

Year 2025

Course: Recognising oneself
The Statutes: a path and a mirror

Saturday, 8th marc, 2025
Summary of the Lesson 3B
Adriana Cosseddu

The Statutes: inheritance and prophecy

“What are the Statutes for us?” From this question the journey begins, guided by a “compass” to help us. Its cardinal points are four keywords.

The first: legacy, to return to what Chiara left us, remembering her words: *be a family*. How can we do this? The “Premise” to the General Statutes offers us the answer, indicating *mutual and continuous love* so as to have the gift of Jesus' presence among us. It is a presence which is taken from the Gospel, that Gospel which Chiara left us and which inspires the *spirituality* of the Movement. Indeed, the first articles of the Statutes endorse this in contemplating the *Nature, the Purpose, the Spirit* of the Work of Mary, and expressing its charism (Part I of the General Statutes (GS)).

The second word: “incarnated” identity, those features of the Movement's identity that we can find in Part II of the Statutes, where we read about its *Structure and Composition*. They are the variety of vocations, branches and wide-ranging Movements. But within the horizon of the “human family” (to which Art. 6 of the GS refers) is preserved the universal openness: Christians from various Churches and Ecclesial Communities, people of other religions and other affiliations are also part of the Movement. In the Incarnation everything is marked or characterised by unity (Art. 4 of the GS) even the Government of the Work of Mary - at the Centre and in the zones (Part IV and V of the GS).

The third word: relevance today, but we could also express it by “actualization,” because what inspires our lives is Gospel-based love, through the *concrete aspects* that are the “colours” (Part III- Articles 23-72 of the GS); a style that is rooted in the Gospel.

The fourth word: prophecy. If the Statutes preserve the “identity card” of the Movement, in them we find its “unlimited goal”, which among Christians is *unity*, and among all is *universal fraternity*. So mutual love, where we started out on our journey together through the paths of the world, with Jesus among us, opens the way to *dialogue, to the culture of encounter and peace, to ecumenism, to dialogue between religions*. It therefore brings about the unity of the human family.