

Dearest sisters,

we entered the month of October, the month loaded of ripe fruits of all kinds. A generous nature gives us grapes, truffles, chestnuts, hazelnuts, and a wide variety of other gifts.

Speaking of ripe fruits at a deeper and spiritual level, on the 15th of this month we will celebrate the opening of the Congregation's bicentenary, which will be closed on October 15th '15. We will live this year in gratitude and with a new emotion together with the sisters of Bangladesh, Brazil and India who will celebrate it in their respective Regions and Missions. It will be a right celebration, as the doors of our hearts and of our communities are wide open to welcome some sisters of those Regions, and will do the same for other brothers and sisters: **this will be a real blessing for all.**

The history of these 200 years - and all life stories - is like a raging river: flowing fast so that, what we are experiencing is not the same as earlier. One thing is certain: the history of our Congregation, that manifests itself in our frail humanity, in our poor lives and in those of our communities, **is a salvation history.**

God is present in it. It is not presumption to recognize, therefore, **the presence of God** our merciful and faithful Savior, who guided us in these 200 years of our little Luigina history.

"Behold, I make all things new, now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Is.

43:19. When Isaiah had a vision of a charred log, a stump uprooted, a log that would seem to mean only the end, well, the Word of the Lord on that log is: **"but if the root is holy, a new tree shall be reborn."**

Our religious life, **being holy root**, will reborn, although today the forces of rebirth seem few and weak. Therefore we will not fear: there is a certainty that goes beyond our fragility: the presence of the Lord.

Celebrating a jubilee also means remembering the many pages of our past pages of research and meetings, of loyalty and nostalgia for unfulfilled dreams. Reading our story in the history of God, we feel gratitude, deep and intense joy for all that the Lord has given us to live, for having called us with a wonderful vocation, and, above all, to have filled our days with His presence.

Let's get rid of the excessive concern for ourselves and for situations of difficulty, **to focus on the work of the One for whom we are, and live.**

It seems to me that Isaiah's quoted verse may help us to place ourselves in the right perspective: from this we can live with the certainty that the Spirit's fruitfulness prepares us to "new" paths we must accept with thankfulness. Our activities can die; our faith life as consecrated people and communities is the resource in which to invest, the most important work that is entrusted to us.

This is the opportunity to recover the personal spiritual life and community, starting with the vocation received, and the charisma of the Congregation. Let's live in gratitude this history of salvation, that is in God's hands. With the power of the Spirit, we walk the roads of today's peoples and meet their cultures, with simplicity, deep faith, joy, in total and generous oblation of ourselves.

Happy birthday to all.

With fraternal affection sr. Angela