

The legacy of Mary of Providence guides our fidelity and is the basis of our unity

The Helper Family, made up of the Helpers, the Fraternity of Secular Helpers, the Associates and the Friends and Companions of the Helpers, identifies itself in the founding inspiration of Mary of Providence, placed in the Ignatian spiritual tradition, an inspiration which she wanted to live and witness in the world and in the Church.

Throughout her life, Mary of Providence sought to be *“the Providence of Providence”*, turning by preference towards the poorest, *“those who are forgotten”*.

Animated by a spirit of universal charity which did not stop with this life, but crossed the threshold of death, she wanted *“to help all of humanity reach the goal of their creation”* through prayer, suffering and action.

This desire took shape as a commitment at the service of *“the most deprived of this world and the next...”*, a commitment which expressed itself in the invitation *“to go from the depths of Purgatory to the utmost limits of the earth”* and *“to help in all manner of good.”*

This commitment, which witnesses to the particular way in which the Helper Family wants to follow Christ in his paschal mystery, inspires the whole of our life *“In the communion of the whole Church”*, the members of the Helper Family try *“to consecrate themselves unreservedly for the greater glory of God, to the work of deliverance which Jesus Christ accomplishes in those who, passing through life and death, are on the way of purification”* (Constitutions 12).

Whatever be our state in life and the organisation of the group to which we belong, we live from the same founding inspiration of Mary of Providence.

1. In the places where we live we want to help those around us to meet the Risen Christ and in this way realise the fullness of their humanity.
2. Seized by God's love, we commit ourselves to respond to this, by going “right to the end” of its demands from us: *“To help all of humanity reach the goal of their creation”*. We are aware of our limitations and await all from God in an attitude of abandonment and trust.
3. Through our human solidarities we want to witness to the hope which is rooted in the mystery of Jesus who died and rose again.
4. In the Communion of Saints, we join with those who suffer, with those who are most deprived, in order to accompany them right up to the final meeting with the Father. With them, and wanting to go right to the end, we offer our patience, our sufferings. We allow ourselves to be purified.
5. We want to proclaim in truth that God is Father, by working to establish between us and with all, relationships of friendship and mutual respect so that this be recognised as an absolute value for all human beings, especially the poor and despised.



This legacy of Mary of Providence guides our fidelity and is the basis of our unity. It helps us to live our mission as baptised people and *“to live this richness in a creative response to the needs of our times”*. (Constitutions 14)

The Institute of the Helpers receives with gratitude the diversity of forms which continue to give shape to this legacy. It encourages actively the different members of the Helpers family:

- To provide support and mutual encouragement,
- To weave together all kinds of links and sharing especially at local and province level,
- To find renewed expressions of the founding inspiration in order to respond in a better way to the spiritual thirst of our contemporaries,
- To share widely the gift received from Mary of Providence at the heart of the world and the Church.
- It also invites each group of Companions of the Helpers to see whether the group desires to give itself some kind of “rule of life” and if this is so, to communicate this to the superior general of the Institute who recognises and ratifies this belonging to the Helper Family.