

Turin, 1 January 2020
Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Dear sisters and dear brothers of the Cottolengo Charismatic Family,

While the heart of us, members of the Cottolengo Family, are still overflowing with gratitude to God the Father for the year that has ended, full of graces and benefits, all gift of Divine Providence, our hearts welcome the New Year 2020 with hope, trust, joy and peace! Deo gratias!

Today, the first day of the year and the solemnity of the Mother of God, is the day to amaze us before her, the Mother of God and our Mother, who generated the Lord and who generates us to the Lord. Mary is the Mother who regenerates in us, daughters and sons of God the Father, the wonder of faith in her Son Jesus.

Let us welcome the mystery of the Mother of God, and all through this new year "from Her, let us allow ourselves to be gazed upon, to be embraced, to be taken by the hand" (cf Papa Francesco, Omelia, 1-1-2019).

Let us allow ourselves to be gazed upon! It is beautiful to let Mary gaze upon us, she sees in us not limits and shadows but daughters and sons. This maternal gaze instills confidence, helps us to grow in faith, heals our miseries, makes us feel loved and reminds us that tenderness is essential for faith.

Together, we ask the Mother of God to teach us her gaze of tenderness about life, to guide us always to have a

maternal gaze among ourselves and towards everyone. Without a motherly gaze we will live in the same home but not as sisters and brothers, we will serve the poor but we will no longer be able to see sons and daughters in them.

Let us allow ourselves to be embraced! The Mother of God took everything to heart, she embraced everything, events both good and bad, and she pondered all these things; she brought them before God. In the same way she cared about the life of each one of us, she wanted to embrace all our situations and present them to God.

Together, let us allow the Mother of God to embrace our life, she is a cure for solitude and dispersion, she is the Mother of consolation, she stands "with" those who are "alone", she knows that words are not enough to console, presence is needed, and she is present with us as a mother always.

Let us allow ourselves to be taken by the hand! Mary takes us by the hand as daughters and sons and introduces us with love into the life of her Son Jesus, without letting us lose our way she leads us on the paths of good, without letting us get lost she brings back unity and peace within us and between us.

Together, let us welcome the Mother of God into our lives, we need her safe and loving guidance to walk in true evangelical freedom and to educate us in compassion and mercy, we need to learn from her, Mother of God and our Mother, that heroism is shown in self-giving, strength in compassion, wisdom in meekness.

The Little House, like the Church, is a mother and the life of the Cottolenghina Family is established on motherhood, fruitful of life and humanizing relationships, generating evangelical joy and an atmosphere of home. A home inhabited by God and the human family, where unity counts more than diversity, where the last and the rejected are the first and the treasures, where everyone cares for one another as brothers and sisters. Forward in Domino all year round! And the kingdom of God, the society of Love, is already here among us in this time and in the flowing of our history!

Deo gratias for the many prayers with which I felt embraced, especially today, I also pray for you all, daughters and sons of the Little House, asking the Mother of God to take you by the hand and hold you under her mother's gaze so that you can always find a refuge in her protection! Happy New Year, best wishes of many blessings in the light of the Holy Spirit, I fraternally greet you, in Domino,

Mother Elda

