



MANIFEST OF CARE

Here we are, Lord, the religious men and women of the Americas. We have come from the north, the centre and the south of our beloved continent; we have felt you in the depths of reality, alive and working at our side in the joy of embrace and encounter, in the forceful interpellation that placed us in the face of our fragility and led us along unsuspected paths, until we wished to agree, to become "one", in the pottery-making of care.

We feel that our challenge as believers is to look at ourselves in the same way that you look at us and to make room for you to enter and transform our most ingrown inactions. We come to this land of your Kingdom, bringing the life of our peoples and of our National Conferences. We gather without ignoring that the world is at war, that corruption permeates everything, that between the nationalisms that exclude and the strongholds that we build to divide us, we are condemning many people to live in a state of migration. And here we are, Lord of care; we hunger and thirst for peace and justice, and we persevere in an itinerant, intercultural and inter-congregational mysticism, prophecy, and mission, which allows us to understand our identity and mission in communion and solidarity with the culture, struggles and lives of our people.

Along these days we have listened the outcries and the songs; joy came to visit us and we've been often moved to tears; we have embraced our humanity and felt that it is the time of conversion. The voice of the young people resounded loudly to confront us. We are outraged by the excesses of institutionalism and dehumanising norms that deny rights and opportunities, that exclude and condemn so many sisters and brothers to no longer be here. In view of a reality like this, it is clear to us that conversion, reform, and the need for a new way of life are urgently needed.

Lord, at the echo of your voice and with the certainty that we are sacraments of your unique creative and caring identity, we get ready to go through the night, clothed in hope. In synodality with the Church that listens and discerns, we want today to join that caravan that boldly cares for communion, and so we ask for the grace to be clothed with prophetic courage and to open new paths to:

1

PROCLAIMING OURSELVES AND PROCLAIMING

that we don't want to shut ourselves down to the presence, the voice, and the action of God Spirit, who talks constantly to the Churches. Giving him the leading role, acknowledging him as the eternal and persistent donor persistent giver and caretaker of life. To him who looks at diversity and permanently recreates it in order to build new communion; to him who, in a burst of creative love, grants us gifts and charisms and, in the depths of the Incarnation, summons us to set out in communion, in Church, to go always beyond.

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that we want to centre our hearts on the heart of Jesus, the same yesterday, today and forever. Allowing the Gospel to permeate us, allowing his Word to be the log that shapes our being and guides our path. That is why we want to contemplate him from a mysticism of open eyes, which allows us to discover him where he does not seem to be: in the midst of so many neglected people. We now renew our desire to make room for him to enter and transform everything. We want to follow him in the ongoing commitment to the Kingdom, to which all our charisms belong, in the certainty of the common vocation of the People of God: follow me!

3

PROCLAIMING OURSELVES AND PROCLAIMING

that we acknowledge, with pain, our sin: above all the sexual, power and conscience abuses, with which we have lacerated the dignity of others. We confess that the entanglements of power have made us want to control everything; that we have become accustomed to rigid and authoritarian relationships, to styles that exclude, to painful isolation. We know that on many occasions we have become merchants of God's mercy, because we have hoarded his blessing and denied his forgiveness.

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that we believe in the value of the germinal; that is why we want to welcome all the seeds that are already a proclamation of new life. We renew our faith in the wisdom of processes, we choose what matures in the encounter and acquires its best flavour over time. We choose to place ourselves on the shore of humility, where everything is recognised as grace, where encounters are woven in simplicity, freedom, and joy. We celebrate the many germinal seeds of synodality in the paths, theology, decisions, and transformations of the Religious Life of the Continent.

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PROCLAIMING OURSELVES AND PROCLAIMING

that, as an authentic Samaritan Church, we must grow in compassion for the most neglected. We want to allow ourselves to be challenged by the outcry of migrants, of people who find no meaning in life, of people who suffer the consequences of so many fratricidal wars, of people who experience the frailty of their mental health, people haunted by the world of addictions. We want to take special care of children, of the weakest, of those whose rights are violated. We do not want to defer our decision to take the side of the victims of inequality, violence and structural discrimination, but to listen to them, to accompany them and to walk with them along the path of restitution and reparation.

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PROCLAIMING OURSELVES AND PROCLAIMING

that we want to walk as Church, to be with others and to walk together towards that necessary plurality, certain that we come from a relational Foundation, in which tensions are not denied, missing persons are named, polarities are courageously approached, and the Will of God is always, and in all circumstances, sought. We want to deepen the dynamics of discernment, we want to put into practice the conversation in the Spirit, we want to dialogue until we reach what is common, always generating new forms of relationship capable of expressing in our lifestyle the identity of the Trinity.

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that we focus on living our vocation with meaning and renewed enthusiasm, ensuring that the wonder of life emerges from the centrality of the heart and from our willingness to be authentic and coherent. We know that this decision implies to take great care to be communities that love each other, communities of sisters and brothers who help each other, and so giving witness that fraternity and sisterhood are possible. That is why we want to exercise ourselves in the experience of tenderness, the mystique of listening and the kind closeness to each other and to those who are on the sidelines of society.

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PROCLAIMING OURSELVES AND PROCLAIMING

that it is urgent to care for our Common Home with concrete gestures, actions, and processes. We are aware that the earth, the poor and the cultures are crying out for a better care; we know we have wounded the beauty and harmony of creation with our actions. Therefore, we want to widen the networks that facilitate our solidarity commitment in the Amazonian territory, we want to make it clear that there is a systemic socio-environmental crisis. We also wish to join forces with all the people and institutions that share our desire to protect and nurture Mother Earth with loving and effective care.

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that we are committed to a culture of encounter, and therefore we attach greater importance to symmetrical communication between believers and with other cultures and feelings. We know that the Spirit speaks today in different places and in different ways, as it did yesterday. That is why we want to take up the challenge of incorporating new languages, narratives, and technologies to tell the Good News anew, always new, and always fresh.

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that we have to celebrate- through music, song, dance and art- our announcement: that death has been conquered... that death does not have the last word. With the Women of the Dawn, we share the joy of announcing that Jesus, the crucified Carer, is alive and that the Cause of the Kingdom, which is the care of the most neglected, goes on and is worthwhile..

We entrust ourselves to Mary, who maternally cared for Jesus, and who then humbly allowed herself to be cared for by the First Community. Amid this sad throwaway culture, may she sustain and accompany us in our vocation to be artisans of care.

Participants of the IV Latin American and Caribbean
Congress of Religious Life