23 January 2022

The Magi travel towards Bethlehem. Their pilgrimage speaks also to us, who are called to journey towards Jesus, for he is the North Star that lights up the sky of life and guides our steps towards true joy. Yet where did the Magi's pilgrimage to encounter Jesus begin? What made these men of the East set out on their journey? (…)

Where did it originate, this spirit of healthy restlessness that led them to set out on their journey? It was born of *desire*. That was their secret: the capacity to desire. Let us think about this. To desire means to fuel the fire that burns within us; it drives us to look beyond what is immediate and visible. To desire means embracing life as a mystery that surpasses us, as an ever-present cranny in the wall that beckons us to look into the distance, since life is not just our here and now, but something much greater. (…)

Brothers and sisters, as it was for the Magi, so it is for us. The journey of life and faith demands a deep desire and inner zeal.

(HOMILY OF POPE FRANCIS, 6 January 2022).

"Her movements aroud the house were becoming fewer, but without giving up the daily visit, that gave her new strength to live. Very slowly leaning on a cane and literally dragging her sick leg, she eventually arrived at a corner of the Choir. She had gotten used to contemplate the Lord from that corner. For a long time, that small window had become for her, the balcony from where she looked at the world.

-Mother – she was asked again-, what do you say to the Lord during all the time you are with Him? (…)- What do I say to Him?, she replied softly-. I say nothing, it's not needed. I just stay there in my corner. I look at the Lord and He looks at me."

(Amar Sempre)

Dear friends of the ACI Family, dear sisters,

Pope Pius XII beatified our foundress on 18 May 1952. She was canonized by Pope Saint Paul VI on 23 January 1977. He said in the homily of the canonization mass:"*This was the goal, this was the ideal so admirably put into practice by the Handamids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Institute to which the foundress gave the charism of the public cult of the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, in an attitude of reparation for the offenses commited against the love of Christ, the apostleship of formation of young girls, preferably the education of the poorest and the maintenance of centres of spirituality, that give people who so wish, the possibility of an encounter with God*."

Let our life be the search for this charism of live faith.

With blessings,

Claudia Iwanica, Isabel Branco, Juan Jairo Lavarde, Silvestra Bardeskar, Vanessa Amarelle,
Sr. Brigit Viji, Sr. Pilar Guzmán, Sr. Maria Vaz Pinto
International Commission of the ACI Family