

Spiritual preparation for the 37th General Chapter

DECEMBER 2018

Gospel Text: **“Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, she gave a loud cry and said, Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb”**. Lk 1: 42

MARY: Jesus was born in a manger, in utter simplicity and poverty, for there was no room in the inn.

CLAUDINE: She founded the Congregation with one woman, one orphan and one loom; today that ‘yes’ in total poverty is bearing fruit.

‘Everything was poor, very poor. I understood nothing about it. I did not try to understand it... Later, I understood that the work had been built on nothing, on poverty, which is the true foundation, the necessary foundation, for all God’s work.’ (Testimony of Fr. Mayet – nephew of St. Claudine Positio p. 488)

OUR JM FAMILY: Mary believed and trusted in the Word and thus she conceived Jesus. Elisabeth in her old age believed and hoped and she gave birth to a son. Claudine thought that she had entered into a foolish and presumptuous enterprise, which would come to nothing, but we have celebrated 200 years of our Foundation.

Today, the reality seems dismal – within and without... poverty, lack of faith, an attack on the institutional church, women and children abused, danger to ‘our common home’... and as RJMs, we face diminishment... In this apparent situation of bleakness, we are invited again to believe and hope that with God nothing is impossible; the reign of God is near with the coming of the Savior amidst us.

Let us journey together in HOPE, so that from our nothingness, we too can share the goodness and love of the Baby Jesus to all.

GRACE: We ask for the grace for ‘an interior knowledge of the Lord, who was born in Bethlehem for me, to love and follow Him’. (Sp. Ex. 104)

‘To see the persons Mary, Joseph and the servant girl, and baby Jesus. Making myself into a poor and unworthy little servant, I watch them in their needs with all possible respect and reverence...’ (Sp. Ex. 114)

ACTIVITY:

As community, invite someone who is alone, and share a meal with him/her during the Christmas Octave.

