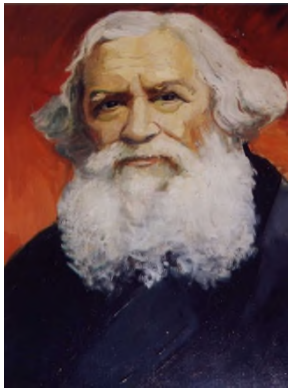


AUGUSTINE PLANQUE

***Witness
of Gospel culture***



1826 - 1907

**Missionary Sisters of
Our Lady of Apostles**

Introduction

By means of this booklet; I have tried to rediscover the “threads” that link all of us as the family of Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles; “consecrated for the mission of evangelization”. In this 3rd millennium, we are following in our way, the mission entrusted to the Apostles by the Risen Christ. Throughout his life our Founder lived the Gospel Culture and passed on to us his passion for mission. For him as for us, we encounter this Gospel Culture in the place where we were born and where we grew up. In saying this we recognize that each person is grounded in one’s own culture, in a given geographical place, family, ancestors, one’s own people... so as to leave the known frontiers in order to feel part of the human family and of the whole of Creation; awaiting liberation.

When we look at this booklet; let us allow ourselves be questioned or challenged by the different emphases of Augustine Planque’s witness; showing his way of life and transmitting the Gospel Culture. Let us recognize the threads that connect each one of us with the mission we are called to pursue in this 3rd millennium.

In order to witness to the Gospel Culture, we have to enter a continual process of conversion and transformation, centering our life on the Person of Christ. For Fr. Planque, the “pathway is made in walking” but it begins with our relationship with God and leads us into relationship with others. Mission is “to know and love God in order to make God known and loved.” We must pursue the mission of Jesus who came to bring the Good news of salvation to the whole world: It is this mission that makes Him our envoy (One who is sent). It is the same mission that makes us witnesses: witness by word and example are inseparable.

This booklet is meant to help us to own and to deepen the theme of Gospel Culture. I propose that we do this by following the example of special witnesses. First of all we look at our Founder, Augustine Planque and at the same time, Mary the

Mother of Jesus totally given to the Spirit, the women apostles, the Easter women and those after Pentecost, the friends of Jesus - Martha, Mary, His apostles, Peter, Paul, Matthew, Thomas, Priscilla and Aquila... it would be good to identify the those who are close to one's own experience. This should help each person to enter into this Gospel Culture and to encounter Jesus on the road.

Presentation

The following aspects of Gospel Culture are shown in the life of Fr. Planque:

- 1. Rooted in Faith in the Living God***
- 2. Welcoming the will of God and placing complete trust in Him***
- 3. Live in simplicity: humility and passion for mission***
- 4. Be aware of the human in oneself and in others: patience and kindness – forgiveness and non violence***
- 5. Following the inspiration of the Spirit***
- 6. Living mission in intercultural Community***
- 7. Openness – Witness – Transmit : mission continues!***

METHOD

Each aspect or stress is developed as follows:

- ❖ Brief presentation
- ❖ Words of Fr. Planque
- ❖ Word of God
- ❖ Reality of OLA
- ❖ Personal Reflection to help in making them our own followed by sharing.

1. ROOTED IN FAITH IN THE LIVING GOD

In her book “**The faith and audacity of an apostle**”, Sr. Claude-Marie Echali er speaks to us about the faith of our Founder as she understood it through her life study of his numerous letters and other writings. His faith was rooted in the Living God.

Augustine received the gift of faith from the very beginning of his life.

His faith was as constant as his breathing.

It was a living faith – lived out each day. He learned to discern the “signs” from God in every event be it success or failure.

His faith was translated into concrete actions: A lively faith was the only response to his desire for mission, shown and lived in his works. The example of the Apostles and the Saints served to comfort him in his conviction. Without his unshakeable faith, nothing would have been started in his life; his extraordinary actions could not have continued, were he not firmly grounded in unlimited trust in God; present in his life and in the deep conviction that God would never abandon him. Augustine’s faith was first of all that of the Apostles, Peter, Andrew, John and the others, rooted in Jesus Christ...a burning faith that could not be contained within the confines of his diocese in the north of France.

Words of Fr. Planque

- ❖ *Just as the nature of fire is to flare up, so the nature of faith is to inspire action.*
- ❖ *What is important is to bring a practical faith into all your exercises and into all your activities: (1861)*
- ❖ *May faith be the beginning and the end of all your actions! (18. 07. 1862)*

- ❖ *I can do all things in Him who strengthens me, not by myself, but by the grace of God, working together with the Lord. (Conference 16.12.1895)*
- ❖ *Do not be afraid because you too can do all things with faith. Above all stay firm in the faith. God is faithful and our faith rests on the unshakeable rock of Divine Truth.*

The Word of God

“O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish”. And her daughter was healed fro, that hour. (Mt: 15, 28)

“I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might remain in darkness”. (Jn. 12, 46)

“The point of all our toiling and battling is that we have put our trust in God and He is the Saviour of the whole human race. (1 Tim. 4; 10)

“I am the Resurrection and the Life; anyone who believes in me, even if he dies, he will live.” (Jn.11:25)

OLA Reality

The Proclamation of the Gospel is made primarily **through the witness of our personal faith in Jesus Christ. If we believe in the Word of the Lord, and receive it as a transforming force in our lives,** we already manifest before others the living presence of **the One we wish to proclaim.** (Const. 15)

Proclamation of the Gospel requires **a living faith. Strengthened by the Word of God and by the Eucharist,** our faith develops through constant **promptings of the Spirit and events of daily life.** Thus rooted in faith, **and like Christ seeking to do the will of the Father,** we carry out together the mission of the Church entrusted to the Institute. (Const. 8)

2. WELCOMING THE WILL OF GOD AND PLACING COMPLETE TRUST IN HIM

The will of God, so dear to Augustine, is manifested in a concrete way through human mediation. For Augustine a confident faith is not shown only when suffering disappears and everything is easy. He lives this trust as a kind of call for help in the time of distress. Fr. Planque lives the assurance that God is always present in his life. Thus, nothing is lost, nothing is irreparable. Despite the poverty of his means and aware of his weakness, he was able to accept the trials of life and review events before God. His attitude was that of active abandonment, always depending on God alone, never lowering his arms and from time to time acting in a philosophical and humorous way.

Words of Fr. Planque

- ❖ *“Have only one thought: to please God and do His will”.*
- ❖ *“Have great trust in God. Never allow discouragement to cross your mind”.*
- ❖ *“For me, I live only for the missions”.*
- ❖ At the age of 44, he wrote Fr. Cloud: ***“Soon my strength to continue questing will leave me totally and I will not be able to provide the daily bread for the community. Only one thing has sustained me in occupation, diametrically opposed to my tastes: that was the Will of God”.*** (1870)

The Word of God

“Jesus said to them: ‘My food is to do the will of the One who sent me and to complete his work’.” Jn. 4, 34

“My mother, my brothers, my sisters, are those who hear the Word of God and put it into practice.” Lk.8,21

OLA Reality

Through Baptism we come to life as children of God. Through a more personal call Christ invited us to leave all to share in the mission of Evangelisation: Relying on God’s grace we decide to live according to the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience. (Const. 24)

By this choice of consecrated life:

- **We allow Christ to purify us of all desire for possession and for power**
- **In refusing to accept options of the world that are alien to the Gospel teaching, we witness to the values of authentic communion, of sharing and of inner freedom.** (Const. 24)

Sheets 1 and 2

Time for Personal Reflection

1. I note down 2 aspects that strike me concerning “Faith in the Living God” and how that touches me.

2. From your personal experience, what feeds your faith and trust in the living God? Identify the significant events and persons on your faith journey.

- **Stage of life/ age**
- **Events (happy or painful)**
- **Significant persons**
- **Impacts on the course of my life**

3. I draw a tree which represents me presently and illustrates my life of faith:

With this tree, I visualise:

- **The roots** of my faith (family, cultural...)
- **The branches and leaves** represent what has helped them to develop in space and time.
- **Dried or broken branches** to identify the storms, the sufferings, the difficult situations experienced during the course of my life.

4. Write your own Creed translating your faith in the God of Life who journeys with you day after day. This Creed speaks of your experience and of your relationship with God, other and Creation.

My Creed: I believe... ..

Time for Sharing

The animator proposes that the sharing dwell on one or other question which has been the object of personal reflection.

3. LIVE IN SIMPLICITY: HUMILITY AND PASSION FOR MISSION

*“I discovered Fr. Planque as a **man of courage** in daily life. I would add that **his humility in recognizing his own limitations brought him closer to us.** In the beginning I imagined a man struggling untiringly but never showing discouragement. I discovered that this man seeming so strong never hid other weaknesses and discouragement. **His was a life given in service of Mission in the minutest of details. Interior freedom was shown in his gift of self and others.**”*

(Homily – Paul Chataigné, SMA, Lyon 2005)

Witness of Mons. Morel, addressed to Augustine Planque cofounder of SMA and Founder of the Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles: **“this double family was the dream of your life, the passion of your life, the goal of all your energy spent in the shadows, in humility, outside of anything that could flatter, of all that could shine, without any seeking of external or popular favour...”**

Words of Fr. Planque

- ❖ *“It is better to take things from God’s angle with humility and gentleness. God is not served in bitterness”.*
- ❖ *At the age of 38, he wrote: “I am dried up in the depths of my spirit by the thousand and one worries that come from the right and the left, in front and behind.” (letter to the confreres in Dahomey, 1864)*
- ❖ *“Our mission is humble and modest, but it will produce a good deal of beautiful fruits. What we sow in the present we will reap in joy”.*

- ❖ *“Titles or the importance of the work, one’s function or employment, these are not important rather it is the generous and disinterested way they are carried out in a spirit of service”.*

The Word of God

“Anyone who exalts him/herself will be humbled and anyone who humbles her/himself will be exalted.” (Mt, 23, 11 – 12)

“Those who sow in tears will sing when they reap.” Ps. 125, 5

“The Son of man came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Mt, 20, 28)

OLA Reality

“Throughout the period of separation and deprivation, we take care to remain open to others...”

We remain united with Christ in joy as in trials, witnessing to the hope that is in us. (1Peter 3, 15)

We unite ourselves to the mysteries of the life of Christ, always ready to give reason for ‘that hope that is in us’” (Const. 22)

Be simple

We strive to live in the simplicity of attitude and behavior which our Founder regarded as part of the essence of the spirit animating the Institute. For us, simplicity means choosing on every occasion an **attitude of uprightness, of truth, of availability**. Like the Gospel servant, we remain **humble, actively receptive to the Spirit**, and always ready to render a service free of self-interest wherever it is required of us. (Const. 9)

4. BE AWARE OF THE HUMAN IN ONESELF AND IN OTHERS: PATIENCE AND KINDNESS – FORGIVENESS AND NON VIOLENCE

As on all **human pathways**, that of Augustine **was strewn with obstacles and trials of every kind** (misunderstandings of confreres, with Cardinal Lavigerie etc.) It is in journeying that one arrives at changing one's view of life, of the other; of oneself; and we become capable of "acting in a non-violent way". Thus, **we follow the example of Jesus, living in the joy of forgiveness, given and received.** Augustine Planque cultivated kindness in his relations? **Clear and friendly explanations seemed preferable to him rather than quick judgments based on what one might say.**

Attentive to justice and respect for other people.

According to the testimony of Mother Dominic, "If there was something to be dealt with, one would have a little discussion with him. Then his kindness and charity helped him to be less harsh in his words and he found a way of speaking first so as not to leave a soul under a painful impression for too long. When anyone had wronged him and then asked forgiveness, he forgave so completely that he would never reproach or refer to these difficulties again.

Words of Fr. Planque

- ❖ *"I never attribute bad intentions to anyone. There are inherent errors in the human condition".*
- ❖ He always tried to make the shadows of the past disappear and encouraged open dialogue: *"Don't worry about having hurt me..."*

- ❖ He was always anxious to promote justice and respect for everyone: *“Be careful about partiality... never accuse a person without proof...”* and again *“I like to believe that the accusation brought against you is false so I wait for to talk about it to me yourself”*.
- ❖ Writing to Sr. Eugenie, he shared an experience ***“I learned by experience that union with God in patience brings about in us the greater good. Nearly always when one feels offended, one is inclined to give an extreme meaning to the spoken word. This may be never have been meant by those speaking. One tends to exaggerate and the imagination can run away. One can be tormented instead of staying calm”***. (21.02.1883)

The Word of God

“The disciple is not above the Master” (Lk.6 : 4)

“I do not seek my own will but the will of the One who sent me”. (Jn.5: 30)

“The disciples asked Jesus “who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? He called a child over and placed it in their midst” (Mt. 18: 21ff)

“Peter asked Jesus “How many times must I forgive my brother? As many as seven times”? Jesus answered “as many as seventy seven times”. (Mt. 18: 21ff)

OLA Reality

“A family spirit fosters union among us. It helps us to build up our communities with kindness, sensitivity and affection.” (C10)

“The apostolic life: in accepting the deprivations and difficulties of each day, we live with Christ the Paschal Mystery of death

and resurrection inseparable from all apostolic life. Through our own participation in human suffering sanctified by the cross of Christ, we identify with all those who strive in difficulty and pain to respond to their vocation as people of God.” (C11)

Sheets 3 and 4

Time for Personal Reflection

1. What touches me particularly in the relational life of our Founder.
2. In my life, what are the obstacles to non-violent communication with myself and with others. Mention 3 main obstacles.
3. If I choose to develop kindness in my thoughts, my way of seeing, in my words and in my heart, what can that change in my relational life?
4. How do you understand the stress put on the simplicity of life of the Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles? How can that be concretised in your life?

Time for Sharing

The animator invites the participants to share freely on one or the other point from their personal reflection: communication - kindness - simplicity of life.

5. TO FOLLOW THE MOVEMENT OF THE SPIRIT: IDENTITY AND MISSION

Our identity as Institute: **Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles**

The name of the Institute chosen by our Founder is for him **is the best expression of the essential in the spirituality** of the Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles. He made a very definite request to Propaganda Fide to thus name the Congregation on 22 February 1901. Sr. Claude Marie Eschaliere in her book “The audacity and faith of an Apostle” reminds us that in naming our Institute Our Lady of Apostles, Fr. Planque shows clearly that “he wanted to place the Virgin Mary at the heart of the Institute; under the title of Queen of Apostles in the Cenacle with the twelve and in their apostolic work. After sharing with the Apostles in the Cenacle, Mary was there again when they were dispersed throughout the Jerusalem, with all the enthusiasm of Pentecost.

Here we find the **real apostolic spirit in with the two inseparable aspects of contemplation of the Father and the service of the Kingdom**. Here we find the spirituality on which rests all the formation of the Sisters of the new Congregation. (Page 189)

It is here that we find the **apostolic spirituality marked with the sign of the Spirit of Pentecost**.

In the constant coming-and-going between the Cenacle and Public Place, the Acts of the Apostles inspire our spirituality.

As messengers of the Risen Christ in our time, the Acts of the Apostles are particularly inspiring to nourish our spirituality. The Good News to be transmitted will be credible in the measure in which we can create the space to rejoin those who are marginalized by civil and religious and society and who are subjected to the harmful effects of a cruel globalization which neither humanity nor creation.

Words of Fr. Planque

- ❖ ***“What would the Apostles have done without her in the first days of the Church? Doubtless She was the support of those who had shown such weakness and played Her magnificent role of Mother towards all the new converts”. And we too, what would we do without Mary? Without her we would never have existed.*** (Fortitude and Faith of an Apostle, p 189))
- ❖ *“This wonderful story reported in the first chapters of the Acts which the Sisters wanted to relive, with Peter and his companions, invited them also to go to the “Upper Room”, in the Cenacle, to be with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in order to let themselves be enfolded by the Spirit to know and love God in order to make Him known and loved by their brothers and sisters in Africa”?*
- ❖ ***“You have been chosen to continue in your way the work entrusted to his apostles” (27.04.1887)***

The Word of God

“The angel said to the women “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the Crucified. He is not here for he has been raised just as he said: Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you into Galilee; there you will see him. Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples”. (Mt. 28: 5-8)

“All these devoted themselves with one accord, prayer, together with some women, and Mary the Mother of Jesus, and his brothers” (Acts 1 :14)

“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together... They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim”. (Acts 2: 1, 4).

OLA Reality

In the Cenacle with the twelve, she contemplates the things of God and animates the missionary zeal which marked the beginning of the Church.

In her, we find the model of unity which we wish to achieve in our life” (Consts 12)

“With Mary, the Mother of Jesus” (Acts 1: 14) may we persevere in prayer and in action, always attentive to the inspiration of the Spirit of Pentecost” (Consts. 12)

Sheet 5

Time for personal reflection

Who am I and what is my mission?

1. A common identity and a common mission: Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles

- ✚ What Mary has been in the plan of God
- ✚ What has been for Jesus
- ✚ What Mary has been for the apostles
- ✚ What Mary has been for Fr. Augustine Planque
- ✚ What Mary represents for the Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles

2. As to the pioneers, Fr. Planque says once again to us:

You have been chosen to continue in your own way the work that Christ entrusted to his apostles.

- a) I take up this affirmation again by developing it in a personal and actual way.

I....., I have been chosen to continue in own way... (according to my gifts, my skills...) the work of Christ entrusted to the apostles...

Or again

- b) Read and reread the message of our Founder and meditate on the word or the expression that challenges you particularly at this moment. To what does it invite you?

You finish this meditation with a prayer of thanksgiving or of trust and of abandon to the will of God.

“Mission is first and foremost the work of the Spirit. It is incarnated in different ways according to the times, places, cultures”.

3. In what way is the mission of the Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles lived out in the country where you have been sent?
4. In what way is this mission different from that lived by our senior sisters and all those who have preceded us on the path of Mission?
5. Identify some significant changes during the course of the years.

Time for Sharing

6. LIVING MISSION IN AN INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITY

Since Mission has borrowed the pathways of history, it is incarnated in different ways according to time, place and cultures.

It is good to remember that **before being a human undertaking, Mission is always the work of the Spirit.**

D38 The daily living together is Mission

Every community member arrives with her personal luggage – her culture, family education, way of life and expression of faith – knowledge, ideas, convictions and doubts. In other words she copes with her riches and limitations. These are expressed in habits and aptitudes, in her dreams to be realized. In an intercultural community, new values are offered to me. **The challenge to live together every day is to witness to a world reconciled in openness and listening to one another, and coming to know one another mutually.** Together, we are called to enter a new culture in the country which welcomes us. We will be challenged to change our views, our hearts so as to love the other as Jesus loves them.

The community is at the service of mission, community support is of vital importance and it grows in accordance with the mission entrusted to the community through the activities of each one. Whether I'm sent "ad extra" or "ad intra" the mission begins in the community to which I'm called to live with my Sisters – **a project of apostolic life which responds to the needs of the area and of the Local Church.**

Openness and listening to each other – witness of a reconciled world by our lives centered on Christ – a project of apostolic life responding to the needs of the area and the Local Church.

Life in an intercultural community is mission in itself and it is Jesus who shows us the pathway, He who transcended ties of blood in order to welcome and accept the other as mother, sister, brother. (Mt. 12: 50, Spiritus N° 190)

Words of Fr. Planque

- ❖ ***“Know and love God in order to make God known and loved”***
- ❖ ***“In order to be strong in the work of God we must be united”.***
- ❖ ***“In the midst of your work, take time to touch the depths of your heart in order to be aware of where you are”.***
- ❖ ***“One can only love one’s neighbor by the sweat of one’s brow. Accept yourself as you are, carrying the burdens of one another, supporting one another in friendship and joy”.***
(1872)

The Word of God

To the twelve who argued among themselves as to who was the greatest in the Kingdom: **“Whoever wishes to be the greatest among you must become your servant” (Mk. 10: 44).**

“And you, who do you say that I am?” (Mk. 8: 27 – 30)

“If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me”. (Mk.8: 27-30)

OLA Reality

Coming from different countries, the Sisters, by their internationality, reflect the universal character of the Church of Christ. C5

For more effective inculturation, we use the appropriate means to learn the language of the country and willingly devote the necessary time to this task. **We also set ourselves to acquire an understanding of the cultures and religions of the places where we live.** Cc1

Our mission is to be communion. **The Spirit at work in the world invites us to recognize and respect each people in its own culture, its history, its faith and beliefs.**

Ready to share all that we are, we are equally open to receive from others in the context of their values, the word or gesture which evangelizes us. ... C16

Sheet 6

Time for personal reflection

1. What am I bringing specifically in “my luggage ” and that I agree to share with the community where I am called to live out mission?
2. On what conditions can **our daily living together** be mission/witness?
3. **My personal experience.** Recall you intercultural experience in one or some communities. Mention what you appreciated most and what you found difficult to take. How have joys and difficulties been a source of growth or a source of frustration for you?
4. **Testimony of the people around us,** concerning our community life. What touches them positively. What inspires them. I recall one or other remark of people concerning this which I can narrate during the group sharing.

Time for Sharing

7. OPENNESS - WITNESS – TRANSMISSION... MISSION CONTINUES

Annunciation and Pentecost are two key moments in the Salvific project of God.

They mark the beginnings of new times – by Mary’s YES and the emergence of the Spirit in humanity and the birth of the Church.

Mary is equally present with the disciples of Jesus at the three foundational events of the New Covenant – Cana, the Cross and Pentecost.

These three events summarize the principal moments of human life : Joy, Suffering and Love. Mary lives them intensely with the Apostles.

Finally, Mary, always with the disciples, is present in the days of the Son, of the Father, and the Spirit. At Cana she draws out (?) the glory of the Son, at the Cross she offers the Son to the glory of the Father, and, at Pentecost, she stimulates the coming of the Spirit, because she was already covered by His Shadow. (Lk.1 :35).

For Augustine Planque, **a deep, fruitful, apostolic life is rooted in God** and nourished from a strong intimacy with Him. **For this he invites the Sisters to be ever attentive to the Spirit, living in us and always at work in the world to which He sends us.**

The mission of OLA women apostles, a responsibility received from the Risen Christ: Like the Apostles “we have received from the Risen Lord the responsibility to be His eyes, His words, His hands, His heart. We, OLA Sisters, must be His face that attracts, His hands that reach out to help, a voice proclaiming the Good News and a heart that loves... (Letter from Gen. Co. May 2010)

“Women – apostles, we live our mission in the world of today with passion for Christ and for humanity”. (Acts of G. Chap. 2008)

In Redemptoris Mission we read: N°91”As evangelisers; if we want to proclaim the liberating message of Jesus with strength

and assurance, we have to allow ourselves to be evangelized, be constantly in process of conversion and put our Mission in the hands of God. It is He who acts through our efforts. What we can humanly achieve must be deeply rooted in God". (Meeting PtN°33)

Words of Fr. Planque

- ❖ *"Have only one thought, love in all things : God"*
- ❖ *"Be united with Him at every possible moment. Live for Him. It is the means of doing His work. You can do all things in Him who holds all things in His hand."*

The Word of God

"You will be my witnesses" (OLA logo)

"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world".
(Mt. 5: 13, 14)

"Blessed are those who hunger for justice... blessed are the peace makers" (Mt. 5: 6.9).

"To those who have served their brothers and sisters, the Lord says "come you blessed of my Father. I was sick and you visited me... Each time you did this to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me". (Mt. 25: 34, 36-40)

OLA Reality

"We go beyond the boundaries of country and religion to bring the Good News of the Reign of god to the poorest persons."
(Mission statement 1994 - 2003)

Our call in the 3rd millennium is **"to be signs and prophetic instruments of the Kingdom of God**, pushing us to intensify our

efforts for the **promotion of just relations for peace** (Acts of G. Chap. 2008)

We commit ourselves to do all in our power for:

Our Mission:

1. To become more aware of **our responsibility – personal and collective**
2. **Be more involved and act at local, national, and international levels for:**
 - Respect for human dignity, especially that of women, children and the poor.
 - Respect for the integrity of creation opting especially for the environment
3. **Concrete actions for the defense of human rights and promotion of life**
 - Denounce actions and structures of injustice
 - Denounce all that deprives the earth and creation of life, beauty and natural resources
 - Be coherent in our lifestyle, that is in our choices and daily acts.
4. Develop the means of **collaborating** in order to take a stand as OLA and share in the promotion of JPIC (Acts GC 2008 p15)

Sheet 7

Time for personal reflection

1. I note down three points which appear to me to be priorities concerning the Mission of the OLA Sisters in the 3rd millennium.
2. Who are the marginalised people in the area where I live out mission and how could our community respond or how is our

community already responding to one or other of these needs?

3. In your professional, social, catechetical activity, how could you become more involved in working for the respect of women, children, the poor, in other words, all those whose dignity is ridiculed?
4. Defending rights/ promoting life - Announcing / denouncing: these actions enter into the itinerary of prophetic actions. In my area of life where rights are ridiculed - what unjust structures or actions need to be denounced so as to announce a different life that excludes no one?
5. In the General Chapter 2008 declaration, pg. 15, among the four points mentioned, which of them or which ones can I put into practice so as to witness to the Risen One and to his Spirit still at work in all situations experienced by the human beings of our time?

Time for Sharing

Sources of Inspiration

“The Fortitude and Faith of an Apostle”. Claude- Marie Echallier, OLA.

The reflection of the Mission Commission – Themes proposed in Cotonou January 2010.

Reflections sheets from the French Province “Augustine Planque committee” on the occasion of the “entry into light of our Founder” – mandated by the Plenary council in Lebanon 2004.

Retreat session in the Province of Egypt Maadi, January and February 2007.

Camilla Martin, OLA

Montréal, 2010

CONTENTS

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Presentation</i>	2
<i>1. Rooted in Faith in the Living God</i>	3
<i>2. Welcoming the will of God and placing complete trust in Him</i>	5
<i>Sheets 1 and 2 Reflection and sharing</i>	6
<i>3. Live in simplicity: humility and passion for mission</i>	8
<i>4. Be aware of the human in oneself and in others: patience and kindness – forgiveness and non violence</i>	10
<i>Sheets 3 and 4 Reflection and sharing</i>	12
<i>5. Following the inspiration of the Spirit: identity and mission</i>	13
<i>Sheet 5 Reflection and sharing</i>	15
<i>6. Living mission in an intercultural Community</i>	17
<i>Sheet 6 Reflection and sharing</i>	19
<i>7. Openness – Witness – Transmission : mission continues!</i>	20
<i>Sheet 7 Reflection and sharing</i>	23



C.M.M.J.