



2 December 2021

Closing Mass Homily

Special Chapter 2021

December 2, 2021 will go down in the history of the Society of the Sacred Heart as a new beginning in which you reaffirm that you are one body with different languages, different cultures, different life experiences and social contexts, and one desire: to be faithful to the Spirit.

The first Reading that the liturgy committee has chosen, reminds us of the ideal of the Christian community. An ideal that at times seems to be only an ideal, and at other times invites us to look to the horizon.

According to biblical scholars, chapter 21 of John's Gospel is an appendix. The appendix is something that was not in the original text. It is something added on. Nevertheless, without this add-on, the whole message of the Gospel would not make sense. The Special Chapter is also an addition. Foundational principles have not been discussed, but rather the ways in which those principles are carried out and those ways count, more than we think. This Special Chapter has been a very long process that has included all of the Religious and the family of the Sacred Heart throughout the world. It has been an exercise of synodality: listening, discernment and discoveries, starting from the certainty that the Lord is doing something new in you; and it is already emerging.

Chapter 21 of the Gospel according to Saint John ends with an invitation: "Follow me." The Special Chapter 2021 ends with an invitation: One of looking toward the horizon, trusting in the fidelity of the Spirit. Follow the Spirit: believe with the heart and love with passion and do this with the certainty that the Lord will show you where to cast the nets and the certainty that we will find Him in students and teachers, in the encounters with women, children, youth, migrants, refugees, the landless, and in the encounters we will have with people we do not yet know and situations that will emerge. We will find him in the care of the common home, in the care of the elderly sisters.

From Casa Grande in Guadalajara, a place of wisdom, where Sisters who have dedicated their lives to the Society, continue to actively pray for the world and its needs, we have done an exercise of sharing. This homily that closes the Chapter is this exercise in which three consecrated women and a consecrated man from another congregation stand together to give thanks to God because the work of St. Madeleine Sophie continues to make all things new and inspire her daughters to be Artisans of Hope.

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