

**PROCESS OF
RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION
IN AFRICA**

PROJECT 2016-2018



***"Africa,
Keep on the
lamp of hospitality"***

HOSPITALLER COMMISSION OF A

INTRODUCTION

It was started in 2007 and confirmed by the XX General Chapter in 2012 as a corporate priority, the process of restructuring and revitalization is a call to "*light new expressions of spirituality, fellowship experiences, style of Government, commitment to the hospitaller service Project to the person suffering*" (cf. RH, p.11).

A spiritual and apostolic process leads us to recreate and communicate the life that springs from the Hospitaller charism, a process that also requires "*a reorganization of structures by configuring a new map to the Congregation*" (cf. RH, p.11).

In this context, we have made 8-15 December 2014, the FIRST HOSPITALLER ENCOUNTER IN AFRICA, in the city of Elmina (Ghana). It was an opportunity to get to know the presence of the Congregation on this continent with its riches and challenges...at the end, very positive assessment, the sisters asked to continue our meeting, to reflect together , find forms of collaboration, to draw ways to revitalize our life and mission in Africa.

After consulting with the Provincial superiors, the general government decided to form a Commission that impulse this way from an "African vision" giving voice to the hospitality in Africa and assuming, in spirit, the call to "get up", launching us the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Africae Munus*.

We are the Hospitaller Committee of Africa (CHAF) the following sisters: Sr. Georgina Donzing, by the Province of England: Sr. Sonsoles Sanchez, by the Province of Spain; Sr. Marie Elisabeth Ngo Mbouck, by the Province of Portugal: and Sr. Marie Reine Aleki and Sr. Hortense Mayela, by the Province of France, considering the number of sisters and the extension of the mission.

The commission meet, for the 1st time, in Douala (Cameroun), on 7,8 and 9 of January 20 2016 and we work, following the method of Look, Judge and Act, up to the completion of the scheme of our "work Plan", which needed to be meditated and completed. Meanwhile, some actions have been as the monthly tab on the different hospital presences in the continent, inviting to pray for that reality and questionnaires, giving participation to the sisters.

The 2nd meeting held in Maputo (Mozambique), the days 22, 23 and 24 March 2017 and its main objective was to finalize the draft to be presented first to the Provincial superiors and then all the sisters on the continent, with the actions through 2018, date of the next General Chapter.

This project was approved by the Superior General and counselors in July 2017. It brings together the motivation that leads us to begin this path, the biblical icon that accompanies the process, the attitudes with which one must live the main priorities; In the programming part, the actions made from 2016 are synthesized and those that are envisaged until the XXI General chapter.

The project is, above all, the congregational body, but it touches, in a special way, the reality of communities and Apostolic works on this continent. For that reason, we invite you to welcome him, to make it ours, to put it into practice, in order to recreate the gift we have received as we are asked today, the Church, the congregation and the reality of a continent that claims that we keep the flame of hospitality alight.

Hospitaller Commission of Africa

1. MOTIVATION

The first element of our project answers to the **why?** We started this process in Africa. We want to look at the reality of our presence in Africa, within the process of restructuring and revitalization that we live in the Congregation and respond to changes that we are asking for that same reality.

We need to "stop" taking into account our current reality, at the level of communities, training and apostolic works, and project the future from a common vision, built by all, in climate of listening, dialogue and responsible participation, marked by the Congregational communion.

We do this:

- To live more radically our Hospitaller vocation, consolidating our identity as women devoted followers of Jesus, and witnesses of the Gospel of mercy.
- To consolidate the charismatic identity, reorganizing and revitalizing our presences, giving more adequate responses to the needs of our peoples closer to the peripheries.
- To revitalize our fraternal life, opening ways of training more enculturated, and giving greater "prominence" to our African sisters, promoting experiences of leadership in different spheres of our life and mission.

2. LIGHTING – ICON OF ABRAHAM

We take as an icon of our process output and the path of Abraham (Gn 12-22). Their experience challenges us:

- hear the call of God and follow his voice;
- to exit, leaving it all;

- to be guided by the faith and confidence in God's faithfulness;
- to open up to God's blessing, making the same blessing;
- to meet other people, valuing their culture;
- confronted with its own contradictions;
- to accommodate the three pilgrims with generous hospitality;
- to advocate compassion for the people;
- to sacrifice his son, offering to God what he wants more

Some texts that we light up:

"the Lord said to Abraham:" go out from your country, your relatives, and your father's household, to the land that I will show you". "Abraham left, just as the Lord had said to him, and Lot went with him" (Gen 12, 1-4).

"I will make you a great nation, I will bless you, i will make your name great, so that you will exemplify divine blessing. I will bless those who bless you, curse those that curse you, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"(Gen 12, 2-3).

"The Lord appeared to Abraham near the oak of Mambré, while he was sitting at the door of his tent in the hottest part of the day. He raised his sight and saw three men in front of him. Seeing them, he ran to meet from the entrance of the tent, it fell down on the Earth and said: "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not spend long with your servant. I'll bring water so i wash your feet and rest yourself under the tree. Meanwhile, I will bring a morsel of bread so that you refresh yourselves, and after you may pass on, since you have passed by the House of your servant" (gen18, 1-5).

"God put to test to Abraham, and said to him: «Abraham!». He said: "Here I am". God said: «take your only son, which you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a Holocaust in one of the mountains which I will indicate to you». Abraham rose up... brought with him... his son Isaac; He cut wood for the burnt offering and went to the place that God had told him... the angel of the Lord called you from heaven: "Abraham, Abraham!". He replied: "Here I

am". The angel commanded him: « do not cords your hand against the boy or do anything. Now I have checked that you fear God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son'... "The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said: all the Nations of the Earth will bless with your offspring, because you've heard my voice" (Gen 22 1-8, 15-18

3. ATTITUDES

Let us set out towards restructuring and revitalization of our presence in Africa, asks of us to develop the following attitudes:

- **Look and attitude** of faith to receive the grace of the present climate of prayer, conversion and discernment, keeping us attentive and available to the action of the Spirit, open to listen to the word and rooted in Christ.
- **Abandonment and trust** in the presence and action of God that does not abandon those who trust in Him; living this process as God's will with hope, humility, realism and courage to face and overcome difficulties and resistances.
- **Openness and availability** to live this project as a joint project, feeling as Congregational body, welcoming our resources and our differences as a gift of God and living our identity and spirituality in a creative example of our first sisters and available to go where God sends us.
- **Let yourself be enlighten** by the experience of other congregations and by the voice of the Church that asks us to carry out these processes to be faithful to the vocation and mission that we have received and the needs of the people today.

4. PRIORITIES

Welcoming the challenges we have defined for this time, the following priorities :

- 1) **Awareness raising and communication/information** at all levels:
 - a. The provincial superiors and their Governments, major structures responsible and knowledgeable of the reality.
 - b. To the superiors and Formators in how key people in the process;
 - c. To raising awareness for the commitment of all communities.

- 2) **Conduct mobilizing projects:**
 - Creation of a novitiate for the African continent
 - Have experiences of interprovincial communities.

- 3) Start the process of **analysis of our work in Africa** (preparation of an instrument that will facilitate this analysis).

- 4) Work the **fraternal dimension** in our communities to promote the experience of the Samaritan love (cf. recreate hospitality, 9).

- 5) Rekindle our commitment in the **vocational announcement** and accompanying young people in discernment.

PROJECT 2016-2018

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: *Make a path of knowledge and collaboration among different presences in Africa, sensibilizing us to a possible reorganization that will take us to create one/more canonical structures (proposal for XXI general chapter).*

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS:

<i>Objective 1: Information, listen to and involvement of the superiors / provincial governments in the various steps and initiatives of the process.</i>	
Actions	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery of the synthesis of Douala meeting. - Sending of newsletters. - Shipping of the tabs in our hospitaller presences in Africa and pray for them. 	<p>CHAF/January</p> <p>CHAF/occasional</p> <p>CHAF/Monthly</p>
Acciones	2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newsletter about the meeting in Mozambique. - Sending of the summary of the meeting and the project, asking for feedback. - Meeting with the Committee, during the II meeting of the Hospitallers in Africa 	<p>CHAF/February</p> <p>CHAF/March/April</p> <p>CHAF/Sup. Prov.</p>
Actions	2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study the proposals for XXI general chapter 	<p>CHAF/Sup. Prov.</p> <p>1st . semester</p>

Objective 2: Information and awareness to communities and involvement of all the sisters.	
Actions	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sending of letter to the communities on the main actions to be carried out - Sending other information (reactions to the proposed texts, etc.) - Send a letter that accompanies the presentation and prayer for each community and mission in Africa - Information and motivation of the visits of provincial superiors/governments, communities, training centers and apostolic works. 	<p>CHAF/Feb.</p> <p>CHAF/ocassional</p> <p>CHAF/Monthly</p> <p>Sup/ Prov. Govt.</p>
Acciones	2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invitation to send proposals and challenges, communicating their expectations regarding the meeting of the Commission in Maputo. - Creation of a Microsite, on the congregation's website, for the restructuring process in Africa. - To make known to the sisters the Restructuring Project revitalization of Africa. - Sending the first file to the communities for reflection on the icon of Abraham. - Information and motivation of the visits of provincial superiors/governments, communities, training centers and apostolic works. 	<p>CHAF/Feb.</p> <p>CHAF/April</p> <p>CHAF/July</p> <p>CHAF/Oct.</p> <p>Sup/ Prov . Govt.</p>

Actions	2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sending of the 2nd and 3rd file to the communities for reflection on the icon of Abraham. 	CHAF January/March

Objective 3: To consolidate the operation of the Hospitaller Commission of Africa.

Actions	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep frequent contact between the members of the Commission, taking advantage of the possible media. - The realization of the annual meeting of the Commission, in Douala (Cameroon) 	C/ocassional CHAF January

Actions	2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To maintain frequent contact between the members of the Commission, taking advantage of the possible means of communication. - Accomplishment of two meetings of the Commission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o in Maputo (Mozambique) o in Dapaong (Togo) 	C/ocassional March December

Acciones	2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To maintain frequent contact between the members of the Commission, taking advantage of the possible means of communication. - Review of proposals to be submitted to the XXI General Chapter 	C/ocassional CHAF/SP

Objective 4: Realization of meetings between the Sisters of different structures and areas of responsibility.	
Actions	2017
- Meeting of superiors and Formators, in Dapaong (Togo)	December CHAF/S.P./S.C./ Formators
Actions	2018
- Meeting on the occasion of the Congress of Psychiatry, for the sisters responsible and for those who work in the Mental health centers. - Formation of the Commission to study the reality of our Mental Health in Africa	March CHAF/R. Hospitalier works March

Objective 5: fulfillment of the Mobilizing projects (Denominators)	
Acciones	2017 - 2018
- Creation of a single novitiate for the African continent, defining: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working Status ○ Training Team ○ Adaptation of facilities ○ other aspects - To make experiences of interprovincial communities-dialogue on the subject at the meeting of Dapaong.	Vic. Gen/ SP/CHAF December SP/CHAF

