

**DAY OF MEETING OF COORDINATORS OF ASSOCIATES AT
THE CONFERRE
(Conference of Major Religious Superiors in CHILE)
Saturday, May 11, 2019**

***Theme of the meeting: 'Being Associates
of the Charism of a Congregation'***

- Three sisters: Sisters Nelly, Maria Elena and Emma,
- Four Lay coordinators of the Associates of the Congregation: Eva, Marcela, Ana and Lucia, represented our Congregation on that day.

Ana Rojas, Associate of the Santa Cristina group



A "Charism": what is it?

Charisms are gifts of the Holy Spirit, to be shared for the benefit and use of all God's people throughout history.

The challenge is to renew ourselves and build a Church that testifies to God's Love in today's world.

As Associates of the Sisters of Christ, let us value the journey we have made since the beginning, drawing inspiration from the inexhaustible source of life: the witness of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us recognize, in the history of the Congregation, the living action of the Holy Spirit who calls us to *"be artisans of unity in a world in crisis and division"* and to *'gather all things together under Christ'*.

- Let us understand the greatness of Creation and God's call to care for all that exists.
- Let us understand that we are all participants and co-responsible, each bringing the best of herself/himself: lay/religious. It is a commitment in solidarity for which everyone is nourished by prayer, in order to live the Gospel and spread Love and divine Mercy in the many tasks of daily life. This path requires constant support and up-to-date training.

Our common task is the creation of a new culture of encounter: with God, in silence, in contemplation, and with others, in mutual respect, in forgiveness, in reconciliation, in responsible work with others, being true to the world and to communion in the Church: so that "all may be One".

Lucia Pinilla, Providence Group Partner

*What are the links that unite us in the Congregation,
as a "family" living the same Charism?*

The link: is the way we relate to our charism, to the founding event, and how we meet each other.

What is our identity? To live, with all that we are, a stimulating, dynamic relationship between religious and lay people.

The source of *the Charism* is the foundresses and we are called to live the charism as a blood family: by welcoming and helping those in need, by being 'bridges' between people who are living in compromising situations...

Relationships have always been fundamental, yesterday and today. It is important to create space for relationships, so that they are not broken. This is everyone's task and that is why everyone is important. We must always return to our charism, to find what needs to be done, how to do it, how to confront each other, without ever forgetting that diversity is wealth.

We must recognize the giftedness of the laity who are called to share the Charism and to put all their individual gifts at the service of all.

How can we put our gifts at the service of all and of the Church?

- Creativity is lived from our charisms
- To foster human relationships, members need others to help them to grow and to discover their true identity and to be strong in their attitude to service.
- To develop co-responsibility, to promote common projects and a spirituality that involves everyone in the future of the Congregation.
- To assess the progress made: what have been the most significant achievements in building our charismatic family?
- The importance of "living" relationships within the people of God; briefly, we are not a diplomatic representation - our presence is prophetic. To be a prophet is to proclaim the Good News. We are not an elite people. We are charismatic families, who are part of the common mission.
- Our perspective is a Church of Communion, without forgetting that communion is already achieved by and in Christ. Let us keep the balance between going forward, prayer and discernment to focus our direction on this road. Let us do everything we can to ensure that our eyes are always fixed on JESUS.

Keep in mind that other people are living this same Charism in other countries.





Marcela, Lucia, Sr María Elena, Eva, Sr Emma, Sr Nelly, Anita



Ana Roias



Lucia Pinilla



Srs Nelly et María Elena



Marcela Lemus