

Dearest Sisters,

with the opening of the Bicentenary at La Morra, on October 15<sup>th</sup> '14, we started our spiritual pilgrimage, which will involve us in prayer, study, sharing of our history and charisma. **We do not turn inwards to celebrate ourselves**, but with gratitude in the heart, we try to make fruit of the gift of our past, to face the future with hope.

This year 2014-15 will flow with us happily along with the year of **Consecrated Life**, which is defined by Pope Francis "a **PEARL** not just in itself, but within the people of God", which requires us to follow Jesus, to remain in line with the Founder's charisma, and to communicate with the world.

November's liturgy reminds us that in life and in death we belong to the Lord, while walking as pilgrims towards Him. **How nice becoming saints is!** This means fulfilling the project God has for us and becoming the masterpiece that He expects from us.

**The Beatitudes are the rule of holiness:** let us never get tired of listening to the **nine beatitudes**, although we already know them well. They rekindle the desire for a world of kindness, nonviolence, sincerity, solidarity, also inside our communities; they outline a totally different way of being **people, friends of mankind and at the same time friends of God; people** who love the sky and take care of the earth, drawn by the eternal, but in love with this difficult and confusing time. They are not achieved in extraordinary things, but in everyday life, marked by common situations, struggles, hopes and tears. The Beatitudes indicate nine traits of Christ: among these nine words **there is a special one written for each one of us**, we must detect and implement, which has in itself the power to make us real women and which contains our mission in the world. On it we are called to make our pilgrimage starting from us, for a world in need of good stories. And God will take care of our "Blessed are you!"

"Heaven is a Hallelujah, sung for all eternity in the enjoyment of Heaven.

But along the way, here on earth, we must sing Hallelujah to give relief to our hard work.

**Sing, as the traveler usually sing ... Sing and walk! "(St. Augustine).**

The words that define a pilgrimage are: start, sing, walk, road, destination. The pilgrim is one who knows the **goal** to be achieved and walk on the road towards it, or at least is the one who looks and verifies the direction. Both the **Destination** and the **Way** have been shown by Jesus himself. Every person who steps on the soil of the earth, while living, is making **a one way trip**; in order not to walk unsuccessfully, he is called to deepen the meaning, value, and the orientation to give to his life.

**Singing and walking: these are the two characteristics of the life of a pilgrim on the way** to the true goal. **The song** is the spiritual life; **the way** is active life of charity.

These two verbs must always be lived together, **walking, singing** and singing while walking, as the saints, our beloved Don Rubino, the sisters who left before us, our loved ones, all the people who have accompanied us on traits of life, did.

We sing the joy of having been created, redeemed and filled up with goods; sing the miracle of life that crops up every morning; we sing in Church and in Chapel of our community, through the witness of our lives and our attitudes. We walk with our feet firmly on the ground, but with eyes fixed on the sky ahead of us, with patience and confidence, even in the old age, in sickness; we do not walk alone, we are united to Christ, to the Church, to the community Sisters.

There are temptations related to the pilgrimage, which are ours as well:

The temptation to walk "according to" the others, or to walk alone without the others; to take "shortcuts"; to change direction or not to see those whom we meet; the need to walk burdened with "things"; to give up the pursuit when difficulties appear; the activism, the rush, the fear of silence and revision of the prayer; the desire to walk "without God," relying too much on our own strength, or the expectation that God will do everything, or almost everything for us.

Sisters, with an eye and a grateful memory to the past, let us cherish these spiritual riches, which come abundant from heaven, for Jesus' infinite goodness, through his Church.

Love for sr. Angela