



*“Happy is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors”*

Proverbs 8:34



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In my travels throughout the Province over the past six weeks during the triennial election period, I was witness to the opening of many “doors of mercy” in our communities and in their members. We can easily miss these doors or pass by them if we are not alert to the many disguises a “door of mercy” may take. We may even stand on the threshold but then turn aside as the “door of mercy” doesn’t meet our expectations. We don’t recognize the opportunity to express mercy in the present moment before us.

What a gift it was to experience the door of mercy in such rich and vibrant diversity of hue and color as Father Dominic and I entered each community’s doors on our travels about the Province. Doors, when you reflect upon it, are just amazing. Closed doors symbolize separation; open doors invitation. As we stood on each community’s doorstep you tend to ponder what awaits you on the other side. I can say that as we entered into each community it truly felt we were coming home, such was the warm welcome and affection with which we were greeted. Visible and loving hospitality demonstrates mercy in action.

In witnessing the triennial elections proceed in our communities, one symbolically observed doors opening for some and closing for others. It is a time when each member stands on the threshold. Some will quietly close the door not yet ready to go through to render service on the Council. Others will consent to go through the door offering themselves for service to the community while others may find themselves somewhat unwillingly thrust through the door! Rendering service to one another is a part of our charism and a concrete expression of merciful love and caring for our community. Each one knows when it is time to do so through serving on council. Each one must examine one’s heart in prayer for the answer that the Spirit will give. There is no right or wrong answer. It is always in God’s time.

When the new council is elected it prepares itself to go through the door of mercy by expressing its commitment to service to the community for the next three years. All bring to their service both their strengths and their limitations, trusting that God will take the best of who each one is and bless the community through their service.

As we enter our interior castle through the door of prayer, let us remember to pray for our new councils that they may serve our communities with love, courage, and steadfastness of spirit.

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