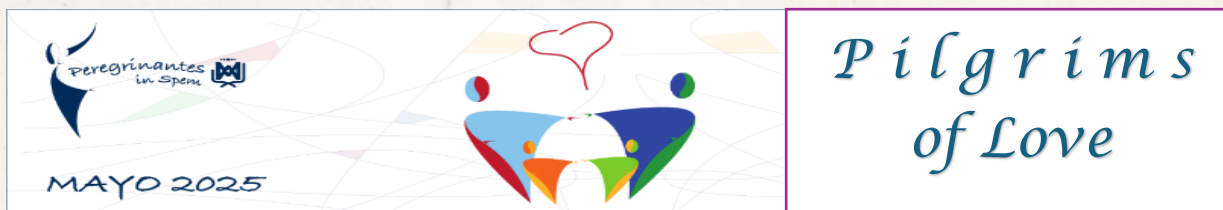

SPIRITUAL RETREAT

MAY
2025



Orden de la Compañía de María Nuestra Señora
PROVINCIA DEL PACÍFICO
| *Order of the Company of Mary Our Lady*



RETREAT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2025.

We begin our Spiritual Retreat by silencing our inner selves so that we can make way for an important experience: the presence of God... Sometimes it's like a wave that comes and floods me... Other times it is the softness of the drop that penetrates the sponge until it fills it... But it is always God who arrives and embraces us...



Mary is the mother who cares for life, the one who understands and encourages, the one who, from her closeness to God, knows what we need. Jeanne reaffirms that Mary is a model and example and presents her as **Protector, Model and Mother of the Company**.

Mary is the companion on the journey who encourages us, shows us how to face the difficult sections of the journey in faith, at the rhythm of life and events.

Mary is a model for us today, a source of inspiration, a presence that embodies a concrete feminine way of making God present and of following Jesus in his mission to announce the coming of the Kingdom of God.



What uniqueness do you discover in Mary that is a source of inspiration for the mission you carry out as a pilgrim of hope?

THE VIRTUE OF HOPE is beautiful; it gives us strength to walk in life and at this delicate moment in our history, Pope Francis spoke of "Spreading Hope".

Hospitality is the basic attitude to make Hope dynamic.





Jeanne de Lestonnac, formed in the spirituality of the IGNACIAN EXERCISES, impelled by an ardent zeal to extend the KINGDOM, desires to conquer the whole earth for the LORD. Sensitive to the needs of YOUTH, she grasps what FAITH means in people's lives. Consequently, she is committed to collaborating through EDUCATION, in the promotion of women and with them bringing forth the transformation of society.

The time in the life of Jeanne de Lestonnac, full of God and images, motivates us to live in hope...

From her youth, the echo of a voice marked her path: "Do not let the flame that I have lit in your heart be extinguished." That flame, nourished by hope, sustained her in the most challenging moments and impelled her to open paths of education and evangelization, especially for the women of her time.



In a world that defies hope, Pope Francis encouraged us to keep the light that has been given to us burning. Like Jeanne, we are called to be pilgrims of hope, to trust that God continues to act and to sow signs of his love in daily life.

Let us not let the flame be extinguished. May hope impel us to continue in our journey.

The page that we have to write today is certainly complex. It requires discerning in our world the signs of hope that show that something new is being born. But it will also show us those signs that point to situations in need of salvation today that are the ones most in need of transformation. It was an experience such as this that moved Jeanne de Lestonnac and made her understand that it was, she who would have to reach out to the current reality of her world.

We can now situate ourselves in the actual reality of our country and name those situations of "darkness" to which she inspires us to be sensitive and extend our hand to transform them.

In fact, what Jesus tells us is that there is another shore: the entire Gospel is a description of how God is projecting our role in our world today.

Human beings tend to settle down in their comfort, accommodating themselves to what they are achieving. We get used to the known that gives us a certain security.





It is difficult for us to open ourselves to other new or unknown realities. We prefer, even without realizing it, to stay installed on "this shore" (the known one).

Let us listen to the words of Jesus challenging us to go to the other coastline...the shore of the other, the shore of the suffering, the shore of the different, the shore of the sick, the shore of the poor... Let us break the routine and our fears. Let us be very aware that Jesus sails in the same boat as we do, and if He is with us, nothing will be able to defeat us.

With Jesus we are continually passing to the other shore. They who remain settled in their comfort are lost. We have to have hope to always seek new horizons.

There is always another shore to reach...

What is the other shore to which the Lord invites me to cross at this moment in my life?

How can I integrate hope as a theological virtue into my personal life project?

What is the relationship between hope and faith and love?

Why do people need to have some measure of hope?

Texts that can illuminate my reflection: Luke 4:1-13; Ecclesiastes 9:4-10; Romans 12:12-20.



"Maintain hope, let yourself be surprised by God, and live with joy."

I end my prayer by letting Pope Francis' message resonate in my memory.

I light a candle and ask Saint Jeanne de Lestonnac to intercede for the Company so that the flame may burn more brightly and summon young people to follow Jesus.



