

Dearest sisters, *best wishes!*

Today we commemorate the birth into heaven of our Mother Foundress Maria Matilde Bucchi; I asked her to write to you, to speak to you, in this particular and complex moment of our history. With the brothers and sisters we meet we are sharing anxieties, fears, uncertainties for the present and for the future and we all need words and gestures of hope.

"Dearest daughters, thank you for remembering today with so much faith and joy the crowning of my life: I experienced the last abandonment to God the Father in the encounter with the Bridegroom whom I have loved and sought so much throughout my life. I walk, struggle, courageous choices, darkness, but also joy, abandonment and trust in the love of the Father and in His providence: these are the colors that have characterized my existence as a seeker of God.

But I was never alone, with me I had two safe guides: St. Joseph who always supported, defended and protected me, and Our Lady of Sorrows, my companion and teacher, a friend in the pilgrimage of faith. I have experienced many gifts: from the dream to the realization of an impossible project, passing through disturbances of the heart and mind, deep and painful questions, accidents, fatigue, humiliations ... These were hard times, but also of profound experience of his love as a Father, of Spouse and of friend. Difficult times for wars, poverty, violence, but also times of grace where the Holy Trinity sustained me with His presence and His love.

Different times from the ones you are going through? Maybe yes or maybe no! Of course we didn't have Covid19, but we had other pandemics; there was no war in Myanmar, in Syria ... but we have experienced other wars; there were economic problems as you are experiencing them. I could go on ... I stop here because today I would like to tell you with sweetness and firmness that I am with you, that I accompany you in these difficult times that every precious little girl can fully experience as a wonderful opportunity to intercede, to love, to "be" a woman of the people, in the midst of ordinary and simple people who need hearts that listen, share, love and participate in the fatigue of everyday life!

Dearest daughters, do not waste this precious time in futile and trivial things, the people of God need you, women who know how to live the Covenant of gratuitous love, of the gift, of sacrifice for love. Our society and our Church need women who promote the dignity of women, who believe in the family, who give hope to the younger generations!

The world needs each of you; you are "mission" at any age even with some ailments. Mission is in the heart capable of tenderness and empathy! Certainly the gifts of each are different; do you remember my dream? There are those who intercede, those who work in mission lands, those who teach, those who care, those who listen ... But it is love that always drives us!



Each one can feel part of this Family as in a great consortium and then linked to each other by the red thread of the Blood of Christ who is the life-giving Spirit, source of strength, joy, we can attempt the adventure of a Love that precedes us. and is always faithful!

Do not let yourselves be distracted by the spirit of the evil one that creates disunion, criticism, chatter, not love, envy, jealousy ... all things that can take away our peace and lucidity.

The power of the Blood of Christ which is the Holy Spirit in us defends us, comforts us and gives us joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, fidelity, gentleness, temperance, humility and unity.

Here is my wish for each one: let yourselves be transformed by the Spirit to be transfigured women who speak with their lives the beauty and joy of belonging to and following the immolated and risen Lamb.

*Thank you for who you are and for making alive today in the Church the charism that I have given you, that gift that the Holy Spirit has entrusted to me and that continues to put in your hands, without measure: **THANK YOU!***

Let us make the foundress's wishes resound in our hearts and my embrace of tenderness to each one,

Maria Donatella Zore

[Superior general]

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Congregazione Suore del Preziosissimo Sangue
Via Lecco 06 | 20900 Monza | MB
www.preziosine.it