



CONGREGAZIONE
PER GLI ISTITUTI DI VITA CONSACRATA
E LE SOCIETÀ DI VITA APOSTOLICA

Vatican City, February 2, 2009

Prot. n. 16805/2008

Dear Superior General,

as Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life I wish to inform you of an Apostolic Visitation of the Generalates, Provincialates and Centers of Initial Formation of the principal Religious Institutes of Women in the United States of America. With the faculties granted to me by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, I have appointed as Apostolic Visitor, Mother *Mary Clare MILLEA*, A.S.C.J., Superior General of the *Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus*.

The purpose of this Visitation is to look into the quality of the life of apostolic Congregations of women religious in the United States. The Visitation will be carried out in three phases. The first phase is an invitation for Superiors General whose Congregations have Generalates, Provincialates or Centers of Initial Formation in the United States to dialogue directly with Mother Clare; the second phase is the completion of a comprehensive survey of basic information by Major Superiors in the United States; the third phase is an on-site visitation to various Congregations. I have authorized the creation of a website, www.apostolicvisitation.org, to communicate basic information about the Visitation to interested parties.

By my request, at the end of the Visitation Mother Clare Millea will send me a confidential report regarding each Institute that is surveyed and/or visited. I have also asked that she produce a composite report on the quality of women's apostolic religious life in the United States, based on the results of the three phases of the Visitation.

In the first phase, which begins immediately, you are invited and encouraged to communicate with the Apostolic Visitor regarding your observations and hopes for your Sisters in the United States. This exchange may

be made by letter, by phone or by a personal meeting with her, either in Rome or in the United States.

You may send your written observations to Mother Clare Millea at the following address:

Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Generalate
Via Germano Sommeiller, 38
00185 Rome, Italy

If you wish to make a personal or telephone appointment with her, please contact:

Sr. Mary Grace Giaimo, A.S.C.J.
Phone: 011-3906-7049-1648
Email: usvisitation@gmail.com

It is projected that this first phase of the Visitation, personal communication with Mother Clare Millea, will be completed by July 31, 2009.

I assure you of my esteem and gratitude for the great contribution of women religious to the Catholic faith life in the United States of America and I ask your prayers and active participation in this endeavor.



Franc Card. Rodé, C.M.
Prefect