



# **Saint Louise, Servant of persons who are poor.**

St. Louise, Servant of the Poor, serving Christ in persons in poverty situations.

When I think of our Foundress in this way, my first thought is of a profound respect for human beings. The social context of 17th century France where our Foundress, St. Louise, lived was not the height of humanism, on the contrary. And she, certainly with the help of St. Vincent, but also thanks to her innate sensitivity, saw people, those who were insignificant, despised, pushed away, abused, unjustly condemned, abandoned from the moment of birth – as God's children, and it was that very truth that helped her and our first Sisters undertake every service.

In the Rules of the Confraternities of Charity, the Founders counselled that the Servants of those who are poor should surround them with understanding, love, patience, great respect, care for their lives and health, and above all for their immortal souls.

So I think, our mission would bear immediate fruit if we knew how to remind and sometimes convince people that they are God's greatest longing, that they are priceless, redeemed from eternal death with the precious Blood of Christ.

During this season of Lent, these truths must dwell deeper in our hearts. I am convinced that this is an effective remedy for any human misery, at any time.

If a person remembers who s/he is and why s/he was created, his/her progress from poverty would be faster and more sustainable.

The second picture that appears in this theme of Louise as a servant is the image of an excellent organizer. Regardless of the multitude of means, human resources and situations, it is always possible to undertake a ministry if there is trust in God's Providence first.

I think that today, she is teaching us, anew, to trust in God, to discern situations, needs, organization and cooperation.

Anyway, these are the calls of the whole Church and the Inter-Assemblies Document also talks about it.

May St. Louise help us revitalize our service to our sisters and brothers to whom we are sent and in whose service, our love is tested as well!

Sister Beata WIDELKA