



Lent 2018

Dear Sisters,

Once again we begin Lent, "a time of grace and salvation", a path we travel, which calls for conversion, in order to live the joy of Easter.

It is first of all, the time of mercy. It is the time to seek peace, justice and the right of all. Time to trust in God and to make solidarity possible. It is a time to enter the desert, face temptations, and let the Word of God spring up.

It is a time to walk, to return to the first love, to recognize what is new, what is being born; it is a time to hope, to trust, it is a time... to embrace the night, being certain that night is always the prelude to dawn, and there is always a sunrise.

We begin Lent with the rite of the ash, which is not before yesterday, or 2000 years ago, it is a rite that comes from very remote times, and that in the 10th century the Church incorporates it into its sacramental, as a sign that brings us closer to God's salvation.

But, neither the ash, nor the desert, nor fasting, nor abstinence, nor almsgiving, nor prayer must become a magical sign. Everything will be nothing if it does not lead us to live according to the lifestyle that Jesus of Nazareth proposed to us.

What should we do to make our almsgiving become solidarity? How can we make prayer help us feel in tune with the God of Jesus of Nazareth, who travelled the roads of Palestine expressing in concrete ways his union with the Father? How will our fasting, our deprivations be like, so that, beyond fulfilling a religious mandate, it is an austerity that makes us supportive?

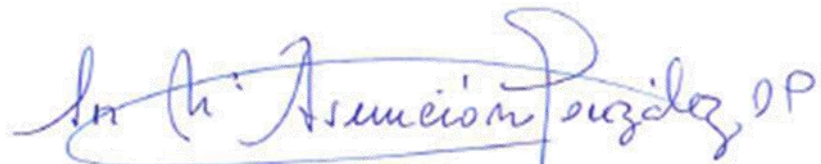
And everything will remain nothing if every step of our walk is not lit with a smile. Christians should manifest the joy of those who know themselves in "the palm of God's hand". What people have had a God who cares about them as a father of his children? Joy is the best way to show that we are a people who believe in the strength of the Good News of Jesus.

It is time to walk, to cross the desert, "the longest road begins with a single step"; at the end of the desert is Jerusalem, the cross, and there, close to Calvary, in a sepulcher to be inaugurated ... the miracle of the resurrection.

Sisters, let's start walking, do not be afraid, we are not alone...

Happy Easter!

A fraternal embrace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sr. Ma. Asunción González, O.P." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Sr. Ma. Asunción González, O.P.
Prioress General