



IN PREPARATION TO THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2020

O Most Holy Trinity, who reign in heaven, we thank you for the gifts and grace which you bestowed on our Mother St. Jeanne - Antide and we pray you to grant us, through her intercession the graces that we are requesting ...

O Lord, hear our prayer, when we call, answer us

- Grant us a *“creative fidelity”*, that frees us from the temptation of closing up ourselves in our certainties and habits, while opening us up to the culture of encountering the other, the *“the face of Jesus”*.
- Grant us a *chapter*, sprinkled with the charism lymph and capable of looking at the world and at humankind with the courage of our history and with the strength of our current ideas.
- Grant us courageous and humble *chapter Delegates*, who somehow resemble Martha and Mary, so that through their decisions succeed to give voice to the deep aspirations of our Congregation, called into the *“global village of our time”*, to become always more that *“small house of Bethany”* which in the beginning was in rue des Martelots.
- Grant us *Jeanne Antide’s look and heart*, who hastened with her companions to leave that small road in order to tread the paths of the global village to encounter the poor, *“lords and masters”* of her life and the life of each one of us.

OUR FATHER

“Close to Christ, Mary, sums up in her all the joys, she lives the perfect joy of the Church...and rightly, her sons and daughters here, on earth turn to her, mother of hope and grace, the cause of our joy.” (Paul VI)



Hymn to Mary



February 2020

ON A JOURNEY: LET US FEEL GOD’S TENDERNESS

Voice 1 : God’s tenderness... that is a surprising expression, in fact hardly ever we speak of God’s tenderness for humanity...

Voice 2 : the Canticle of Canticles describes the loving attitude towards the loved one ...

In Isaiah we are told of the loving and protecting presence of parents ...

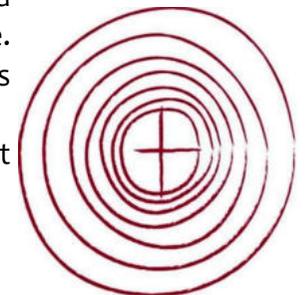
Voice 1 : «God’s tenderness» is pictured also in the Gospel when parents take their children to Jesus so that He may touch, hold and bless them ...

Voice 2 : Tender gestures bring consolation and comfort to those who are humiliated and hopeless ... God’s tenderness is the manifestation of such love and goodness, which brought God close to humanity to love, support and fill people’s life with His presence ...



Hymn or music

Voice 1 : Yes, we have been created out of love, by God, Father and creator, who loves all his creatures, even the least ones. Our Creator entrusted to us a fragile world, which questions our spirit so that we may know how we should direct, cultivate and limit our intelligence. « This love which still needs to develop was entrusted to us and we walk with it towards the fullness of God in which Christ raises, embraces and lifts up everything. »



PSALM 103

Ant: Bless the LORD, my soul!

LORD, my God, you are great indeed!

You are clothed with majesty and splendor,
robed in light as with a cloak.

You spread out the heavens like a tent;
setting the beams of your chambers upon the waters.

You make the clouds your chariot;
traveling on the wings of the wind.

You make the winds your messengers;
flaming fire, your ministers.

They rushed up the mountains, down the valleys
to the place you had fixed for them.

You set a limit they cannot pass;
never again will they cover the earth.

You made springs flow in wadies
that wind among the mountains.

You water the mountains from your chambers;
from the fruit of your labor the earth abounds.

You make the grass grow for the cattle
and plants for people's work

to bring forth food from the earth,
wine to gladden their hearts,

oil to make their faces shine,
and bread to sustain the human heart.



From the Encyclical Laudato Si n. 84

«The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. The history of our friendship with God is always linked to particular places which take on an intensely personal meaning; we all remember places, and revisiting those memories does us much good.»

Gospel of S. Matthew 6 :25-27

«Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?»



Hymn or music

Personal Reflection:

What does the text of St. Matthew tell us who are so anxious about our future and need to feel safe ?

Jeanne Antide invites us to manifest this tenderness of God to the poor (in her Instruction on the Vows).

Jeanne Antide who experienced the mercy of God in her personal life, invites her daughters to manifest the tenderness and goodness of God through their gestures and words.

"Always serve the poor as you would serve Jesus Christ himself, that is with humility, respect, compassion and charity".

Gestures of tenderness and words of mercy are the good news we can bring to our contemporaries who thirst for peace and serenity...



Hymn or music

From the Encyclical Laudato Si' n. 91

A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings... Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.