



MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE
Via di Torre Gaia, 45
00133 – ROMA
Tel. 06 2050862– 06 2050733 Fax 06 2057558
GENERAL DIRECTION

TO ALL THE SISTERS OF THE INSTITUTE

Thy Kingdom Come!

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE XI GENERAL CHAPTER

Dear Sisters,

In today's liturgical feast, so dear to our foundresses, especially to M. Igilda, we contemplate the Lord Jesus, whom Mary and Joseph bring to the temple "*to present him to the Lord*" (Lk 2:22). The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple is an eloquent image of the total gift of one's life in the Church and in the world, through the evangelical counsels. The Church, in choosing today's feast to celebrate the Annual world Day of Consecrated Life, emphasises the sense of a life dedicated to the Lord in the manifold services to humanity.

With a sense of deep gratitude to the Lord, who continues to allow us to experience His benevolent presence in the history of our Missionary Family, and trusting in His constant help for the journey that lies ahead of us,

I OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE the XI GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE

The Chapter will be held **from the 5th to the 29th of September 2018** at the SVD *Ad Gentes* Center, Nemi, at about half an hour drive from our generalate, at Torre Gaia.

We chose this place keeping in mind the increased number of Chapter participants as well as the silent and beautiful atmosphere that it offer us.

The theme of the Chapter is:

PROPHETIC COMMUNITIES THAT ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL IN THE PERIPHERIES OF THE WORLD

Journeying with apostolic courage along the ever-new paths of the mission.

We have chosen this theme, taking into consideration the suggestions that emerged during the Inter-Chapter Assembly that were inspired by the journey of the Institute and the signs of the time in the Church and in the world at large. The different aspects of this theme will be developed further with the help and the contribution of all the members based on the ‘newness’ present in the revised text of the Constitution that question our life and apostolic choices. In fact, this contribution from all the sisters will constitute the starting point of the preparation of the *Lineamenta* that will contain orientations for the reflection and verification of the general situation of the Institute and to program for the coming 6 years (cf. C 145).

The General Chapter is an expression of the participation of all the members in the life of the Institute and it is a true sign of unity. It will deal with important aspects of its life and apostolate, so that it may remain faithful to the Gospel and to its Founding spirit (cf. C 144).

The Chapter is an event of great importance and a great responsibility, because each Chapter gives guidelines and decisions, which will influence the future of *the Institute and its faithfulness to the original charism*. It is “*God's work*” and it is good to keep in mind the words of St. Paul in his first letter to Corinthians “*Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ*” (cf. 1 Cor 3:10-11).

It is a moment of grace for the whole Institute, not only during the three weeks in which the delegates gather in the chapter hall. It is a process that the Holy Spirit starts in the heart of each member, awakening responsibility and resources. From this process come the insights and reflections for formulating the project for the next six years. Let us give our best contribution to the reflections and works of the Chapter. Certainly, our foundresses and the Sisters who have preceded us to the Father’s home, are with us at this important event and will be interceding for us.

I also wish to recall some of the values and attitudes that can help us to live the Chapter better.

The Chapter is a spiritual event and therefore it is to be lived in an atmosphere of prayer starting with the time of its preparation, just as the community of Apostles awaited in prayer, for the coming of the Holy Spirit, together with Mary (*Acts* 1:12-14; 2:1-4). This is particularly important during the celebration of the General Chapter, but also during the Pre-Chapter Assemblies as well as the community and personal preparation. Only in opening ourselves to the Spirit of God, will we be empowered to deal with difficult questions, clarify and strengthen our charismatic identity. For this reason, we have to accompany the whole journey of the Chapter, with personal and community prayer involving also our Lay Associates and the people with whom we carry out our apostolate.

The Chapter promotes conversion, which requires that the contents proposed for the preparation of the chapter are deepened through reflective/meditative reading that encourages first of all a change of heart and mind. Thus entering into the dynamic of a formative journey that leads towards a deeper conversion.

During this time of preparation for the Chapter, let us take care to value more the usual means that are at our disposal: the *daily meditation*, the *examination of conscience*, the celebration of the *sacrament of Reconciliation* etc., which are effective and concrete ways to free ourselves from superficial/human standards of judging and making choices.

As indicated by the X G. Chapter (cf. Acts of the Chapter nos. 68 and 73), the General Direction reflected on the composition of the XI G. Chapter with the help of the experts. The outcome of the reflection was presented to the VII Inter-Chapter Assembly for further

evaluation and discernment. According to the proportion fixed, the number of participants in the will be 48 and it may increase in the effort to ensure the richness of internationality, the generational diversity and the diversity of apostolic experiences.

Considering the suggestions given by the Participants in the X G. Chapter and of the provincials and delegate superiors, we have decided to invite a facilitator to accompany the Chapter work as was done for the last Chapter. Sr. Micheline Tremblay C.S.C, will facilitate the XI G. Chapter, both during its preparatory stages as well as the Chapter Assembly.

The **pre-Chapter Commission** is constituted with the following members: **Sr. Antonella Tovaglieri, Sr. Marinei Pessanha Alves, Sr. Laura Cantoni, Sr. Blanche D'Mello and Sr. Bridgit Suwakeen.** Sr. Antonella Tovaglieri will coordinate the activities of the commission, which will start its work on the 11th of April in view of drafting the *Lineamenta*, based on the answers of all the sisters to question no. 5, on the revised text of the Constitutions.

I invite you to live this time of preparation and celebration of the Chapter as a moment of grace so that *in an atmosphere of prayer and discernment, it may promote the spiritual and apostolic vitality of the congregation in fidelity to the charism and stimulate its continued renewal and adaptation* (C. 144).

Let us entrust our General Chapter to the patronage of Mary Immaculate, Queen of the Apostles, so that we may be enabled to cooperate efficaciously in the expansion of God's Kingdom on earth in openness to the signs of time, with creative fidelity.

With affection and united in prayer

Rome, 2 February 2017
Feast of the Presentation of Jesus to the Temple

Sr. Rosilla Velamparambil
Superior General

Sr. Antonella Tovaglieri
Vicar General

Sr. Marinei Pessanha Alves
General Counsellor

Sr. Sundari Nagothu
General Counsellor

Sr. Lorella Pecorini
General Counsellor