – Homily, October 14, 2018)

Sr. Françoise Massy with the general council “invites each one of us to enter with determination this new stage. We

are called to a conversion which has its roots in our response to Love; we are each invited to make a “jump forward in love.” All our life, all our mission, all our efforts will be in vain without this conversion.” (Post EGC no. 1)

Where are you leading me?

The will of God . . .

Mary of the Passion passed through trials coming from what she cherished: the congregation to which she belonged (Reparatrix) and later the Church and its leaders. Mary of the Passion felt responsible for her sisters, but not knowing towards what God was leading her, *she let herself be guided.*

So, she opened out to the ‘unforeseen’ of God which jostled, upset, surprised, and uninstalled her. Her deep desire to do the will of God for love, guided all her decisions. During the final days of her life she invited her sisters to live in this spirit: ***“I am consecrated to God; my end is Love.”*** This declaration reveals the basic orientation of her life, but also the source from which she drew, to which she identified herself and belonged.”

(Adapted from the Institute web page, ‘A path in the Spirit)

Fr. René Bernard gives us the ethical meaning of the expression to do the will of God:

“What does God want me to do?

What orientation does he want me to take in life?

Has God given us some indication of his plan?

The will of God is love. ... Love can be lived in every situation, even in death. **To discern** is to seek how to express love in a given situation (or process), considering who I am... I am always in God's will when I am in love. (Formation to discernment, p. 22)

Furthermore, the process of discernment challenges us to look at the following questions in theological terms:

What does the Lord want of me - us?

And not:

What do we want to do? What are we to do?"

(Formation to discernment, p. 23)

Scripture Reading: Mark 10: 17-22

"This is how it was for the man, who – the Gospel tells us – "went away *sorrowful*" (v. 22). He was tied down to regulations of the law and to his many possessions; he had not given over his heart. Even though he had encountered Jesus and received his loving gaze, the man went away sad.

Let us ask ourselves where we are in our story of love with God. Do we content ourselves with a few commandments or do we follow Jesus as lovers, really prepared to leave behind something for him? Do we truly follow him or do we revert to the ways of the world, like that man in the Gospel? In a word, is Jesus enough for us or do we look for many worldly securities?" (Pope Francis – Homily, October 14, 2018)

A woman who dared to walk on uncharted territories...

A woman of faith, you gave your all.

**A woman of courage,
you knew how to risk.**

**A woman with no
boundaries,
the world was your
home.**

**Teach us as a mother
teaches her daughters.**

**Teach us
In the silence of
Nazareth
how to be women, the
women that
God wants us to be,
so that together,
we may continue to
share truth and love with our world.**



I want to throw myself in the autumn abyss which immerses me in an authentic space of faith, trust, splendour and offering, because I know that when I am the one who detaches by my own conscience and freedom, the detachment from the branch is much less painful and more beautiful.

Only resistant leaves that deny the obvious, that attach themselves, must be blown off by a much more aggressive and impetuous wind, and they will then fall to the ground because of the weight of their own pain and suffering.

-What detachments have I made in my life? How have I lived them? (Emotions and sentiments) In an act of freedom and love I offer them to the Lord.

*-What detachments do I have to make now in my life and which I find difficult? (Emotions and sentiments)
How do I want to live them? I am invited to compose a prayer of abandonment and offering that will accompany me in my journey.*