



29th CONGREGATIONAL CHAPTER
CONGREGATION OF OUR LADY OF CHARITY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Angers, France
June 13 –July 9, 2009

DIRECTION STATEMENT

We, Sisters of the Good Shepherd, reflecting the global vibrancy of our mission experienced a profound peace, trust and unity as we plunged “into the deep waters” of communal discernment allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us. This experience fired us with passion and zeal to weave together the threads that emerged as key directions for our future vitality. The presence of Contemplative delegates for the first time as full members, the joyous approval and commitment to live in mutuality our integrated Constitutions were graced historic moments in the life of our Congregation.

Inspired by the creative audacity of St. Mary Euphrasia, her prophetic and radical response to the needs of her time, we are impelled as “Weavers of Compassion and Reconciliation in Global Solidarity” to commit ourselves to:

- Foster a deepening of our **spirituality** and a new consciousness of our identity as Good Shepherd which enlivens our prayer, community life, ministries and our desire to “shepherd” God’s creation.
- Respond to the anguish of the world calling us to the margins where God is waiting for us, by taking courageous steps to use our international resources effectively, to network and to restructure on all levels creating **new pathways for mission**.
- Work zealously with women and children, especially those who are **trafficked, forced to migrate and oppressed by abject poverty**. We support projects for economic justice, confront unjust systems and take a “corporate stance” when appropriate.
- Respond to the urgency to nurture new life through **holistic and relevant formation** that prepares, renews and sustains us for the challenges of today’s realities.
- Promote and engage in **inter-faith dialogue** in response to the international climate of intolerance and exclusion of minorities and immigrants.
- Respect and appreciate the **diversity and richness of cultures** and at the same time recognize that we need to take concrete steps, to move beyond the encrustations that impede growth and development individually and communally.
- Create and strengthen **co-responsibility** for the mission with Good Shepherd lay partners.
- Continue the **Journey of Enrichment** with the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity with mutual respect, creativity and courage, discerning “new ways” and options for the future.

In fidelity to these directions, we give witness to Micah’s call “...to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God”. Micah 6.8

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Mother House

Valuing the presence of Sisters at the Mother House, we recommend that the Circles of Province Leaders find ways to assist the Congregational Leadership Team in filling the need for sister personnel.

2. Spirituality Centre

That the Spirituality Centre in Angers be the coordinating body for developing a worldwide spirituality and research network.

3. Vocations for mission

That each unit discern creative ways to enthusiastically promote our mission thus attracting new members and lay partners.

4. Mission Development

That we address the challenges and implement the recommendations in the Mission Development report presented at the 29th Congregational Chapter regarding economic justice and mission development: accountability, sustainability, networking, planning and continuity.

DIRECTIVE

➤ Authorization

The Congregational Chapter entrust 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 (Constitution #152).