

August 22, 2009

A letter from Mother Cabrini and Mary Euphrasia to Cabrini Missioners and Good Shepherd Volunteers*

My dear daughters and sons,

How consoling it is to be all together today! How happy we are to have you around us, to see the warm charity, the peace and the spirit of union which reign among us. We dare to say how fortunate we are to be living in these times, co-operators with Christ in his divine work, daily overwhelmed with God's benefits.

Today you begin your mission as Cabrini Missioners and Good Shepherd Volunteers. You are bearers of the love of Christ in the world, extending the mercies of God to children in foster care, to immigrants, to teenagers and young adults who cannot live in their own homes, to women and children victimized by domestic violence, to students with special needs, to elders, and to women and families in foreign lands whom you have never met but whose very life depends on you.

The needs of our global community cry out for our attention and demand our response. Let us, then, set to work with energy without losing a moment, ablaze with the love of God. Let us place all our anxieties in God for we know that the good God bends down over the weak who have confidence in God and who keep striving.

Remember to keep alive within you that courage which makes you long to undertake great works which others would consider it folly to attempt, great works that take their rise in the midst of all sorts of trials and labors. Raise yourself on the wings of trust in God because with God you can do all things. Fly like doves, rejoicing every day that the everlasting arms of God are around you.

We anticipate great things. We cannot explain to you but there is something divine taking place in our mission... Something extraordinary. Our work is God's work and God will protect it.

There were those who wanted to contain our dreams... but we would not be restrained. There was a fire in our hearts placed there by Jesus and, like Jesus, we had an unquenchable desire to reach out to every person, even to the farthest corners of the earth, telling them the Good News of God's love for them. We did nothing great, we had no great talents... we only loved, but we loved with all the strength of our souls.

Beloved daughters and sons, all our hopes are founded in you. It is our holy institutes, sacred, precious jewels confided to you, that you carry in your arms, in your person. Never worry about your faults and failures - fear is not made for you. What have we to fear if the Heart of Jesus protects us? The One who called you will inspire you, will secretly strengthen you and pour out on you an abundance of new graces. God who is love desires to do infinitely more than we can ever ask or imagine!

I know with all my heart that our Good Shepherd does not want even one of God's children to be lost in the chaos of the times so trust God to give you the grace you need and then, with wisdom, courage and strength go forth empowered by God.

I would that all we have just said were written in letters of gold. It is your portion, your inheritance. Let its remembrance be your consolation and your hope.

*In the Sacred Heart of our Shepherd Jesus,
Mother Cabrini and Mary Euphrasia*



* Compiled by Sr. Judy Mannix, RGS