



*Look at the sprouts in life that
emerge...
Where there seems to be
only despair,
you look for hope...
Where there seems to be
only night,
Look for the dawn...
The Kingdom of God is near
so near that sometimes it is
within*



Happy Christmas and a Blessed 2025

Bogo-Cameroon, 1st December 2024

Dear Sisters and friends,

As we begin this time of Advent, I want to come to you to give thanks together for so much life we have received. Together we begin a journey of hopeful waiting, a journey of silence filled with a search for words that help us to welcome the Word. On this journey, the point of arrival is a portal at the feet of a child whom we want to adore... let us look around us with those with whom we will make the journey, let us be attentive to what the Lord wants to show us and let us walk together...

As you well know, at the beginning of this year 2024, I visited the Region of Latin America. There I was able to share with the sisters, learn about their work, their sorrows, but also their joys and achievements. Without doubt, Latin America, despite the difficulties, problems or uncertainties, has a lot of life. There are aspects in which a change is needed, such as the situation in Venezuela. In Bolivia, winds of conflict, strikes and blockades are once again heard. And although Chile is doing a little better, in the economic aspect, there are many people who come wanting to find a more favorable life. We continue to believe that change is possible, and things will be better for the people of Latin America.

In the months of May-June, we had in Madrid and Xavier, the meeting of the Regional Directresses and Delegates of the MCJ with the General Government. It was an update of what we have lived and done since our last General Assembly, and a projection of the future that we still believe the Lord asks of us and we have to do.

In the month of May, the young Missionaries of Christ Jesus began to arrive from China, India, Vietnam and the Democratic Republic of Congo, 10 youngsters (2 could not come due to visa and study problems) who have already had a missionary experience. They have come to Spain, the cradle

of the Institute, to drink from its source. It will be a time to get to know each other, exchange experiences and above all create fraternity and strengthen the sense of body, as MCJ.

They began by studying Spanish, the official language of the Institute, then came the course in missiology: to update what God and the world of today ask of us in terms of mission. Personal knowledge, knowledge of their cultures, leadership, etc. In a couple of months they will go to Xavier to delve deeper into our origins and drink from our source. They will meet the sisters who are there, those first sisters who gave themselves completely to mission in the style of Xavier. I want to thank all of you who have made it possible for this formation to take place; without your generous collaboration it would not be possible. I assure you that these young sisters, Missionaries of Christ Jesus in the style of Xavier, will continue to give the best of themselves wherever they go.

At the moment I am in Africa, specifically in Cameroon. I also visited the sisters in Chad. If we limit ourselves to the statistics (HDI: Human Development Index) that the media offers us, these countries are among the poorest and least developed on the planet. But there are other statistics that are not included in the measurements of this world and they make us recognize in the poor a boundless generosity, a desire for improvement that goes beyond the sky, a solidarity that knows no boundaries. According to the HDI, Chad is number 190 out of 192 countries on the list. In the last year, it has welcomed more than 645,000 Sudanese refugees. In general, the information that reaches us from Africa, when it does, is of a desperate continent, involved in endless wars, images of young people in small boats risking death in search of a better future... and all that is true. But there is much more: there are young people and children in our nursery schools, primary schools or institutes... who dream of a better future. Mothers who are cared for in our health centers giving life every day, health personnel who welcome them with love and professionalism... Women who make vegetable gardens, train in new agricultural techniques and improve the nutrition of their families and silently build a hopeful future. In Africa there is much, much life.

In this time of Advent and the proximity of the arrival of the Baby Jesus, who becomes human and close to us, today I want to send you my love, prayers and closeness. May the God of life give us new eyes to look at those shoots that emerge in our daily life, may He always give us hope. We know well that a caress makes less noise than a bomb, but a caress gives life where there is none. The Kingdom of God is near, so near that it lives in our hearts and in the hearts of everyone.

A huge embrace with all my love and a Happy Christmas

Your sister Alphonsine



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alphonsine". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a large, horizontal, oval-shaped flourish.