

Sr. Samuela's reflection Feb. 1, 2023

I was invited to conclude this ritual that we celebrate together with something creative, so I thought of the flower bulbs that each of us will receive. It is a symbolic and concrete gesture and I would like to share three meanings of this symbol, on behalf of the General Council.

These bulbs already contain life in themselves: the color of the flower, the shape, the scent do not depend on us or on the outside. But this life and this beauty can only manifest, flourish and be made available to others if someone puts them in the ground and takes care of them properly. Thus our personal vocation and our SSM charism are gifts received from God that can bear fruit only through our passion, our commitment, our care. They are gifts received from God, but only if we give ourselves what is ours, they can be made available to others and bring life, full life. While we commit ourselves to living the Calls of the General Assembly.

The new bulbs multiply when we divide them. These bulbs come from other bulbs, which have been cut in half and planted. This reminds us that we are here because our sisters have preceded us and have given their lives. We are here because Mother Frances accepted a call, like Abraham and set out on a journey. And in just a few days we will remember the 140th anniversary of Mother Frances' arrival in Rome. Even our bulbs will be able to give life to new bulbs if we are able to cut them in half, that is, if we are able to share, to give ourselves, not to hold back for ourselves.

In this basket there are bulbs of different species of flowers and of different colors - crocuses, freesias, daffodils. The variety of flowers embellishes and enriches a garden: our being different from each other, on a personal and cultural level, can create tension, but at the same time it is a source of beauty and richness.

Here we have three types of flowers, there are thousands of them in nature. It reminds us that in the garden of the Church we are a small thing, but without these flowers the Church would be poorer. Our charism is a gift from God and bears fruit if we live it; it is a gift for everyone that He entrusts to our hands, like these bulbs.