



2014 CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR CONTEMPLATIVE SISTERS



August 8-21 Quito, Ecuador

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CLOSING MESSAGE



During these days, we have seen the face of God. We who live on this earth are living icons of God's love. Together, we experienced this love. Together we have revered God. We have made a difference! We have made a difference by looking more deeply at how you, my dear contemplative sisters, position yourselves as contemplatives in an apostolic congregation. You have expressed a strong, clear identity in which you are comfortable.

Article One is no longer new to us! Yes, we have made a difference - just like the butterfly when she flaps her wings - our actions during this Assembly have likewise impacted our congregation and the universe.

There have been many opportunities to reflect on the essential elements. To do so, we used the Appreciative Process and Sacred Space. We returned to our sources through drama and by studying the revised draft of the prologue to our Constitutions. We have delved into eco-spirituality. We have inspirational quotes from St. John Eudes and St. Mary Euphrasia which reflect their closeness to creation. Our guest speakers encouraged us to be one with the universe and see that every move we make affects our world. We have connected justice issues such as the plight of women and children, horrors of war, disregard for the earth, etc., as fuel for our apostolic incarnational prayer. The scriptures have energized us!

You have elected contemplative delegates to the Congregational Chapter. They will bring the news of our work to the Intercontinental Assemblies and the Congregational Chapter. Our regional and international bonds have been strengthened. With your Unit Leaders and contemplative councils, you have a clear direction statement to live out during the next six years.

Our work here is complete. To all who have participated in this Assembly, to all who have assisted through committee work and supportive services, especially to Sr. Janice Rushman, our Facilitator, and to Sr. Clemencia and the Province of Ecuador, I offer thanks. As we now prepare to share our experience as living icons of the face of God whom we came to love more profoundly, I officially close the 2014 Congregational Assembly of Contemplative Sisters.

Sr. Brigid Lawlor
Congregational Leader