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DIREZIONE GENERALE

*Thy Kingdom Come!*

Rome, 8 May 2020  
*Anniversary of the death of Mother G. Dones*

Dear Sisters,

In the joy and splendor of the Easter season, I come to you with a gift that multiplies the joy: it is the expected gift of our renewed Constitutions; the waiting has helped to make this moment more splendid, and the gift still bigger.

The atmosphere of Easter, where everything is renewed, where in some parts of the Institute the spring shines, in others the rains clear and in still others the autumn arrives with its ripe fruits, radiates on this moment a particular beauty and an explosion of positive feelings that do good to the heart.

The Easter refrain: This is the day that the Lord has made: let us be glad and rejoice! becomes ours, specifically ours.

Mother Igilda had already appropriated the above phrase on some important occasion of the life of the Institute. She had written this, for example in 1962, the year of the Decree of Praise and the approval of the Constitutions for 7 years, modified with respect to the previous ones. It was April 21, Easter Eve, when Msgr. Balconi, visibly moved, was handing over the precious gift that made to explode an irrepressible joy. Also then, like today, that moment marked a point of arrival and of restart, after much preparation.

We start again today with a sense of immense gratitude to God for this gift that comes first from him; gratitude to the team of sisters who worked on it, putting determination and commitment into it.

We also thank each other, because the text is the result of everyone's contribution. It is a gift of communion because it is a mutual gift.

Moreover, there is a novelty, an unprecedented surprise, to make our joy fuller: with the renewed Constitutions I handover to you a booklet entitled: "Our sources, in the text of the Constitutions". It is a collection of passages from the writings of our foundresses, of Msgr. Lorenzo Maria Balconi and of blessed Fr. Paolo Manna, quoted directly or indirectly in the Constitutions. In it we find their word alive, inspiring, which we find scattered in the texts already published and which, grouped together in a single volume, is easily accessible.

Updated, completed in the charismatic and theological contents, renewed in style and language, the Constitutions that I handover to you give us the right coordinates for our path of holiness in our history today.

Questioning our foundresses on the value and meaning of the Constitutions, Mother Giuseppina Dones tells us that the Rule of life is holy because it shows us the face of God, indicates us his will, guides us in the exercise of humility, gives meaning to every sacrifice.

Moreover, mother Igilda adds that it is an invitation for a journey of freedom because it is a gift of the fatherly tenderness of God.

Love is at stake for both: if I love the Constitutions and observe them with love, I go to their heart, their horizon expands, they do not hold me in a codified relationship, but give me joy because they open me to a “new” to be discovered, they make me be, they regenerate me.

Thus understood, the renewed Constitutions will be able to radiate a new impulse of missionary coherence and generosity in our life.

I therefore invite you to a first personal, loving reading, being attentive to the new content. Later, on time, you will receive indications for the study and further deepening from different angles.

I greet you with the wish to remain in the Easter joy, in the day that the Lord has made!

*Sr. Antonella Tovagliari*

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Congregation Leader

With the collaboration of Sr. Angela Corno, general archivist

