

MESSAGE

8 September 2026

Dear Sisters,

On September 8, we will celebrate with joy the birth of the Virgin Mary: through her came the Sun of Justice, Christ our Lord (Entrance Antiphon of the Mass). If we rejoice at Mary's birth, it is because she is the Mother of Jesus, the beloved daughter of the Father, chosen by Him to carry out His plan of love for all humanity.

The birth of Mary is not only a historical event. It is a constant invitation to renew our life in faith. It reminds us that every human life is wanted, loved, and known by God. "*Before I formed you in your mother's womb, I knew you*" (Jer. 1:5). God looked with love upon Mary, and He also looks with love upon each one of us. Her birth invites us to recognize the infinite value of every person and to welcome our own life with gratitude.

Today, I invite you to reflect together on what the Virgin Mary teaches us through her life.

Her birth reminds us that Mary came from an ordinary family and learned much from her parents, just as we learn from ours. This also invites us to recognize that, in our consecrated life, we are grateful to the Sisters who came before us and prepared us through their actions, their words, and their witness of fidelity and sacrifice. We have learned much from our Superiors, our elder Sisters, and those responsible for our formation. Thanks to them, we are here today.

But like Mary, her personal and unique response to God's grace belonged to her alone; others could only help her. The same is true for us. In our communities, our Sisters can help us, but each one must respond personally and freely to the grace of God. The decision to respond is ours. Our personal response is our responsibility.

The birth of the Virgin Mary reminds us that even the most ordinary beginnings can blossom into grace. In our own lives, we are also invited to take part in the story God continues to write. Mary is an example for us: in daily life, even simple and ordinary, God is always preparing something beautiful. She teaches us to remain attentive to the signs of God's presence.

Mary, a model of faith

One of the gifts Mary gives us is an example of her faith. Our Book of Life tells us that "*from the beginning, the Congregation has been placed under the protection of the Virgin Mary*" (Jn. 2:5; BL 5).

We are invited to contemplate Mary's faith, so that it may enlighten our understanding, deepen our own fidelity, and awaken in us the desire to follow Christ without reserve.



The birth of Mary shows us how God often works quietly through simple people and ordinary places, and how greatness often begins in unexpected and humble ways.

When the angel visited her with God's message, even though she did not know what her path would be, Mary answered: *"Let it be done to me according to your word"* (Lk. 1:28). This "yes" was not only an act of obedience and courage; it was an act of faith, a total surrender to God's will. She did not immediately understand where God would lead her. She had to let herself be guided beyond her expectations and beyond her comfort zone, because nothing she had learned before could have prepared her for this moment.

In Mary's heart, there was no frustration or discouragement. She knew how to "keep what she received from God, pondering it in her heart" (Lk. 2:19). This attitude allowed her to contemplate and seek the meaning of events before giving a response. Like Mary, we too must learn not to react to situations with anxiety, fear, or anger, but to seek what the Lord is asking of us in each moment, because discerning God's will is not always easy or immediate. Let us ask Mary to help us always trust God, as she did.

Today, we sometimes face temptations that challenge our consecrated life and our vows. Among these temptations are the desire to abandon a simple community life rooted in prayer, and instead seek greater comfort, professional success, or rely on diplomas and achievements. We may also feel tempted to think that we are not useful, or that no one appreciates our gifts. All these temptations go against our desire to obey and follow the path God has prepared for us. For this reason, we must support one another in our faith and in our spiritual journey. Let us ask Mary to help us always trust God, as she did.

Mary's "Yes" and our own "Yes"

Like Mary, we are also called to say "yes" in our own lives, sometimes through small acts of kindness. We have said "yes" to God's call; we have made the choice. But what truly matters in our lives is not only the choice itself, but also our acceptance, our commitment, and our fidelity. What is essential is to contemplate Mary's attitude, her openness, and her humility. Like Mary, who knew how to trust, we must simply continue to surrender ourselves to the Lord.

Sometimes it is easy to think that our life does not matter. In our humility, we protest and think we are unable to meet God's expectations, saying: "It is impossible, it will not happen, it is beyond my strength." However, Mary's story reminds us that God often chooses the small and the humble to accomplish extraordinary things, despite our weaknesses, limits, and failures—provided that we surrender ourselves to Him. We celebrate the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, and we are invited to trust in God's will, to respond with faith, and to recognize that even our lives—however ordinary they may seem have a place in God's extraordinary mission.

Mary cares for others: she is not selfish, and she knows how to look toward God and toward people. At the wedding feast of Cana, she is able to see the needs of others, what they are lacking: “They have no more wine.” Her concern shows a delicate attention to human needs. She does not give orders; she simply expresses a need, in total trust. At the Visitation, she went quickly to help her cousin Elizabeth, who needed support in her old age. Mary’s attitude invites us to leave our comfort zones and be present to those who need consolation: the marginalized, the poorest.

Is this not the same situation that moved Father Louis Chauvet to form young schoolteachers and gather the poor girls of the village to teach them reading and writing?

And we, in our communities, do we know how to consider the needs of the Sisters with us? Today, it is sometimes easier to see the needs of people far away than the needs of the Sisters who live with us. Sometimes we think there is nothing interesting or meaningful in responding to the needs of the person who is with us every day and who sometimes irritates us. We close our eyes and ears. We pretend not to hear. Why?

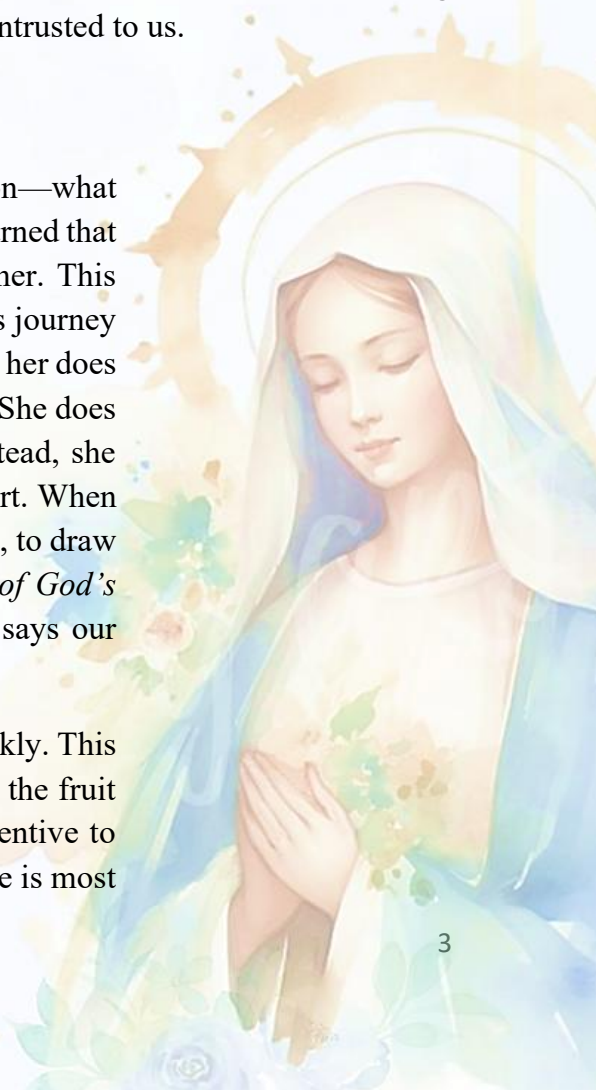
Mary, a model of fidelity

Mary’s life was not always easy; she was tested, yet she remained faithful to the end. Her “yes” at the Annunciation led her all the way to the foot of the Cross. Mary’s attitude shows us that when our love has deep roots, our heart becomes strong, and we are ready to suffer with those who are dear to us. When our heart is not firmly rooted in Christ, it cannot withstand moments of suffering and trial, nor remain faithful to God’s call and to the vocation entrusted to us.

Mary, our model in mission

The story of the Visitation reveals Mary as our model for mission—what Pope Francis calls “the mission of closeness.” As soon as she learned that her cousin Elizabeth was pregnant, she went quickly to help her. This shows the greatness of a true encounter. In this meeting, Mary’s journey is an act of self-giving, because the one who carries Jesus within her does not want to keep Him for herself, but to share Him with others. She does not remain isolated before the mystery of the Incarnation; instead, she goes out, seeking Elizabeth to share her joy and offer her support. When we truly love, we accept to take risks; we are not afraid to move, to draw near, and to enter into the reality of the other. *“The demands of God’s love are limitless, and she who loves can never do enough,”* says our Book of Life (BL n° 15).

Luke writes that Mary went “in haste,” meaning she set out quickly. This urgency comes from the compassion and joy that fill her heart, the fruit of her encounter with God. Mary’s attitude reflects a heart attentive to the needs of others and a desire to be present where her presence is most



needed. Her eagerness is a call for us to leave our comfort zones, to go toward the peripheries, toward those whom God places on our path. In a world marked by indifference and individualism, Mary invites us not to agitation or activism, but to the urgency of compassion.

Having received the angel's message, Mary's first response was to turn charity toward the reality of the other; her first response was an act of love; her first reaction was to take care of someone else. She listens to Elizabeth, supports her, and serves her rather than expecting to be served. The two women carry and share their missions, and in this sharing they find strength and comfort. For us, this means being close to our brothers and sisters in their vulnerability, speaking with them, and accompanying them. This is a challenge to the structures that continue to oppress many people, and a call for all of us to live the preferential love for the poor and the excluded. This love requires not only compassion, but also courage: the courage to speak, to be a voice for the voiceless, and to act toward change. In a world full of technologies that connect us but lacking true human encounters, we will be credible only if we remain close to people. The Nativity of Mary invites us to rethink our mission: to be, like her, bearers of hope, builders of peace, and agents of communion.

Dear Sisters, in Mary's school, we see how she recognized and listened to the voice of God through the events of her life. We too must learn to discern together the voice of God. This is a synodal path. Let us make our communities places of listening, where each Sister has something to learn, and where we listen to one another in order to hear what God wants to tell us. Our Book of Life, number 31, says clearly: *"The Sisters seek the will of God in community with clear-sightedness and perseverance. To this end, Superiors and Sisters, united in charity, help one another in an atmosphere of mutual trust."* Mary is our guide in this. She knew how to keep what she received from God, pondering it in her heart (Lk. 2:19). She trusted God and remained open to His plan.

Mary's example encourages us to listen deeply, to have a simple and courageous heart, so that we may recognize the small beginnings through which God gives Himself and sends us to serve our brothers and sisters, especially the poorest. Like Mary, let us believe in the value of every person whom God places on our path, both in mission and in community.

On this day of the Nativity of Mary, let our hearts be guided by the humility and trust that marked her life. Following her example, may we welcome with joy and faith all the new beginnings that God brings into our lives, especially through the practice of our Chapter Acts, so that we may become the authentic witnesses our world needs.

I wish each one of you a joyful and holy feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary!

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Superior General