

Dearest sisters,

in these last two months I enjoyed meeting almost all the sisters of Bangladesh and India, to whom I brought your greetings. The sisters' interest to know the situation of each of you is moving; touching are also the greetings they reciprocate to you all, especially to the sick sisters!

The First Religious and Perpetual Professions both in Bangladesh and India are the new buds, young seedlings, fresh shoots and branches of our religious family. The joy of our sisters for these Religious Consecrations is also our joy: a gift of vital freshness on the path of the 200 years of our history.

Joy, vitality, genuineness, freshness, enthusiasm, availability to sacrifice in the service of God and neighbors: these are the palpable realities of our communities "***bloomed at East***".

Together we shared touching moments and shed tears of joy and emotion. With St Paul I feel like saying: I thank the Lord for you, for each of you, young and not so young, for the elderly and sick, and for all of us who constitute our religious family - rightly formed by girls in formation – young - mature sisters and sisters more advanced in the years. All states of life are there in a family, and we all have our place and our responsibility one towards the other, as in a family, where the young push forward with enthusiasm and strength, and where we, elderly have the great duty to support them, to communicate the rewards of a life spent for the Lord, with words and with our life, with the received gifts:

✚ ***gratitude to God for the long life and the many gifts received,***

✚ ***wisdom, humility and charity ..***

Just back in Italy I found myself plunged in the joyful atmosphere of St. Aloysius' feast! Two days full of incentives for our being Luigine, moments of reflection and prayer! I thank all the Italian Sisters and all those who have collaborated to ensure that the celebrations were really such.

Summer has arrived quickly, giving us the opportunity to participate to Retreats, or to times of interiority. Jesus asks us to find time to rest our hearts; the place does not really matter much; what matters is to find inner spaces of prayer to entrust ourselves to Him. The relationship between Jesus and us -the disciples- must be of vital belonging. As the branch is united to the vine, so every disciple must be united to Jesus.

In the Gospels the little phrase, "*fear not*" is quoted 365 times, one for each day of the year, for all the years of our lives. We must not be afraid, as He tells us: "I am with you always, at all times." Our connection must be consolidated every day, at any age, without fear of our weakness. Let's always remember that: " thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday that has just gone by, and as a watch in the night" .... (SL.90,4). This certainty will reduce all our anxieties, fears, and worries.

I greet each and all with affection.

sr. Angela