I invite the Congregation to pray on the reality of

‘Change, Transition, Restructuring, Sainthood and Resurrection’

I hope these words, concepts may be starters for your own reflection, dialogue, and prayer. Think for a moment! What is your experience of these realities?

In the Direction Statement of the 28th General Chapter we committed ourselves to ‘Dare to be open and creative in restructuring the congregation, to search for more flexible structures adapted to our realities and the cry of the poor.’ Personal transformation is the issue here. Only to the extent that each of us is open to change and transition can restructuring and sainthood become a reality.

**Change** - I have changed my residence and my ministry and my community from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to New York USA.

A physical change but what are the other processes and dynamics going on at the same time …? Emotional, psychological, relational and spiritual! While it is a process of letting go – it is not letting go into nothingness but passing through so as to build anew with new persons, in new situations, in new networks about the same issue of ‘fullness of life for each and every person’ at ever deeper levels. “One person is of more value than the world” (St Mary Euphrasia)

**Transition** - From one thing to another – indicates movement as opposed to being stagnant. Movement from – movement towards – in my case movement from tackling poverty among the women and children of Kebele 04 in Addis Ababa to now tackling the same reality at a policy level at the UN through our congregational NGO consultative status with UN ECOSOC.
Restructuring – this is a word that we are sort of familiar with over the past few years. Units are restructuring, the congregation is restructuring, the NGO office has restructured – new personnel, inclusion of Justice and Peace Solidarity office from Rome – all indicates newness, change of structure, change in the way of ‘being’.

Sainthood – that too is change – a process – a movement into the fullness of God’s Love. We think of St Mary Euphrasia and her feast on April 24 when we celebrate her sainthood. A woman who said ‘As for me I no longer want to be called French! I am Italian, English, German, Spanish, American, African, Indian…I belong to every country where there are souls to save.’ (Conferences p 63) She lived this by sending her sisters to every corner of the earth.

Today we are challenged in the age of globalization to live the same reality by participating fully in the UN Structures – Internationally and Regionally.

The Charter of the United Nations begins with “We the people of the United Nations determine…” There are 192 member states. You are a part of the United Nations. What voice do you have? – a voice for women, a voice of peace, a voice for the girl child, a voice for the environment, a voice for the poor?

Is there more you can do? Locally, nationally, internationally.

Resurrection – Easter – we are in the Paschal season celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead – a resurrection incorporating all of the above words and voices – giving a faith dimension to them – ‘the Kingdom already and not yet…’ Believing and acting in the new reality.

“To achieve this we need the courage, the boldness and the zeal of St Mary Euphrasia, so that we may be transformed and in turn transform our structures to be irrevocably at the service of the mission.” (Direction Statement 28th General Chapter)

I invite you to reflect on the changes you are experiencing – personal, ministerial, relational, congregational and structural? Consider sharing in communal prayer.

How are you changing?
Are you in transition?
What are you contributing to restructuring?
Are you on the way to sainthood?
How are you engaging with and living resurrection?