

Message for the 50th Year of our Mission in Australia

On the occasion of the 50th year of our presence in Australia, my thoughts go to the first Sisters who, with great spirit of faith and zeal, said their yes to the Lord of the harvest calling them through obedience. Fifty years ago, the trip by sea was long, very long towards an almost unknown land. It was a true adventure of the Spirit, done by people with love for God and animated by the zeal of the Rogate. They were simple Sisters but fully aware that, stronger than the danger, was the love of the spouse calling them there to plant the seed of his command “Rogate”, so that it would become a flourishing tree, rich with lasting fruits.

From the history of our annals we know that in the beginning it was not an easy mission—nothing was clear and precise. The only certainty was the answer of God’s sure design of calling us to be at the side of so many Italian immigrants who were alone and in difficulty—especially the children, orphans and neglected ones. In the course of the years, our mission followed the evolution of the social and political conditions of the country. Yet our mandate was the same: to be God’s witnesses, with incontestable faith, hope and charity that become visible in the holiness of a life totally offered; to be the light that shines in the darkness of a society marked by laicism without direction, and to stir up evangelical labourers for the immense harvest of the Australian land.

This 50th anniversary gives us an opportunity to thank the Lord with grateful hearts for having given us the graces to carry out our mission for such a significant time. It is also a challenge to continue to be present with more awareness so as to welcome, love and be oriented towards life and its commitment, with the help of God and the support of the local Church and of the many brothers and sisters that collaborate with us.

I bless you all in Christ Jesus



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