

180th Anniversary of the Beginning
of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross



“I entreated and the spirit of Wisdom
came to me...
Her radiance never sleeps”
(cfr Sap 7:7-11)

Dear Sisters,

Dear lay people who collaborate with us in the various mission areas,

It is my desire to reach each of you on this special day in which we celebrate 180 years of the birth of our Congregation. Celebrating this event together is for us a reason for joy, gratitude and hope.



The first reading of last Sunday, 13 October, taken from the book of Wisdom, made me feel a deep harmony with the beginning and development of our Congregation. Wisdom was truly a “*faithful companion*” of Mother Bernarda and her community.



With wisdom, our first sisters were pioneers in creating a new form of religious life among the people of Switzerland at that time. With their form of education, they were truly generators of hope.

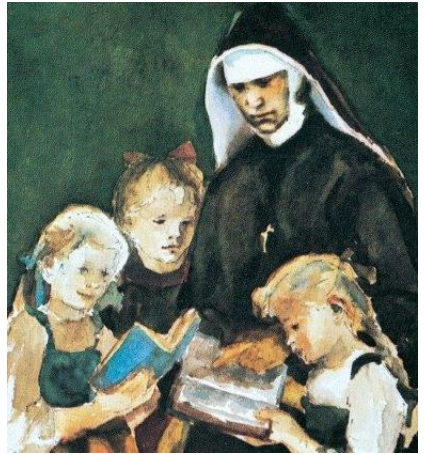
If we retrace the life and letters of Mother Bernarda, it is impossible not to see the strength and beauty of Wisdom that comes from the Holy Spirit.

Her relationship with God, a loving and Provident Father, was for her and her sisters the source from which to draw inspiration, energy, and light despite the dark moments. The wisdom received in interior silence and patient prayer gave them the ability to read the signs of the times, and then respond with boldness and faithfulness to the charism received.

With that Wisdom, Mother Bernarda spiritually accompanied the sisters who trusted in her maternal guidance, helping them to have a heart that was free and open to the will of God.

Wisdom inspired her way of being, her style of speaking, her desire to offer everything for a Christian education capable of generating a society based on the values of the Gospel.

The art of educating with Wisdom, especially the marginalized and the disadvantaged, has brought and continues to bring *"that life in abundance"* (Gv 10:10) desired by Jesus, a life that is not based on simple human logic but rather opens to that mysterious logic of God, who knows how to generate life even where there is human limitation and failure.



It is through you, dear sisters and lay people, that this educational art continues to shine even today, especially where with wisdom and courage we do not give up living and announcing the Gospel, despite the obstacles encountered at various levels.

The world today asks us to dare and to generate together new paths of collaboration to *"be pioneers"* of a way of educating and caring deeply, capable of touching human consciences and the lives of the people we meet on our path.

As at the beginning of the Congregation we find ourselves facing *"paths of new life"* that are unknown and waiting to be explored. May our hearts be open to the Wisdom of the Spirit, from which we can draw that inspiration and that necessary energy that the world needs to *"be reborn to a living Hope... an inheritance that can never perish"* (cf. 1 Pt 1:3-4). A Hope that does not *disappoint* (Rm 5:5).

Happy Anniversary!

With joy and gratitude, on behalf of the Congregational Leadership Team

Sr Dorina

Sr Dorina Zanoni
Congregational Leader

Sri Lanka, 16 October 2024

16th October 1844



16th October 2024