

## II HOSPITALLER MEETING OF AFRICA

Dapaong, 8-16 December 2017

*"Africa, keep the lamp of hospitality turned on"*



Welcome words from the CHAF

Dear sisters, I would like now in the name of the CHAF, to give you a hospitaller greeting of "Welcome to Dapaong" In this community who welcomes us warmly and fraternally; To continue and celebrate together the second meeting of hospitaller Sisters of Africa along with the Provincial superiors. This presence of our sisters Superiors signifies a Congregational step, in this journey as Hospitaller Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus towards revitalization/restructuring on our Continent. We are happy to meet on this day of the Immaculate Conception, Mary conceived without sin, to whom, we are thankful to her listening and obedience of the word, performs the plan of God. As Mary, our mother, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, moved by the wind of the spirit, God calls us to entrust a mission, a responsibility. He counts us, in the different places of life-mission to us confided, to become carriers of the light of the hospitality.

We want to unite at this moment, to the whole *Congregation in the flow of the meeting of the good Samaritan and the Samaritan woman*. We recognize in the figure of the thirsty Samaritan woman, a woman in search of the true living water that quenches and that disalters; AND THIS TRUE WATER OF LIFE is Jesus and his Word. With the icon of the good Samaritan, we have the challenge to know how to stop to hear the cry of the poor and the needy abandoned and listen to the call **"Go and you do the same"**; To be a good Samaritans of humanity who pass and spend doing good, caring and bowing to suffering humanity. Our great joy is to know that we are members of the big Hospitaller **Community** being called to build the Kingdom of God here and now.

As I hope and as all of you know, we do at this time our **second meeting of the Hospitaller Sisters in Africa**. It was in Elmira Ghana on December 8, 2014 that we began this path of mutual and fraternal knowledge. Because of this, we asked the General government to establish a commission to ensure the continuity of this process. In January 2015 after a consultation with the Provincial superiors, a commission formed by 5 Sisters was created: Sonsoles Sanchez, Marie Elisabeth Ngo Mbog, Georgina Doncing, Hortense Mayela, Marie Reine Aleki, and the General councillor Andrea Calvo. Following the tradition of Spain and Latin America, this Commission is baptized with the acronym **CHAF** (Hospitaller Commission in Africa).

The Commission will choose as a **biblical character and icon Abraham**, our father in faith who is on his way and go to meet the unknown by letting himself be guided by the Lord and putting all his trust and abandonment in him: **"God Himself will provide"**

The Commission offers every month , to all the hospitaller communities of the continent, the opportunity to know themselves through **a file and prayer**, presenting each time a concrete presence, with the objective of sensitizing us all, of knowing the sisters that form these communities, as well as the Mission that is performed there.

This meeting we made here in Togo will allow us to make an assessment of what has been done so far, to schedule together the continuity of this journey that we continue to assume and to be able to travel together.

We have invited the Provincial superiors concerned and the local superiors as the first cheerleaders, and also to echo the approach, and to those responsible for the initial formation calls to transmit the richness of the charism of the Congregation to the new generations.

We need to know and share to improve and deepen the realities of our countries and communities and see together where we are and where we want to go so that the Local superiors and the Formators will do to the communities and to the formation houses directly our tour and projection for the coming months, in this view all of us will know and assume this activity that the Congregation asks us all and for all.

"! Africa keep the lamp of hospitality alight! "Let us pray that our holy founders may intercede for us and help us to discover the ways of hospitality in our world today.

