

Santo Domingo de Guzmán 2018



My dear Sisters:

The feast of our Father St. Dominic is fast approaching. Once again let us reflect together on his compassion and our compassion.

Dominic, in his experience of God, through prayer and contact with men, understands the authenticity of God and asks insistently for himself even from his youth, long before founding the Order. Jordan of Saxony, his first biographer transmits it thus: "He often made a special plea to God: to grant him true charity (another name of mercy) to care with interest and to ensure the salvation of men. He thought that he would only begin to be truly a member of Christ, when he puts all his efforts into wearing himself out to win mankind, just as the Lord gave himself totally for our salvation."

"Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate." (Mt 5,48). St. Dominic clearly understood these words of Jesus, the Master. "Com-Pasiòn" means to have a shared passion with someone. What hurts the other, hurts me.

In the same way, one of his biographers, Pedro Fernández, tells us: "Compassion grew in him so that he concentrated on himself the miseries of others, to the point that he could not contemplate any affliction without participating in it." Being a student in Palencia, there was a famine so great that many went hungry. When contemplating on so much misery and need, spurred by the prevailing need, he decided to do something that, fulfilling the Gospel, would help to remedy the situation of those most affected. He sold his books, which he so badly needed, and all his belongings in order to hand over to the poor. His example captivated the nobles, the rich and the teachers. Since then the alms were lavished especially of those who, seeing the generosity of the young man, broke with the mediocrity of their stinginess. In fact, compassion was a characteristic of the whole life of St. Dominic and at the same time a response of mercy for the world.

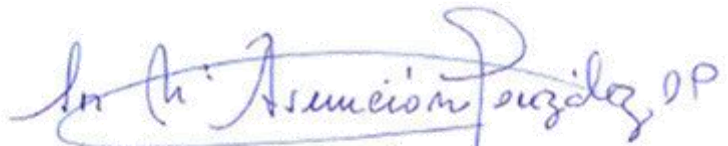
Dominic saw the urgent need for the mercy of the truth. It is true that, sometimes, the most urgent thing is to feed the hungry, to give work to the unemployed, a home to the emigrant, but God, the most necessary, should be present. Without him nothing is worthwhile. To know who I am, for what and for whom I am in the world. We are

all children of God, but it is necessary to know it, to cultivate that relationship, to live in it and of it. To live as orphans of God, without enjoying it, without a sense of family with him and with all men, changes life. It makes life bitter and frequently deprives us of meaning and joy. From this experience of the Father and this demand to be his children and brothers to one another, spring up an authentic truth, the struggle for justice and peace, against marginalization, exclusion and despair. The one who is not merciful is one who has not known nor will be able to reach the mercy of God.

Sisters, las misioneras de Sto. Domingo, we do not have another message, another truth to communicate, but the gift of God and we will do it as Dominic did. We have felt the thirst for God. Together we have sought him in the Scriptures, in the newspapers, in prayer and in our relationship with men. We offered him as gift to all whom we encounter on our way and those whom we will look for where they are. We will give not what is extra but we will share what everybody needs. We will share the best.

Happy feast of St. Dominic!

A fraternal embrace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sr. Ma. Asunción González, O.P." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative flourish at the end.

Sr. Ma. Asunción González, O.P.
Prioress General