

## INTRODUCTION

### Mission Sending Ceremony Our Lady of Charters Convent Chapel

Mission springs from the mystery of God who is love (1Jn 4:16), from his overflowing and boundless love of the whole humanity and creation. In the “fullness of time,” this love sent Jesus among us (JN 3:16) Jesus is the missionary *par excellence*. To follow Jesus and heed his call is to share both in his life and mission. “Do likewise;” “Come. Follow me.” This great commission uttered by Jesus arouses an urgent response.

Vita Consecrata no. 72 stresses the fact that consecrated persons are “in mission” by virtue of their very consecration, to which they bear witness in accordance with the ideal of their Institute. We are Sisters of St. Paul founded in 1696 by Fr. Louis Chauvet, parish priest of a little French village, Levesville-la-Chenard. Our first mission consisted in working to improve the human and spiritual level of the villagers by educating the girls and visiting the poor and the sick. (Draft of a Rule, chapter 1) We share in the apostolic mission of the Church. We recognize and heed the signs of God in the world. We have at heart the salvation of all humankind whose call we hear and try to answer with discernment and generosity. “Here I am” is an answer that implies total availability, capability to adapt and adjust and the unselfish love of the one called. (CA 2001, 36)

**As we ceaselessly proclaim Jesus Christ as the light of the world and the missionary of our loving Father par excellence, let us pray for Sr. Mercedita Estrella, SPC as she goes forth to another people, another culture, another religion. Let us accompany her as she “takes off her shoes . . . for the ground she is approaching is holy...”**

**( Prepared by Sr. Estrellita Orino, SPC)**