



ENCUENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE FORMADORAS 2020

Rome, February 19, 2020

Provincial Prioresses,
Delegates,
Sisters in charge of the Filial houses,
Participants of the Encuentro Internacional de Formadoras 2020

My dear Sisters:

In the celebration of our last General Chapter, one of the concerns expressed by the chapter delegates was the issue of specific formation for the sisters who exercise different responsibilities in the Institute: the service of prioresses, ecónomas, formators ... The Acts try to give a timid response to this concern by requesting that the general government promote the preparation of formators (cf. ACG 65, 66).

All authentic formation must be integral, of the whole person, in every aspect of the personality, in behavior and intentions. Hence, it is demanding and rigorous because it is an experience of total self-giving in love.

Religious consecration involves constant search and continuous growth to avoid all kinds of spiritual sclerosis. Throughout its process, the harmonious growth between the spiritual and human dimension must be taken cared of with special attention, which means being attentive to the diverse cultures and the sensitivity of the new generations, with a particular reference to the new contexts of life. (cf. CICALSAL, *The Art of Seeking the Face of God*, Vatican City, 2019)

The sisters to whom a specific responsibility for formation is entrusted, should assume this task in a spirit of joyful service to the sisters. «They must be, very familiar with the path of seeking God, so as to be able to accompany others on this journey».

They should be "women of discernment, of intense religiosity and patience," so that they can understand the person, valuing her as she is, in order to accompany her gradually, according to the principles of the charism.

The formators, masters in the art of seeking God, must have a clear awareness of being only mediators between God and those who are in formation; for this they must have a profound knowledge of God through prayer, a wisdom coming from the attentive and prolonged listening of the Word of God and a great love for the spiritual realities of our charism, so that they can accompany others on this journey.

We are aware that the formation of sisters responsible for formation is not a matter of a few days, it is not possible to improvise the formation, but that it requires a remote and continuous preparation, because “without a solid formation of the formators will not be to provide the youngest members a real and promising accompaniment”. (cf. CICALSAL, The Art of Seeking the Face of God...)

We believe that in the different countries where our Institute exercises mission, suitable courses are offered that can respond to this need.

What we consider urgent at this moment in our Institute is **to unify formation criteria** so that those who are in formation, regardless of the Province, Delegation or filial houses they come from, know our origins, be nourished by the Word, keep the spirit of our Father St. Dominic alive, and understand their vocation as Missionaries of St. Dominic (ACG 2019). Unifying criteria of formation is of prime urgency if we want to have sisters fully imbued with St. Dominic’s missionary identity. Hence, we should form them from the moment of their entry into the Institute, presenting our charism, our life and our mission in its totality, with all the exigencies involved in the radical following of Christ.

The formation process must help those who are in formation to mature a vital synthesis of the charism right from the beginning. To this end, a sincere sense of congregational and ecclesial belonging must be cultivated in the vocational accompaniment. Formation, to be such, needs to reach the person in her most authentic humanity, leading her to the knowledge of the truth about herself, her gifts and limitations.

Our Acts exhorted the Provinces, Delegations and Filial houses to revise the Plan of Formation, adapting it to their own realities (ACG 67).

The Formation Plan must offer tools that favor the integral development of the person, through a human and spiritual formation in order to reach and consolidate full maturity in Christ. It responds to a pressing need nowadays: on the one hand it indicates how to transmit the spirit of the Institute, so that it can be lived in its integrity by the new generations, in the diversity of cultures and geographical situations; on the other hand, it shows to the already professed sisters how to live the same spirit in the various stages of life.

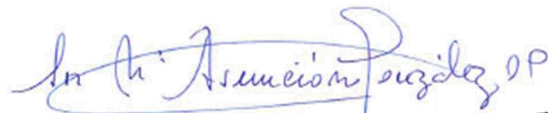
In our Institute, we have dedicated much resources to the spiritual and intellectual formation, but perhaps the human, psychological dimension has been forgotten. That is why, in this encounter, we will focus mainly on the human dimension.

It is not a course for formators but an encounter, where the main agents will be the participants (formators and formators-in-the-making), favoring the sharing of difficulties and problems found in their daily task but also the joys and satisfactions of self-giving and spending one’s life for others, because the greatest gift that can be given to a person is an integral formation. At the same time this would serve as an orientation to the sisters who will undertake the task in the future.

Keep in mind that the celebration of this encounter is an extra effort on the part of many, with the hope that we are willing to give all the best for the formation of the sisters. The only thing we ask from the participants is to come with good disposition willing to give and receive, and above all, to share as sisters among sisters.

May our Mother, our Lady of the Rosary, accompany us and the light of our father St. Dominic illumine the way for us.

My fraternal embrace,



Sor Mª Asunción González, O.P.

General Prioress



Some information regarding the activity. The rest of the details shall be sent in another letter to the participants:

Date: del día 4 al 31 de julio de 2020

Venue: Valladolid, España

Participants:

España: Sor Dolores Rioja
Sor Cristina Moral
Sor Camino Fernández

Filipinas: Sor Lorenza Aguilar
Sor Anabel Murillo
Sor Maricris Mutia
Sor Isabel Bautista

Japón: Sor María Taguchi
Sor Antonina Goda
Sor Esperanza Yamauchi

Corea: Sor Silvia Ahn
Sor María Yun

Taiwan: Sor Susana Predas
Sor Isabel Zhang
Sor Edith Jia

Casas filiales: Sor Marisol Carrasco
Sor Bambina
Sor Clara
Sor Rosa

Organizadoras y colaboradoras:

Sor Asunción González – Responsable de la apertura y clausura del encuentro

Sor Delfi Moral – Responsabe

Sor Bernardita Rivera – Responsable

Sor Eugenia Ikeda – Traductora

Sor Mary Jeanet Pintacasi – Traductora y colaboradora