



30th CONGREGATIONAL CHAPTER

DIRECTION STATEMENT

Energized by the Spirit, We Risk Together for Mission

With anticipation and hope we, Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd and Mission Partners, gathered from around the world for our 30th Congregational Chapter, the first since reunification. Together we shared dreams, the wealth of diverse experiences, prayers, reflections and dialogue. We felt the movement of the Spirit impelling us to respond with even greater urgency to the cry of our wounded world.

As mission partners (lay and sisters), we struggled to find a way to address global issues. We identified the most pressing needs of today as poverty, human trafficking, forced migration, refugees, gender inequality, violence toward women and children, and religious intolerance. In our dialogue, our charism and internationality united us in a profound way.

In response to these global issues, we commit ourselves, on unit, regional and congregational levels, to:

- Develop clear strategic plans integrating spirituality and justice and peace with the best ministry practices. This includes holding ourselves accountable to monitor and evaluate the results;

What am I (we) willing to risk in confronting these critical needs?

We explored with fresh enthusiasm spirituality which nourishes our relationship with God and challenges us to:

- See and hear the good news of Jesus through the eyes and ears of those who are oppressed, calling us to respond in radically new ways;
- Rediscover the richness of our founding story in the lives of St. John Eudes and St. Mary Euphrasia and express it in contemporary language;
- Create ways of living religious life that are relevant for today;
- To recognize our inter-connectedness with the whole of creation which obliges us to “protect our common home”. (Laudato Si)

“Do we know that within us is the unspeakable beautiful beat of the Sacred? Do we know that growing in the awareness that we are bearers of Presence, along with a faith commitment to honor that Presence in one another and in the earth, holds the key to transformation in our world?” John Philip Newell quoted by Philip Pinto, cfc

What challenges me/us? What invites me/us?

We acknowledged the struggles we face in living community and our desire for healthy life-giving relationships. Reflecting on John 13, we choose to build joyful and inclusive communities for mission characterized by friendship, compassion and reconciliation.

What am I willing to contribute to make this a reality?

Zeal calls us to respond to our rapidly changing world and the pressing global realities of today. Therefore, we must be adequately equipped. This calls us to invest resources in holistic formation and training for all involved in the mission. Leadership now and into the future requires preparation and training.

“Transformational leadership is a way of being leaders arising out of the depths of the wisdom within each of us, a wisdom that allows others the space and opportunity to transform their own lives. The only leadership that is worth the name is spiritual leadership.” Philip Pinto cfc

In what ways can I support this type of leadership in myself and others?

We are aware that our demographic reality involves diminishment as well as growth. In light of this there is a need for a more flexible and life-giving way of organizing ourselves for mission. We call ourselves to greater collaboration, networking and sharing of resources among Units.

What needs to be done in order to make this a reality on unit, regional, and congregational levels?

Our mission partners were with us for the first two weeks. By their passion for the mission they enriched us and called us to deeper fidelity.

What steps do I/we need to take in order to move this forward?

Recommendations:

1. Mission
 - a. That the CLT establishes working groups to develop corporate responses to issues of global importance.
 - b. That the CLT develops a process for writing a Congregational Mission Statement.
2. Mother House
 - a. That the Mother House Committee be established as an ongoing Commission.
 - b. That long term planning and evaluation of the sustainability of the Mother House be undertaken with the recommendations presented to the 2021 Chapter.
3. Spirituality
 - a. That the Spirituality Committee continues and that the spirituality network be strengthened.
 - b. That the Congregational Spirituality Centre explore the possibility of an “on line” course in Spirituality for Mission.
 - c. That the CLT establishes an international committee to integrate our spiritual heritage with up to date theology and our evolving experience of God.
4. Financial Administration
 - a. That the recommendations of the Congregational Treasurer’s Report be implemented.
 - b. That the Investment Advisory Committee be established as an on-going Commission.

Directives

1. That the CLT establishes an international working group to pursue the full engagement of partners.
2. Authorization:
The Congregational Chapter entrusts to the Congregational Leader and her Council/s the interpretation of the official documents of this Chapter, and the completion and implementation of unfinished matters. (Constitutions #153)

1st July 2015