

## THE PRESENT WITH PASSION

«Don Bosco wanted us to be a “living monument” of his gratitude to Mary Help of Christians and asks us to be his “thanks” throughout all time.

We feel Mary present in our life and we entrust ourselves entirely to her.» (art. 4)

John Paul II tells us that «We have every right to believe that our generation too was included in the words of the Mother of God when she glorified that mercy shared in "from generation to generation" by those who allow themselves to be guided by the fear of God. » (*Dives in Misericordia*, 10)

- ◆ With Mary, we, too, ought to have the courage to dare together with God, without being afraid of “going out of ourselves” to meet those who are in need of us! To have the courage to take risks with faith, with goodness, and with a pure heart! To offer ourselves to God so that our life might become more open, more luminous, and rich with endless surprises because the mercy of God is never exhausted!

Let us continue writing our Magnificat:

**Magnificat that becomes passion for life today...**

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## THE FUTURE WITH HOPE

«Let us seek to make her dispositions of faith, hope, and charity, and her perfect union with Christ, our own. Let us open ourselves to the joyous humility of the “Magnificat” so as to be, like her, “helpers,” above all, among the young.» (art. 4)

«The motherhood of Mary in the order of grace,” as the Second Vatican Council explains, “lasts without interruption from the consent which she faithfully gave at the Annunciation and which she sustained without hesitation under the cross, until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. In fact, being assumed into Heaven she has not laid aside this office of salvation but by her manifold intercession she continues to obtain for us the graces of eternal salvation.» (*Dives in Misericordia*, 9)

- ◆ Let us ask Mary never to tire of turning her merciful gaze towards us or towards our educating community and that she might make us worthy of contemplating the face of mercy, her Son, Jesus.

Let us conclude our Magnificat:

**Magnificat which becomes prophetic from generation to generation...**

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**“HIS MERCY  
EXTENDS FROM  
GENERATION TO  
GENERATION”**

LK. 1:50



*NOVENA TO THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
2015*

DAUGHTERS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS



## FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...



## MEMORY WITH GRATITUDE

Thanks to the “coincidence” that is truly Providence, the Novena of the Immaculate this year coincides with the closing of the Year of Consecrated Life and the opening of the Jubilee of Mercy. We wish to see in this “coinciding” an invitation from the Lord to allow ourselves to be accompanied by Mary when we make ours what the Holy Father has been asking of us with insistence: to experience God’s mercy and to be missionaries of this mercy where we live and work.

The novena will be divided into three tridua during which we will be invited *to write our own personal Magnificat to the Mercy of God, following Mary’s example and guided by her, as we look back over the story of our life for concrete signs of His love for us.* This is an important exercise because gratitude opens up our heart to receive ever greater gifts from God and makes us instruments of His Mercy with greater ease.

We will follow the path that the Holy Father gave us for the Year of Consecrated Life: 1. looking at the past with gratitude; 2 living the present with passion; and 3. embracing the future with hope. For each triduum some thought starters will be offered to us (*Constitutions*, art. 4; *Dives in Misericordia*, and *Misericordiae Vultus*) which can help us re-read our personal experience prayerfully.

On the 8th of December, during a moment of community prayer, each Sister can personally offer her Magnificat to Mary, so that she, our Mother, will unite our voices into one and present all to the Lord.

### ENTRUSTMENT TO MARY (for community prayer during the Novena)

O Mary, our Mother and our Help,  
we entrust ourselves anew to You.  
We place our life, our vocation, and  
all that we hold most dear into your hands.  
We trustingly abandon ourselves to your protection  
because in You we know that “powerful help”  
which the Lord revealed to Don Bosco  
and Mother Mazzarello.  
Help us be ready and open to welcome  
at every moment all that God asks of us  
through the persons we encounter  
and the situations in which we find ourselves.  
Mature in us an attitude  
of continual openness to conversion and  
a special docility to the action of the Holy Spirit  
which permits God to work in us  
so as to conform us to Christ,  
even through renunciation  
and the acceptance of suffering.  
May your protection,  
which always brings up in us new trust,  
accompany us on our path along this  
apostolic and community year,  
and may it be for us, for our young people, and  
for our collaborators in the educating community,  
the “sure” support and the expression  
of your maternal tenderness.  
O Mary Help of Christians,  
transformed by the encounter with Jesus,  
who converts us through His Word,  
His Bread, and our Community,  
we want to be “missionaries of joy  
and women of hope”  
for all those who approach us  
so that the Spirit of your Son may transform  
the world into a new humankind. Amen.

«Mary Most Holy was the inspirer of our Institute, and continues to be its Mother and Teacher. We are, therefore, ‘a Religious Family that belongs entirely to Mary’» (art. 4)

«No one has penetrated the profound mystery of the incarnation like Mary. Her entire life was patterned after the presence of mercy made flesh. The Mother of the Crucified and Risen One has entered the sanctuary of divine mercy because she participated intimately in the mystery of His love.

Chosen to be the Mother of the Son of God, Mary, from the outset, was prepared by the love of God to be the *Ark of the Covenant* between God and man. She treasured divine mercy in her heart in perfect harmony with her Son Jesus.» (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 24)

- ♦ We, too, are invited to recognize with gratitude the marvels done by God’s mercy in our Institute, in our Province, in our Community, and in our personal lives.

Let us write our Magnificat:

### Magnificat which becomes grateful memory

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