



UISG REPORT

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A REAL PASSION FOR LIFE

A wonderful gathering of superiors generals of religious congregations from all over the world has just closed its work in Rome, after five days of reflection, common research and sharing. If, to the 870 sisters gathered in the Hall of Ergife Hotel, we add all those who prepared, facilitated, guided, presented conferences or realizations in intercongregational partnership representing institutions, etc., we were not far from one thousand. One thousand people nursing in their hearts **A REAL PASSION FOR LIFE...** and ready to risk everything in the name of Jesus Christ, with our congregations, in intercongregations and with others, to **weave this global solidarity without boundaries, bearers of life to the full** for humanity, for our planet, for everything created... what a Pentecost!



Time for celebration

Our keynote speakers, sisters Carol Zinn, CSJ, from the USA, Mary Sujita, SND, from India and Marian Ambrosio, DPI, from Brazil, invited us to « *dare crossing the threshold with a divine rashness...even at the risk of making a mistake...* » to « *live and bear witness... to partnerships, alliances... **for LIFE on the outskirts...*** » by embracing « *solidarity with the new CHARISM of consecrated life today..., in the name of Jesus Christ, our common and first FOUNDER* »... One question from Sister Sujita could be addressed to each and everyone, no matter our age, no matter the number of years since we have left EVERYTHING to follow Him, no matter our present situation : « *To whom does my consecration benefit today?* »... I encourage you to read and meditate some texts, which you can find on the UISG website, with a lot of photos : www.internationalunionsuperiorsgeneral.org

The Round Table on Migrants, on Human Trafficking, on War Zones, helped us realize up to what point those violent situations concern us and call us to a global solidarity which must shake up our feeling of powerlessness enough to believe that our small share, with others, can make a difference and also drive us to act efficiently. An invitation to believe in **the « divine energy » at work in our being-togetherness...** beyond all our frontiers, teaching us how to learn «acting differently».



Part of the assembly

A panel regrouped six young women religious, representing the different continents. They shared with us their challenges in line with our world in full transformation, their questions regarding certain half-heartedness, fear to risk and abdications from the aging sisters centered too much on their future and their survival, their sufferings from companions who have a tendency to treat them as children... They also told us about their conviction and their faith in this religious life they have chosen, knowing that it can bear fruit only in the radical freedom of the one who, rooted in God as Jesus, knows « *that she has nothing to lose, since having already GIVEN UP everything.* » They also mentioned their need for opening themselves to «something more», to open themselves to other consecrated youth, other people committed, and their need of being supported and moving forward.

The celebration of the UISG Jubilee allowed us to realise the impact of this international institution which has always taken advantage of a leadership both totally visionary and prophetic. Hats off!

The audience with Pope Francis was the occasion to rediscover a Pastor with great simplicity and humility, who recognizes that he does not have all the answers but he wants to continue to search with others... The place of women in the Church, published by the media that put the focus on the diaconate of women, is a subject that the Pope touched with prudence, saying that outside of « *ordained ministries* » women may hold all the functions of responsibility in the Church, and that there is still a lot of work to be done in that line... In fact! ... When can we expect real changes?

There are still a lot that could be said about this rich assembly, not only about contents but also about meeting a great number of inspiring women, of topics to be deepened and commitments to be repeated, ... without talking about interesting anecdotes and discoveries specific to a journey... Unfortunately, we cannot write about everything.



Francophone work team from 7 different nationalities

I wish to conclude by adding that ... seeing all those women leaders of congregations, animated by the Spirit of Pentecost, and all those new young women carrying the general responsibility of their congregation... seeing all those congregations coming from the five continents and especially from the turbulent zones of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and elsewhere... tasting our faith to the God of Jesus Christ, to our deep convictions of a « *world solidarity for life to be woven together* », to a greater openness to the intergenerational, the intercultural and to partnership with lay people for today's challenges... to hear about the sharing of our concrete commitments at the heart of the peripheries of our world... I feel inhabited by a deep certitude that religious life is still very much alive... that its mission is not finished... and that it will continue to live... with or without us... Sisters of Holy Cross, are we on board?...

Kesta Occident, c.s.c.

