



Calls of the 38th General Chapter



The calls of the 38th General Chapter emerged from the synodal experience we shared in Rome, the culmination of our year-long journey with the biblical figures, Ruth and Naomi.¹

Listening to one another, sharing our stories, and praying together we recognised our fragility, the richness of our diversity, and the promptings of the Spirit at work among us. Coming from different places, we brought the realities of the world to one another, seeking to share God's vision² of its needs and hungers. We saw light and darkness, goodness and violence, and the woundedness of our common home....

Our experience of the power and joy of a shared charism was enhanced when we were joined for a few days by AFJM and some of our lay companions. Contemplating the world with them gave all of us a stronger sense of being *Companions in Mission*: religious and lay, united and sustained by the radiant energy of a shared charism. Different people, in a myriad of ways, creatively incarnating the active goodness of God, so intimately experienced by Saint Claudine Thévenet.

Again and again, we looked, listened, and asked: ***What are the next steps that the Spirit is inviting us to take?***

In the hope that grace is empowering and leading us, we dare to walk together into an uncertain future, seeking the formation we need and offering "*confidence, courage and mutual support*"³ for the journey; and listening to *what the Lord asks of us*⁴...

Love tenderly...

Walk humbly...

Act justly...

As we strive to live these calls, we ask Mary to place us with Her Son so that His way of proceeding becomes our way of being in the world.

¹ "Wherever you go, I will go..." Ruth 1:16.

² Sp. Ex. 101-109.

³ "A person who undertakes a long and difficult journey alone soon grows weary and finds only ordinary and commonplace means to encourage themselves. On the other hand, those who travel together do so with confidence, courage and the benefit of mutual support". Positio pg.54.

⁴ Micah 6:8.

1. Love tenderly...

To foster a **CULTURE OF CARE**, we choose to :

- Create safe spaces where all can flourish and be themselves
- Address abuses of power
- Restore relationships damaged by isolation, hyper-connectivity and individualism
- Promote inclusivity
- Grow in processes of accompaniment rooted in Ignatian spirituality
- Provide opportunities for silence and contemplation

2. Walk humbly...

To experience the transformation **SYNODALITY** brings about, we need to :

- Embrace synodality as a way of proceeding
- Engage more deeply in communal discernment and Conversation in the Spirit
- Move from self-centredness towards the creation of a *new us*⁵
- Explore new ways of exercising leadership
- Implement flexible, transparent and Gospel-based structures
- Assume co-responsibility, planning, accountability and evaluation

⁵ *New us*: Describes individuals entering freely into communion with others.

3. Act justly...

To promote **JUSTICE AND PEACE**, we commit to :

- Open our heart to the question: *Where is your sister? Where is your brother?*⁶
- Stand with victims of violence, poverty and migration wherever we find ourselves
- Rekindle our missionary spirit and respond generously to calls for “*inter*” collaboration
- Care for our Common Home
- Educate and work for justice, peace, forgiveness and reconciliation
- Encourage responsible and discerning use of technology

⁶ Gen 4:9.