

Dear Sisters,

We have lived together through this time of the pandemic and we are hopefully beginning to see on the horizon, the end of the pandemic. Unfortunately, we are also painfully aware that in many countries the vaccines are still not available for most people, creating great difficulty.

The pandemic has profoundly affected our families, the communities in which we live and many people we have never met. It has radically changed us too. Our lives are very different now, and what we have learned above all is that we all are deeply interconnected.

For the Assembly – which takes place from May to July 2022 – we the members of the UISG Executive Council, are proposing the following theme to the Superior Generals "Embracing vulnerability on the Synodal journey."

I want to share with you the meaning behind the words that we have chosen: "EMBRACE" means welcoming with tenderness our world reality as it is; we are close to the wounds of humanity and we want to make them our own. We start from this place of closeness without confrontation. "Embracing" involves listening to what the members of our congregations and the many people affected by this pandemic are feeling, in order to be reborn deeply as sisters and brothers.

"VULNERABILITY" is an aspect shared by all of us as women religious. This is a part of ourselves that we want to embrace in order to discover our limitations even as consecrated women. We are vulnerable and fragile people without exceptions. We need each other. We keep in mind the paradox of fragility – when we welcome it, we become stronger.

"JOURNEY" as a path, walking with each one of us at her own pace, described in her own words.

Life is a synergistic movement to be lived in community. We promote a path where it is possible for everyone to participate and be part of a larger common project.

"SYNODAL" both as a way and a horizon of being Church: a vision, a pedagogy that makes us an ecclesial community at the service of the proclamation of the Gospel that includes everyone, even those who are far away.

As religious we want to be part of this journey of the Church, taking special care of nurturing communion in which Christ is at the centre as the way, truth and life.

Dear Superior Generals, we look forward to seeing you online in March, as we walk together, embracing vulnerability – our own, as well as the vulnerability of the others.