## Our Lady of the Rosary 2017



Dear Sisters:

Today, October 7, we celebrate with the whole Dominican Order and the whole Church, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. For us, as missionaries, it has a special meaning since, as Pope Francis says in "Evangelii Gaudium", she is the missionary who draws near to us and accompanies us throughout life, opening our hearts to faith by her maternal love; she walks at our side, she shares our struggles with and she constantly surrounds us with God's love.

The Church sees in Mary her own mystery, sees in her the model of virginal faith, of maternal charity and spousal alliance. Mary, perfect creature, is a singular woman, upon her descends the shadow of the Spirit evoking the first creation. She is "the handmaid of the Lord," blessed "because she believed that the things which the Lord hath said will be fulfilled", the humble in whom God has set himself to fulfill his mystery, "blessed among women," whom "all the generations will call blessed." Mary allowed herself to be molded by the Spirit of God affirming her "YES" at the Annunciation.

All the gifts of the Holy Spirit are manifested in Mary: love, joy, peace, generosity, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness ... She is full of grace, the most dignified abode that God prepared for his Son. All the infinite capacity of transformation that the love and the grace of God have, are fulfilled in the person of Mary. She excels among the humble and the poor of the Lord who expect salvation from him and welcome him. To do the will of God has been the intention, the conviction of Mary from the beginning.

Sisters, in imitation of Mary, may this be also our desire, to always do the will of the Lord.

I wish you all a very HAPPY and HOLY Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

A fraternal embrace and my prayer,

Sr. Ma. Asunción González, O.P.

Prioress General