



Servantes de Marie  
SIERVAS DE MARÍA  SERVANTS OF MARY

# INTERNATIONAL CHARTER



*I do agree and adhere to the spirit of this charter.  
I vow myself to follow the proposed path.*

Proposed by the Congregation  
of Servants of Mary

Name : .....

Surname : .....

Signature :

Presented on : ..... in .....

This Charter  
is addressed  
to all whom,  
throughout the world,  
**France, Spain,  
Argentina-Uruguay,  
Ivory Coast, India,**  
desire to walk  
with the Congregation:  
educational institutions,  
medical-social,  
agriculture,  
reception,  
place of resourcefulness ...



Notre Dame du Refuge



Louis-Edouard CESTAC (1801-1868), French Priest of the nineteenth century, made of his life, a work of compassion towards the poorest, especially the women and children, giving birth to the religious Congregation of Servants of Mary in Anglet (France).  
He allowed himself to be guided by his Faith and showed a great Marian devotion throughout his life.

The Spirit has blown on the « Bon Père » founder. Going through the centuries, cultures and the history of the Congregation, today he expresses himself differently and through new persons.

It is always the same Spirit!

**« May the core, the spirit and the life of this work  
be charity and always charity. »**

*L. E. Cestac*

We are today called to follow the footprints of this man and those of these religious sisters.  
Guided by fraternal love, we can join them, if we believe in the dignity, the respect and the integral development of the person by cultural values and education.

**« Leaning on what makes the strength of the past,  
open to the present,  
we prepare the future with great hope. »**

*The Servants of Mary*



## THE SAND BECOMES COMPOST (fertile)

- ★ We are convinced that the barren sand can be transformed into a flourishing oasis, by regular and meticulous work and with mutual support.
- ★ We welcome each personal situation, aware of progressing often on instable and the impoverished land.
- ★ We would like to give to each one the opportunity, to develop their own competences, (efficiency/ability), to discover their own autonomy and happiness, respecting and serving the common good.

## A REFUGE, A WAY

- ★ We welcome in our Institutions the people, especially those who are in search of meaning for their lives, those who are in distressful situations and suffering from loneliness.
- ★ We will be attentive to build up rewarding, kind and united relationships, based on the rule of community living.
- ★ We aspire to preserve and to promote our natural surroundings.  
For they are places of silence, spiritual resource, inner healing and economic development.

## A FAMILY SPIRIT

- ★ We believe that educating children and youth, the accompaniment of parents, the formation of women and of mothers, build up necessary family bonds for the well-being of everyone.
- ★ We testify that mutual trust, simplicity and truth, allow everyone to become more responsible.
- ★ We are very keen on creating and maintaining an atmosphere of trust and of listening with all those we receive.