



Motto 2023

Let us go forth on our mission of love.....

Let us be instruments God can use at any moment.

Loves in the Heart of Mary

Dear Sisters and Associates,

This is a time of vulnerability across the world, as the security of what we have all known has been swept away. It would be so easy for us to turn in on ourselves and focus on our own challenges as Sisters, as Associates and as a Congregation. Especially as we enter into the encounter of Chapter, our gaze can become limited but this year our motto does more than invite us to avoid this trap. In our Venerable Mother Mary Potter's words, we are challenged with clarity and strength.

It seems that the motto of 2022 anchored us in the reality of love, almost as a prelude to the challenge of this year:

Let us go forth on our mission of love.....

Let us be instruments God can use at any moment.

Our call is not simply for ourselves, it is always for the other. Just as Mary stood on Calvary present to her Son and those with Him, so are we, Mary's own, to be for others. That reality is deeply embedded in our Little and Greater Company of Mary spirit. We know it in every fibre of our being.

But because we are human, and our vulnerability seems so very real and the challenges for the world and our Congregation can seem so great, we can let our gaze be limited and lose sight of our reality as those on mission; the reality that we can touch the heart in prayer, no matter where we find ourselves or what frailties we carry. Equally, we can be

present in person to the one dying, not just physically but in heart and spirit in every encounter, even those by chance, just as for those for whom we care in our ministries.

Mother, poses what is to her the key question in Obedience Notes 5 - *have we loved?* Love is something we all can do. Surely we too can be bringers of joy, as Mary was in the Visitation?

In her own words, she reminds us that *few of us realize what wonderful things we can perform with our thoughts; they are great works in themselves, they can be as powerful as good actions, though we may be crippled or ill.* Conference K. Long before quantum physics, Mother knew we can make a difference through prayer as well as presence, though it be hidden and whispered or simply breathed in illness and frailty.

***Let us go forth on our mission of love.....
Let us be instruments God can use at any moment.***

It may be that, in the very real vulnerability and uncertainty of this time, God is offering us an opportunity.

Mary, Disciple and Mother, speaks little in our scriptures and her actions are hidden except for a few. Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Cana, Calvary and the Upper Room. We know she, like us, pondered what was to be and yet it did not turn her from love. We cannot doubt her mission of love, her reality as instrument of God! So all that is needed of us is Yes, spoken not with words but by lives turned in presence and prayer to the other.

There is an urgency to Mother's words: There is to be no hesitation, but simply faith, hope and love. We do not know how, but we know we are called; we know God is with us and we know we are to bring love to those whose bodies, spirits and hearts are sore-wounded. Perhaps as Mother invites us: by living to love all around. In this, is the practice of the Presence of God, God within us always touching the one in need; God within the other touching us. Conference B.

This year may we truly find ourselves one in the Heart of Mary, loving all she loved and

***Let us go forth on our mission of love....
Let us be instruments God can use at any moment.***

As one in the heart of Mary,



On behalf of Congregational Leadership