



Presentation **COMMITMENTS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW**

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“EPHATA! This word, with which we were convoked to the Assemblies, has reached the ends of the earth, crossed continents and made a stop in the heart of every Daughter of Charity.

Opening our ears to listen to the Lord and welcoming the full force of the storm of the Spirit open us to the desire to go to the peripheries in order to serve those who are poor and denounce the violation of their rights, to collaboration as instruments of God in the care of creation, open us to a joyful spirituality of communion, to universal fraternity and to the passionate transmission of the Gospel.

Preparing this synthesis meant bringing together the heartbeat of the whole Company in relation to the four challenges studied, challenges with a universal scope and great relevance that call us to go beyond all borders:

- ◆ Human rights and holistic development for those most abandoned in society
- ◆ Care for our “common home”
- ◆ The mystique of “living together”
- ◆ Passing on the faith and Christian values to younger generations.

In the synthesis for each challenge, you will find:

- ◆ A brief introduction presenting the general idea.
- ◆ Provinces’ contributions organized by theme under titles, which will help you to go deeper in your reflection.

We tried to carefully include the underlying ideas expressed in the responses, bringing together similar expressions and keeping separate others with significant nuances.

In doing this work, we also noted many convergences related to the essential convictions of our life.

In what concerns the section “Other challenges for the Company as a whole,” many commitments submitted were already included in the previous challenges. Those that we culled are divided into two major categories: “Life of the Company” and “Mission.”

During your discussions, we invite you to rejoice at the courage that the different Provinces expressed in committing to meet these challenges. The Holy Spirit’s presence will help you to strive to face them with confidence and openness.

*“... then Jesus looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him,
‘EPHATA’ (that is, ‘Be opened!’).*

*And immediately the man’s ears were opened,
his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.”*

(Mk 7:34-35)