

Encounter of Sisters in Midlife

Cochabamba, 16 August 2015

To all the Sisters of the Congregation

“Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples: “I have seen the Lord and this is what He told me.”

(Jn 20:18)

Dear Sisters,

At the end of our stay in Bolivia we would like to address ourselves to you to thank you for your nearness, prayer and support you have shown us through your communication in the blog and by email, as well as the generosity you have manifested in facilitating in different ways this group experience which was so meaningful for us.

Throughout all this time we have experienced the generous welcome and closeness of the whole Province of Peru-Bolivia together with the service, availability and loving attention of the Community-Taller of Kami who, in opening their house to us, have allowed us to know more closely the reality of this country, so rich in cultures and full of possibilities, in which we, Siervas de San Jose, are working and supporting the dreams and initiatives of the Bolivian people especially women. We are deeply grateful for everything that we have received and we feel proud of the congregational journey of the Siervas de San Jose in Bolivia.

Likewise we want to share with you our gratitude to the General Team for their initiative in providing us this space, for accompanying us with simplicity and depth as we went through the process we have undertaken as a group and for trusting us at this present moment of the Congregation.

Throughout this period we endeavored to live in a dynamic of community-taller, giving the best of ourselves, enhancing our gifts and living deeply each moment of the process. The shared reflections, the spaces for celebration, the outings and informal encounters have helped us to experience deeply that we are sisters to one another and to know one another better. Moreover, they have strengthened the bonds among us and have generated synergy which will strengthen us in our daily life and in the projects in which each one is involved.

Step by step we have journeyed through the different stages of the encounter, deepening our faith experience, widening our knowledge of the different realities where we are present as a Congregation, and strengthening our identity and sense of belonging. Likewise, the itinerary has allowed us to share our dreams, inquietudes, hopes as well as our difficulties, weaknesses and disappointments. The whole encounter has been a moment of grace for each one of us, filled with profound experiences, dialogue, common search and interculturality. The difference in languages has not been an obstacle for our sharing to flow with ease, although it made us aware of the need to learn or improve our mastery of the languages spoken in the Congregation so as to facilitate our communication.

The news of the approval of the Constitutions has filled us with profound joy and confirmed the momentum that we were already experiencing to live with greater depth the Charism, update the charismatic elements and commit ourselves more to the congregational project.

During the last days of the encounter, we have formulated our dreams for the Congregation and our commitment to make them a reality. It was a moment in which all our passion and hopes came into play, aware of our limits but at the same time challenged to give the best of ourselves to our endeavor to make our dreams foster life as well as the congregational project. We now would like to share it with you along with our desire that you may accept it with love and that you may accompany us so that together we can make it a reality because we do not want that it will only be our dream, but rather that it may also impel your dreams and together widen our horizon of hope and utopia to which we are called in our following of Jesus in Nazareth.

Like Magdalene in the morning of the resurrection we feel urged to communicate what we have seen and heard, to remember our past, to empower the present and to go on dreaming the future.

Many thanks to each and everyone.

A warm embrace,

Group of Bolivia 2015