

Mary of the Passion

The Path of Transformation

A Call to discipleship



“When God calls a soul to be His spouse, it is not she who gives Him the most, but it is always Jesus Christ who gives her the most.” MD 471

*Transformation-Leaflet 1
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The spiritual leaflets for this year will link our journey towards the Provincial Chapter and the process that we are living as an Institute. Thanks to sister Annette John for her collaboration in preparing them.

Let us begin the journey together under the signs of the Spirit to discover what needs to be transformed in our life and mission so that we may more fully live our vocation.

Adaptation of the theme and an excerpt from the report of sister Françoise Massy 2,1

Ask the Lord what grace I need the most in my religious life.

A Prayer to the Holy Spirit

O Holy Spirit, give me stillness of soul in you.

Calm the turmoil within, with the gentleness of your peace.

Quiet the anxiety within, with a deep trust in you.

Heal the wounds of sin within, with the joy of your forgiveness.

Strengthen the faith within, with the awareness of your presence.

Give fullness to the love within, with an outpouring of your love.

O Holy Spirit, be to me a source of light, strength and courage, so that I may hear your call ever more clearly and follow you more generously. Amen.

"I often tell myself that our Institute is passing through a time which is important to its existence; from a small work it has grown into a very great one and naturally, the whole organization has had to feel the effects: persons, places, and charges. This TRANSFORMATION demands from all of us who are part of the Institute at the present time, a great generosity, a more whole-hearted zeal and above all, perfection and a spirit of prayer, which will assure us the help of God. After all, fruitfulness has its sources in the omnipotence of God." Mary of the Passion (JO, July 1899)

Reflections

- "Our compass will be the purpose of transformation as we expressed it from the beginning: we are searching for what must be transformed to allow the Institute to renew its capacity to carry out "a prophetic role according to the foundation charism." CS1

- ...I invite you ... to return to your initial call. If we are here . . . it is because God has called us. Each one is here with her experience of consecrated life, her experience of following the Lord in an FMM way of life, animated by the charism.

- Each one is here with a path already trodden; and along the path, there are certainties, joys, enthusiasm, but also doubts, struggles, lukewarmness and compromises. Let us ask the Lord for the grace to be here in truth, each day, with the decision to give ourselves to the Lord, including also

our shadows and our sins.” (*Welcome address -Françoise Massy EGC-2018*)

- “... In the heart of each one, we felt a sincere desire for transformation and a longing to live the essentials of our charism.” (2.8)

- “We have perceived that the understanding of the charism is mostly intellectual and affective. Almost everywhere we are faithful to Eucharistic Adoration but we realize that prayer is not bringing transformation.” (2.8.1)

- “Put God at the centre of our lives. This demands of us taking responsibility for our consecrated lives. This consecration is expressed by the living out of our vows. If this is not clear, how can we offer a prophetic response?” (5.1) (*Report of the General Superior Françoise Massy EGC 2018*)

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:16-20

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Jesus called Simon and Andrew. No questions were raised. They simply dropped their nets and followed Him. James and John left their boats and left their father sitting in one of the boats and followed the Master.

Jesus, we too hear you calling us. We want to leave our boats and drop our nets. Help us to let go and to lay aside all that entangles us and to follow you in service to others so that together we will try to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly before you and each other and be witnesses of your call.

The Lord continues to call us from the seashores and sidewalks of our lives, inviting us to sail out into the uncharted waters of faith, to wander off from our predictable paths, to follow Him into the unpredictable footsteps of the kingdom, to leave our comfort zones and accompany Him into the uncomfortable neighborhoods we usually avoid. While we wait for you in our simple, constant and uncertain lives, speak to us, Spirit of Grace, of that hope which is our anchor, of that peace which is our rock and of that grace which is our refuge.

Happiness cannot be displaced, owned, earned, obtained or consumed. Happiness comes from living every minute with love, grace, and gratitude.

We will now go through the sentiments of young Helen de Chappotin as she first responded to God's invitation to follow Him. Though she did not fully grasp fully the implication of this call, she surrendered in faith and said a whole-hearted 'Yes' to this adventure of communion with her Lord.

**“I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU MORE THAN
YOU WILL EVER LOVE ME”**

“I knelt down ...then this thought came to me: “I will always love you more than you will ever love me... I am perfect, unblemished, matchless beauty, for I am infinite, I am your God.”

“I heard no words; it was a momentary flash of insight, but it transformed me into a different person. After this grace there was no way that I could separate myself from God's beauty. It seemed to me that between God and me there was no distance at all... Since that time, I have never found beauty, goodness or sweetness anywhere else but in Him, and I have never loved any other.”

“The emptiness confronting me loomed ever larger. What was it that I could really love? Soon I have to go out into the world ...would I let pleasure and success go to my head? Everything seemed so utterly empty!”

Thirty years later, it would be the same duo, the same duel.

I said to love, "I love you so much that I could die!" And love replied, "It is I who have loved you so much that I did die!" And all the love of Jesus' passion pierced my heart through and through."

Ever since, I have realized that I had already been loving God, without knowing it, for beauty has always held a real fascination for me. That love of beauty has never left me; only God alone has ever seemed really beautiful to me."

Let us now go back in time to our own experience of falling in love with the Lord.

What personal encounter did I live with the Lord? (This could perhaps include several stages.)

What was the experience that led me to the path of religious life?

How do I see in my experience, my spirit of openness of mind, heart and will?

What gave me the courage to leave everything behind and to undertake this journey of faith not knowing where my response would lead? Do I have the same courage today?

In gratitude to the Lord, let us empower each other by sharing this journal of our soul with the sisters in our community.

(I prepare what I would like to share.)



I can write a personal prayer to the Lord inspired by today's reflection.