



Congregation of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother
Third Order Regular of Saint Francis of Assisi

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Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Dear Sisters, Novices, Postulants, Associates

The date of publication of the second reflection on Ven. Mother Frances, to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the foundation of the SSM, falls on the same day as the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. What a beautiful coincidence! This Feast reminds us of how Jesus reveals God's love to us through concrete expressions of compassion and mercy.

At the end of the Easter season, the liturgy invites us to enter Ordinary Time by celebrating the Solemnities of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ and of the Sacred Heart. We know that Mother Frances was deeply devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, referring to it many times in her letters. In contemplative recollection before the picture of the Sacred Heart, she had a special experience of prayer in which she felt the call to unite the active life with the contemplative. (Letter to Fr. Jordan 28 (17), 8). In a letter to Fr. Jordan, referring to Eucharistic adoration, M. Frances writes: "every hour will be dedicated to another mystery of the Incarnate Love, somewhat like this: in one hour the Precious Blood, in a second one, the Sacred Heart, and in a third, the wounds of the Savior will be venerated in a special way" (Letter to Fr. Jordan 78 (65), 3).

In these words, we see Mother Frances' love for the humanity of Jesus, for the Eucharist: God who shares our life to the fullest, Love incarnate. These words of Mother Frances are an invitation for us to let the choices and actions of our daily lives be a sign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, of Jesus' compassion. And it is achieved when, in our relationships with one another, we seek to promote respect, mutual acceptance, reconciliation and forgiveness. It is achieved when our gestures express solidarity with others, inclusion, the pursuit of the common good, care and concern for those in need and in all forms of poverty. It is achieved when we have the courage to speak openly, frankly and honestly, avoiding judgment, backbiting and gossip.

Whenever we try to live this, our prayer before the Eucharist becomes love incarnate. Whenever we try to put this into practice, we celebrate the Sacred Heart of Jesus in our lives: Happy Feast Day,

Sr. Samuela Maria Rigon
General Superior

To bring fuller life to others

Um anderen die Fülle des Lebens zu bringen • Per portare vita piena agli altri • Levar vida plena aos outros