



MERCY
GLOBAL
PRESENCE

Artistic Response: Contemplative Seeing

Ma Victoria Paderanga rsm (Philippines) – ‘Looking through the eyes of love: Embrace with Mercy and Hope’



The abstract in the collage depicts a young girl, representing humanity & the world, who in being vulnerable and fragile, experiences pain, sadness and emptiness due to the harshness of life. Her right eye reflects the image of Ven. Catherine's contemplative eye who wanted to reach out to the world with love. I believe that the world experiences real situations as we in our third world country do.

The Philippines is called the “**Pearl of the Orient**” for it is rich in culture and natural resources and named as the only Catholic country in Asia. On the contrary, people continue to suffer due to poverty, exploitation, devaluing of life and corruption. The throw away culture and the pandemic phenomenon are other factors that make people miserable. Despite this darkness and fear, we, the daughters of Catherine can still face the world with hope and courage for we are molded and guided with our **strong mercy charism and gifted with faith**. With our presence in the community, we continue to reach out to those who are the new faces of poverty. Let us continue to walk with them and share our faith and the blessings we receive. “Let us light that one little candle, light it with hope and warm with our embrace the suffering humanity with love and mercy.

As I reflect on these words of Pope Francis: “Let us not only keep the poor of the future in mind, but also consider today's poor, whose life on this earth is brief and who cannot keep on waiting”, I too ponder in my heart the same voice from our Mother Foundress which was loudly said and mercifully lived by looking through the eyes of love “THE POOR NEED HELP TODAY, NOT NEXT WEEK”.