

Talk given by Sister Catherine Ferguson, Superior General,
to the Sisters of Maison Jésus-Marie,
on the occasion of the “World Day of Prayer for the Sick”, February 11, 2012

I feel privileged to be with you today for the “Day of the Sick” which is also so close to Saint Valentine’s Day.

For me and the rest of the Congregational Leadership Team, you are truly the strength of our community. I imagine that you can guess why I am saying this. Certainly, it is not a matter of physical strength. I have a friend in the Congregation who tells me that the golden age is not golden.

But I call you the strength of the Congregation because your prayers are necessary for all of us, and especially for people who have accepted a leadership role – whether it be at the Congregational level – or at the Provincial level, to guide our decisions, to follow and to carry out the will of God for the Congregation.

In this respect, I would like to make a request, as individuals and also as groups, that of praying for three very important gifts.

We know that Mother Marie-Rose and the first Sisters of our Congregation were marvellous in responding to the needs of their era. We also know that today’s needs are not the same as those of their time. It is time for us now to act according to the gospel.

As the Congregational Leadership Team, we have received a mandate in our Chapter Acts but we see too many possibilities to be achieved. Today, we are living in a globalized world, a globalization in which more than two thirds of the inhabitants are living in poverty. This means that we must work so that each person is able to reach their full human development.

So, **the first** gift for which I want you to ask God and Mother Marie-Rose in prayer, is the gift for us, as leaders of the Congregation, to choose well the actions which are currently most necessary for our world and especially for Quebec, but also for the rest of the Congregation.

The second is linked to the first – it is to have the will and the courage to take the necessary steps to put them in place. And **the third** is to have the wisdom to put them in place with effectiveness and love. To do all these things, I believe it is necessary to identify the people with whom we can work, whether they are from outside the Congregation, or inside. I count on your prayers – you who are the strength of the

Congregation, so that we are able to identify these people and be assured that they will respond to the call to collaborate with us and to live in interdependence for a more just world.

I wish you a “Day of the Sick” which brings healing and also a Happy Saint Valentine’s Day so that we may have a great love for the people of God who are near and far away.

Thank you very much...I hope, in time, to be able to visit each one of you.