



**Motto 2022**

***"Love is the beginning and end  
of all things"  
Conferences H, Conference 22***

Dear Sisters and Associates,

In our everchanging world, in which there is joy and sadness, suffering and solace, there is one constant, the God of Love. The call to be touched by grace led us deeper into the heart of God. Ven. Mary Potter reminds us to turn to God as to a Mother whose love so embraces us that we are comforted, challenged and encouraged to let our lives, too, be lives of love (H,22). Why? Because

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of all things.***

A mother's love is generative and creative, a source of life but also a presence with and for, in good times and bad. This is indeed the love God has for all God's people. In this time of global pandemic, our world sorely needs us to remember this teaching of our Foundress.

Ven. Mary Potter did not turn from the reality of suffering that she saw in the world of her time. Indeed, it was through that very reality God called her to shape her Little Company as women willing to be bearers of love to a world in need, that all might find life in God. Just as surely did she call the Greater Company to that same working of love. For Mother, *love is the greatest moving power on earth (H,22).*

Love is a source of life and hope but most importantly, it is the source of compassion. The women of Calvary stand in solidarity with the dying Jesus. Theirs is a compassion born of love for the one who had called them to Love and *(our) place likewise, is in the Heart of Jesus (Mary's Conferences 1)*. We too are to live *in the spirit of the mother-like Shepherd who tells us: I lay down my life for my sheep (M.C.1)*.

In her fiat, Mary of Nazareth, gave life to a Love that changed the world. In her presence on Calvary, she stood witness to outpoured Love, for the sake of the other. Mother knew the world would always need those willing to give all for love, as Jesus did, as Mary did, and called those who follow her spirit to share in the way of the God who is mother, for:

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What is important is the love with which we live.

We have come to see clearly, the need for us to be those who bring Love to the suffering, through our prayer always and, when possible, through our actions. And so, in this coming year, each one is invited to cherish that call and let it shape our actions and responses, as individuals, communities, Region and Province, Associates and as the Congregation, one in heart, that we might offer others life.

Let us use our prayer, our actions and our material resources to embody *a love that draws near (to others) and becomes real. A movement that starts from our heart and reaches the eyes, the ears and the hands (Fratelli Tutti)*. All of us can be the love that draws near to others through the hospitality of our prayer and heart, and the sharing of what we have, as much as our physical presence.

The grace of the God who is Mother, invites us to recognize that we are being led by Love into an even deeper knowing of our call in this moment. We do not know our future. Nor do we need to. Whatever is to be is the will of God. Our need is to be mindful, in every moment of our day, that it is Love who has called us, Love who sustains us and Love who asks us to be as mother for others in their Calvary moments for

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As one in the heart of Mary,



On behalf of Congregational Leadership