



**CONGREGAZIONE DELLE
SUORE MISSIONARIE DI SAN PIETRO CLAVER**

“La cosa più divina è cooperare alla salvezza delle anime”

To all the Local Superiors

Subject: Online Meeting via ZOOM Video Conferencing

Dear Sisters

Love and greetings to you from the Generalate, Rome!

May the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all! We are in the midst of the second wave of the pandemic covid 19, with cases on the rise once again in Europe and all over the world. All of us are affected, at different levels, in one way or the other right from the onset of this virus along with the whole human race. All the same, let us thank God that none of our sisters have been infected by the virus and continue to take all the precautionary measures for our own safety and that of others. Although we are forced to maintain physical distances let us remain united in the spirit of our Mother Foundress in ways that are feasible to us.

The General Council, therefore in its session held on 14 October 2020 decided to organize an online meeting of all the Local Superiors via ZOOM video conferencing, taking into consideration the exhortation of Pope Francis in his recent Encyclical *Fratelli tutti*: “In today’s globalized world, the media can help us to feel closer to one another, creating a sense of the unity of the human family which in turn can inspire solidarity and serious efforts to ensure a more dignified life for all. The media can help us greatly in this, especially nowadays, when the networks of human communication have made unprecedented advances. The internet, in particular, offers immense possibilities for encounter and solidarity. This is something truly good, a gift from God. We need constantly to ensure that present-day forms of communication are in fact guiding us to generous encounter with others, to honest pursuit of the whole truth, to service, to closeness to the underprivileged and to the promotion of the common good” (no. 205).

The Holy Father also emphasizes the importance of dialogue as he says that: “Some people attempt to flee from reality, taking refuge in their own little world; others react to it with destructive violence. Yet between selfish indifference and violent protest there is always another possible option: that of dialogue. Dialogue between generations; dialogue among our people, for we are that people; readiness to give and receive, while remaining open to the truth” (no. 199). He continues to say that “in a true spirit of dialogue, we grow in our ability to grasp the significance of what others say and do, even if we cannot accept it as our own conviction. In this way, it becomes possible to be frank and open about our beliefs, while continuing to discuss, to seek points of contact, and above all, to work and struggle together” (no. 203)

In recent times Pope Francis underlined the need to introduce the synodal process in our discussions and deliberations. This process is one of open dialogue and sharing, spiritual discernment, transformation and apostolic commitment. It’s a method that ensures the participation of every one as all are given an opportunity to share and express their opinions and ideas. This synodal process will definitely help us to get to know about the many blessings and the initiatives we have taken in our communities and also probably an equal number of challenges and difficulties that we need to face together as a Congregation. Therefore, we thought of organizing this meeting of the local superiors. To facilitate the proceedings of the meeting we would like to communicate to you the following points:

- 1 The online meeting is scheduled to be held from **24 to 28 November 2020 via ZOOM Video Conferencing**. Taking into consideration the time zones we have divided the communities into two groups and scheduled the timing respectively. Group A will have the meeting from 09:00 to 12:00 (Italian time) and Group B will have the meeting from 15:30 to 19:00 (Italian time). All the same, you are free to participate in all the sessions with prior communication with the moderator of the day.
- 2 The online meeting will basically have the following programme each day: Group A – three hours and Group B – three and half hours with a 15 minutes break. Kindly refer to the **attachment no. 01**, for the group details, the programme and the agenda for each day:
 - Opening prayer (05 mins)
 - Presentation on the Theme of the Day (20 mins)
 - Sharing on the Theme of the Day by the Superiors (05 mins each)
 - General Discussion (10 mins)
 - Conclusion by the Moderator (05 mins)
 - Concluding prayer (05 mins)
- 3 All the procedural matters regarding the meeting and the use of ZOOM video conferencing with its technical aspects are attached along with this letter in **attachment no. 02**. You may also consult other sisters who already know to use ZOOM app, if you need to know how to install this app in your gadgets and get to know about its functioning.
- 4 All the Superiors are requested to arrange a community meeting or meetings and discuss the following aspects pertaining to the life of your community and our Congregation and send a report of your discussions to the Generalate not later than 15 November 2020. The report should have the following aspects, which you will have to present on the day assigned to discuss the respective theme. Kindly write your reports based on the sequence of the themes discussed below. We have posed some questions under every aspect to facilitate the discussions in your communities but you may also add some other aspects which you deem important:
 - ***Sharing about the Life of the Community Specially in these Days of Coronavirus Pandemic.*** Brief idea about the present situation in the locality of your community. How have you been able to face this situation as a community? What were the difficulties you encountered during these days? How did you support each other during these days and specially during the lock down? What strategies have you set in your community to face the new normal? How did this time of coronavirus lockdown affect the apostolate in your community? Our Mother Foundress if she was living in this time would have not remained calm and inactive. What inspiration can we draw from our Mother's life and put it in practice in our time? What concrete measures did you take as a community to reach out to the needy people in your neighbourhood?
 - ***The Importance of the Leadership Role in our Congregation.*** The duties of the Superiors and specially that of the local superiors are very well laid out in our Constitutions (Cf. art no. 120, 120.1 and 120.2). How should a leader be in our times? What are the qualities a leader should cultivate to guide the community? What are the expectations of the community members from a superior? How can

we cultivate a more fraternal relationship between the superior and the community members? Are we maintaining regular bi-monthly reports and Annual Chronicle in our community and faithfully sending them to the Generalate in due time as required by our Directory (Cf. art no.122.1)?

- ***Community Life and Formation:*** Life in common is an essential aspect of our consecrated life. How do we relate to our community members? Are we regular for the community prayers and all other community activities? Are we nourishing the spirit of fraternal living and mutual concern in our communities? Are we as a community influenced by growing secularism and individualism? A healthy community naturally becomes a fruitful ground to nurture vocations and to give good formation. In fact chapter XI and XII are explicitly speaking about the aim and nature of Claverian formation at all levels: initial, temporary and ongoing. All the same given the context we live in influenced by the secular world and the technological advancement, it would be nice to reflect profoundly on diverse aspects of formation in our congregation. What are the difficulties posed before the formators today? How can we help the formators to be efficient in responding to today's challenges in formation? What are the expectations of our junior sisters from the formators? What changes could we bring in to make our formation more apt to our times and to form sisters who love our Foundress and her charism? Are we giving good testimony to attract young women to our way of life? As a community do we support young vocations and help them on their way to human and spiritual maturity? Are we making good use of the opportunities in the dioceses for the ongoing formation of our sisters?

- ***Mission, Apostolate and the Use of Modern Means of Communication and Media:*** Today more than ever we are made aware of the importance the means of communication and media plays in our individual lives and our apostolate. Our constitution speaks about our Apostolic activities, missionary zeal and specific works (Cf. nos. 79 and 80). How can we make our apostolate more profound? What new measures can we take in responding to the demands of our apostolic mission? During the last General Chapter an emphasis was laid regarding the use of the possibilities of internet and Social Media for missionary animation. How can we integrate the modern means of communication and media in our mission and apostolate? These means as shown by the newly beatified young Blessed Carlo Acutis should be used for the greater glory of God and salvation of souls. How are we making use of the internet and the gadgets we possess? During this time of pandemic did we make good use of these means at our disposal to remain in contact with our benefactors and collaborators and for missionary animation? What are your suggestions in order to make these means of virtual communication yield more fruit in our apostolate and mission? Do you have any suggestion regarding our ECCO magazine?

- **Financial Transparency and Accountability:** Finances play an important role in our lives and also in the life of our community. Chapter VI of our Constitutions speaks about the poverty for the Kingdom of God and in chapter XVIII about the administration of our temporal goods (Art 125-127). The latest documents of the Church on the administration of the goods of the Institutes of Consecrated Life repeatedly speak of evangelical transparency. It is always good to have two signatories for all our bank accounts. It is very important to maintain a very transparent system of accounting as this money is given by people out of their generosity and we need to be very accountable to their trust in us. What are some of the financial difficulties encountered in your community? Are we faithfully maintaining the accounts in the community? The bursar in the community has a special role to make sure that all the necessities in the communities are managed well always in coordination with the superior of the community. Have you all the documents of our properties and the registration in order? If you have any difficulties, doubts, questions about accounting, investments, etc., please express them.

- **General topics:** You may also discuss some other aspects which seem important to you as a community, which you want to share in the common forum. If you have any specific difficulties or challenges pertaining to community living or in the dioceses you work or with the regulations of the state, you may include it in your reports.

My dear sisters, the above mentioned are some guidelines to facilitate your discussion and also to prepare a report based on the above-mentioned themes. It would be nice if you could collate the opinions of your community members with their suggestions and ideas under each of these titles. As mentioned above our meeting will be for five days and each day, we will take up a theme and discuss on it. Therefore, I request you to categorize your report based on these aforementioned themes in order to facilitate the collation of the working paper on each day.

As mentioned earlier I request you to send the reports not later than 15 November 2020 to the Generalate. I humbly exhort you to actively participate in this whole process so that we remain ever more united to God and to each other, realizing the charism of our Foundress in places of our work. Let us remain united in prayers seeking God's intervention specially in this difficult time of pandemic.

May God bless you!

Yours sincerely in the Lord,


Sr. Selin Karikkattil
Sr. Selin Karikkattil
Superior General

Rome, 22 October 2020