

We want to give to you, the anonymous woman of the Gospel of Luke 15, 8-10, who is searching tirelessly, a name today: *Sister of Divine Providence!*

During a whole year, as well as in other moments of our life, we were reflecting in your attitudes, you a:

Woman – who is a symbol of God's Kingdom

Woman – who is light

Woman – who lives authentically

Woman – who takes initiative

Woman – who keeps searching

Woman – who is looking for encounter

Woman – who is celebrating!

Like you, we have inherited a gift, a treasure which needs to be used for the benefit of life. We are heirs of an incomparably rich and fertile Charisma:

**„Sent by Jesus Christ,  
we must be witnesses to all people, especially to the poor,  
of Christian hope and the love of the Father“.** (Const. No. 1)

Throughout our whole life - 175 years - we have given us gladly and generously - just like you- to radiate this gift, as missionary disciples, living in the 190 communities of the congregation. Like you, we thank the God of life, who calls and sends us, who prepares a happy future for us and shows us the true direction.

Like you, we live in a world that is looking to regain lost values. We all, the society, the family, the Church, the social organizations, religious life recognize - in humility and truth - we need and want ***the merciful embrace of God and the people.***

Dear Sisters in all the communities of our congregation that celebrate its anniversaries!

We invite you to look at the image of this card. Cláudio Pastro, the artist who created this image, used to say: ***"for the artist of sacred works, the image has no psychology, but it is reality, essence and power. There is nothing to analyze or to understand. It is simply an invitation to become still, to meditate and to pray. The sacred work artist does not paint landscape or figures. The image indicates simply the presence of the meditated mystery".***

May the word of God be like a ***'double-edged sword'*** (see Heb 4, 12) penetrating the depths of our being as a Providence Sister: ***"Or if a woman has ten drachmas and loses one, does she then not light a lamp, sweeps the house and searches tirelessly, until she finds the coin? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says: rejoice with me; I have found the Drachma, which I had lost. I tell you: in the same way there also is joy by God's angels over one sinner who repents".*** (Lk 15, 8-10).

Dear Sisters!

May our anniversary celebration be marked by the joy of an encounter between friends, neighbours and between the angels of God! May our embrace reach each one of you, in one hand the burning lamp and in the other carrying the cross of Christ, because they show us the way to the encounter with the fundamental value of our life – we are a sign of God's Providence, today! We want to be merciful as the God of Providence!

Congratulation to our Foundation-Day! May this Festival be marked by joy and gratitude!

To each one of you a warm embrace from your fellow-sisters (General coordination)