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GENERAL DIRECTION

Thy Kingdom Come!

Rome, 20th May 2018, *Solemnity of Pentecost*

Dear Sisters,

today we contemplate and re-live the event of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit by the risen Christ upon his Church, an event of grace that filled the Upper Room in Jerusalem and then spread throughout the world.

In the Acts of the Apostles (2:1-11), St. Luke brings us to Jerusalem, to the Upper Room where the apostles were gathered. Our attention is drawn particularly to the signs of the tongues of fire and the sound that touched the apostles deeply, causing something new deep within them. They began to speak of God's deeds of power and the people could hear them speaking in their own languages.

The Pentecost event is the beginning of a new journey. The apostles, who were huddled fearfully, confining themselves to the room, were empowered by the Spirit and went forth with courage to proclaim the Gospel.

The Lord continues to call persons also today to carry on His mission in the changing situations of our world. It calls for openness to be guided by the Spirit, to identify the paths of mission in the cries of the people who suffer, in the faces of the peoples of other faiths and cultures.

This year, the Lord calls and sends the following Sisters from our Institute to be bearers of His Good News to the peoples:

Sr. Bincy Simon	from the Province Vijayawada	to the Province Bangladesh
Sr. Sujata Kattula	from the Province Vijayawada	to the Province Bangladesh
Sr. Hilda Joseph	from the Province Hyderabad	to the Delegation Hong Kong - China
Sr. James Arul Mary	from the Province Hyderabad	to the Delegation Hong Kong - China
Sr. Anita Theresa Gomes	from the Province Bangladesh	to the Communities of Algeria
Sr. Sweety Rozario	from the Province Bangladesh	to the Province Cameroon

I wish to invite you dear sisters, in particular the newly assigned, to listen to the words of pope Francis: *“Keeping our missionary fervour alive calls for firm trust in the Holy Spirit, for it is he who “helps us in our weakness” (Rom 8:26). But this generous trust has to be nourished, and so we need to invoke the Spirit constantly. ...It is true that this trust in the unseen can cause us to feel disoriented: it is like being plunged into the deep and not knowing what we will find.*

...Yet there is no greater freedom than that of allowing oneself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, renouncing the attempt to plan and control everything to the last detail, and instead letting him enlighten, guide and direct us, leading us wherever he wills. The Holy Spirit knows well what is needed in every time and place.” (cf. EG 280)

This reminder, together with the awareness of our weakness and frailty, renders deeper our trust in God who will never let us miss the assistance of His Spirit. Conscious that the effectiveness of our mission depends very much on the fundamental acceptance of the operation of the Holy Spirit in our lives, let us pray that the celebration of the Pentecost may increase in us the commitment to open ourselves to His transforming actions in our day-to-day life and mission.

Let us accompany our sisters who received the mission destination today, with our prayers especially during their immediate preparation for the departure as well as in the initial stages of insertion in the mission.

We turn our gaze to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Apostles, to learn from her how to be docile to the promptings of the Spirit and to ask her to intercede for us for an abundance of the outpouring of the Spirit upon us at this time of immediate preparation for the XI General Chapter.

I wish each one of you a meaningful celebration of the solemnity of the Pentecost!

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Rosilla Velamparambil
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Superior General