

WUCWO



UMOFC

Union Mondiale des Organisations Féminines Catholiques
World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations
Unión Mundial de las Organizaciones Femeninas Católicas
Weltunion der Katholischen Frauenverbände

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Reflection on the ecclesial reality of WUCWO in the face of the challenge of apostolic life

The World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations ([WUCWO](http://www.wucwo.org)) is an association with more than 110 years of history that brings together nearly 100 organisations from more than 50 countries worldwide. Our mission is to promote the presence, participation and co-responsibility of Catholic women in society and in the Church, in order to enable them to fulfil their mission of evangelisation and to work for integral human development.

I can define better WUCWO's women and their apostolicity using the three elements explained by late Card. Ratzinger: evangelical life, mission, charity and service.

First, evangelical life: WUCWO is characterised by the desire of its women to live the Gospel. WUCWO's women are all women of profound faith and a strong life of prayer and solidarity, women that love the Church, love Jesus Christ, love the Virgin Mary. They set an example of what they are and of the faith they belong to in their daily life, when they encounter the other. I am sure that to anyone who has participated in one of our meetings, conferences or assemblies, it is easy to see that WUCWO women live a deep evangelical life.

Secondly, our mission: WUCWO has, by definition, the task of promoting women in their mission of evangelisation. We work to help women to be better missionaries; this means that our aim is to enhance women's power of evangelisation. We are women "that go forth", who listen to and embrace others, assisting them with joy and announcing the good news. The purpose of all the organisations that belong to WUCWO is not that of self-construction but rather that of "going forth" to evangelise, each with their charism and particularity.

The third element, charity and service, includes the other aspect of WUCWO's mission: the promotion of women so they can work for integral human development. The commitment and determination of our women is apostolic, TODAY and HERE. Truly WUCWO is apostolic by definition, incarnated in the life of today's Church TODAY, in today's society, in the problems and needs of women, their families and their communities today.

This is why WUCWO is currently committed in promoting religious freedom, the basis for the path of fraternity and peace; in advocating and urging all to embrace ecological conversion; in encouraging the joyful journey of family love, motherhood and fatherhood; engaging in building a future with migrants and refugees and working to enable women to participate in the social, political and religious spheres.

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WUCWO reflects the reality of Catholic women globally; moreover, through our World Women's Observatory ([WWO](#)) we also aim to listen and give visibility to women, particularly the most vulnerable ones, to inspire and generate changes that will improve their lives.

We have taken, as a **renewal of our apostolic mission**, the words of Pope Francis pronounced to all WUCWO women received in audience on the morning of 13th May 2023:

“(...) The inner union with Jesus must manifest itself externally, it must manifest itself in communion with the Church, with our family or our organisation, which helps us to mature in faith. It is this that gives value to all the initiatives we carry out. We must “pray” deeds and put prayer “to work”. In this way we will be in tune with the mission of the entire Church. This is also the essence of synodality, what makes us feel protagonists and co-responsible for the wellbeing of the Church, to know how to integrate differences and work in ecclesial harmony”.

WUCWO women emanate the essence of belonging to the word of Jesus Christ, a firm unity despite their diversities and an unwavering loyalty to the magisterium. **WUCWO never works alone, but in network** with many other associations, movements and organisations. **We firmly believe that together we will strengthen and multiply our apostolic life and reach out and touch the lives of millions.**

Thank you for letting us share our experience.

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