



Message of the New Leadership Team at the Installation Mass.

24 April 2022



Dear Sisters, Partners-in-Mission, Collaborators, Family, and Friends,

It is good to be with you face to face in this chapel and virtually across the world.

To the community here at the Generalate and to the outgoing Congregational Leadership Team, our sincere thanks for planning and organizing the transition session during the past month and this commitment service. Our thanks to Fr. Jean-Michel, Superior General of the Eudist Fathers, for celebrating this beautiful Eucharistic Service.

Here, we would like to take the opportunity to say our sincere thanks to Sisters Ellen Kelly, Susanna Franco, Bridget Paily, Jude Ellen Golumbieski, Mirian Colala, Lilly Devasia, Hanan Youssef, Frances Robinson, Zelna Oosthuizen, and Josita Corera for their love and commitment in carrying out their responsibility of leadership for the congregation for the past 6 years.

Our heartfelt thanks to the many mission partners who worked with the Communities and Ministries, through the Offices, Boards, Commissions, Committees, Teams, Networks, and Resource Persons at Unit, Regional and Congregational levels. You stayed steadfast in your commitment through difficult times of the Covid 19 pandemic and greater challenges experienced in the congregation and within your contexts.

Our deep gratitude to our families, all of our families, who have sacrificed much more than we will ever know and who faithfully hold us in their hearts and generously share their love and wisdom. Not least, we thank God for the call to this mission.

Even as we celebrate the feast of Saint Mary Euphrasia, the season of Easter and this ceremony, we are acutely aware that we are in the midst of war, aggression and suffering in the Ukraine, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, countries in the Middle East and in different areas of South America. Many of our own family, friends, program participants and persons known to us continue to be severely impacted by the troubles in the world. They are held in our hearts and we must be moved to act and reach out to them.

As I look at all your faces, and, recall and imagine the many faces watching us through different sized screens from the many countries, communities and homes, the words of Pope Francis in 'Laudato Si' come to mind: *"As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning. Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life."* (Cited in "Laudato Si", Paragraph 207 - Earth Charter, The Hague 29 June 2000)

We are here together as One because we have experienced our compassionate Creator's call to this common destiny. That is, to live life fully. This destiny, which is bigger than us also involves that which we are about – the Mission of the Congregation.

- ♥ A mission which brings us to places where we experience that which is known as radical, and, encounter the sacred Other in persons and in all of creation,
- ♥ A mission where the neglected but persevering migrant, the persecuted refugee and war survivor will reveal the face of God,
- ♥ A mission that allows women and girls in any form of violation of their human rights, who are experiencing humiliation and exploitation, to challenge us to understand that our transformation is linked to a solidarity so strong that justice demands we resonate with them,
- ♥ A mission which moves us to resist all judgement and condemnation of persons who are not like us; and calls us to realign ourselves so that we and those we consider as the Other, are but One.

Earlier, we, individually and collectively, made our commitment to the call to action in response to the 31st Congregational Chapter Directions. As the new leadership, we will strive to work together as a team in implementing these directions. As we launch out into the deep... we may need to let go of what are our familiar ways of thinking, being and doing, and explore other ways that may be unfamiliar and uncomfortable to us. The important work ahead of adopting and adapting ourselves into a new governance structure, reconfiguration of Units and reviewing our policies, systems and strategies, may seem overwhelming but we are not alone.

We are convinced that each of you, dear sisters and partners-in-mission, in the deep recesses of your heart, desire that we, all of us, do not drift away from the priorities we have set for a more relevant, effective and sustainable mission - neither by our fear of letting go, nor by our lack of knowledge of one another, nor our reluctance to move into the unknown, nor by our own lack of capacity, nor the distractions that come our way. We believe that the love for our common destiny which is the One Mission—that of Compassion, Reconciliation, Justice and Mercy—will impel us to respond with enthusiastic joy to the evolving future that our compassionate God is unfolding to us.

Thank you all for your presence, prayers and good wishes. All of your love and support is very deeply felt and experienced by us as we take up our responsibility in this special role and service, in leadership for the mission.

*Mirjam Yolanda S. Josita Erika Joan
Yolanda S. Cristina Sadhomi Marie Françoise Edith*