

Directional Statement and Acts of the 24th General Chapter

Promulgated November 15, 2017

Love



Directional Statement 24th General Chapter

*Love Gives Everything**

We, School Sisters of Notre Dame, direct our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent. At this critical turning point in the sacred history of creation and humanity, we have heard our deep desire to trust and dare (YAS, C 4).

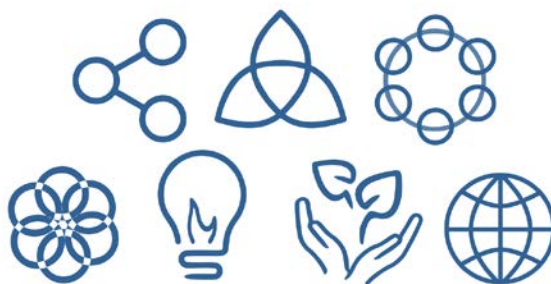
- ❖ We embrace Gospel Poverty, probe its deeper meaning, and risk opening ourselves to be transformed (YAS, C 15-17; GD 19).
- ❖ We deepen our consciousness of who we are in relationship with the Triune God, one another, and God's amazing universe, particularly through theological reflection on the Trinity (YAS, C 12).
- ❖ We claim our authentic community life as a prophetic witness of unity in diversity and a service to God's people (YAS, C 7-9).
- ❖ We expand our understanding of interculturality and commit to develop skills for intercultural living in community and society (YAS, GD 36).
- ❖ We risk innovative responses as educators in a rapidly changing world impacted by globalization and technology (YAS, Prologue; C 22-24, 26).

- ❖ We educate, advocate, and act in collaboration with others for the dignity of life and the care of all creation (YAS, C 9, 17; GD 19).
- ❖ We discern as a congregation which urgent and critical global concerns we are called to address and we dare to respond boldly in unsuspected ways (YAS, C 17; GD 36-38).

The Triune God impels us into the heart of the world to be women of peace, hope, and love. In the spirit of Blessed M. Theresa and Mother M. Caroline, we, the living community, continue to develop our charism according to *You Are Sent* (YAS, Prologue).

**Blessed M. Theresa Gerhardinger, writings # 1.*

Approved October 24, 2017



Acts of the 24th General Chapter

Holding All in Common

We, the members of the 24th General Chapter, call the entire congregation to deepen our understanding of and commitment to *holding all in common* and foster among ourselves shared responsibility for the future of the life and mission of the congregation.

Embracing this call, we will

- ❖ plan and make decisions responsibly for the common good as individuals, local communities, provinces, and as a congregation (YAS, C 16; GD 58, 67, 69, 70).
- ❖ continue financial support for the congregational Gerhardinger Fund, established in 2010 to support non-ministerial needs of the provinces and congregational programs focusing on international experiences (YAS, GD 58, 67, 69, 70).
- ❖ contribute to the congregational Ministry Fund, established in 1998 to support present and future ministries of the congregation (YAS, C 23-26; GD 33, 36, 37, 38).
- ❖ offer support personnel to serve at the Generalate and give financial support for operational needs of the Generalate (YAS, C 16, 19; GD 36).

We, the members of the 24th General Chapter, recommend that the General Council

- ❖ initiate a process to study models of General Chapters that foster and invite membership participation and shared

responsibility of all sisters for the life and mission of the congregation (YAS, C 41, 62, 92a, 92b, 95; GD 53, 54, 56, 81, 84).

- ❖ initiate/continue to offer international meetings/gatherings with the General Council, Provincial Council leadership, Treasurers, Formators, Congregational Communications and Technology Teams (CCTT), Shalom Network, and other groups as deemed helpful and needed, in order to strengthen our collaborative efforts among us as one international congregation (YAS, C 113-115; GD 110-112).
- ❖ work with Provincial Councils to plan for the funding of the congregational novitiate (YAS, C 75, 115; GD 108 – 112).

Approved October 24, 2017

Personal Development in Community

(YAS, C 43-47; GD 113-124)

We recognize that our vowed life together is a gift and a responsibility (YAS, C 6), and forming community is a life-long process (YAS, C 7). In light of the times in which we live, we, the members of the 24th General Chapter, call each sister of our congregation to accept responsibility for and commit herself to personal development in community:

- ❖ We rediscover our Augustinian roots of forming a community to be of one heart and one soul in God.
- ❖ We foster an awareness of and need for cross-cultural and intercultural living skills, and provide opportunities to develop them.
- ❖ We discover and implement new ways for short-term cross-cultural and intercultural experiences for sisters of our international congregation.
- ❖ We recognize that we are all vocation promoters, personally and communally (YAS, C 43, 44).

Approved October 24, 2017

Congregational Communication and Technology

We, the members of the 24th General Chapter, affirm the Congregational Communication Plan dated 20 December 2014. We promote its on-going implementation and development in the congregation. We seek critical and responsible use of communications and technology to foster our religious life and our educational vision among ourselves and our colleagues.

Approved October 24, 2017

Guidelines for Representation at the 25th General Chapter

We, the members of the 24th General Chapter, guided by *You Are Sent*, determine these broad guidelines for representation at the 25th General Chapter (YAS, C 95; GD 85):

- ❖ There will be one ex officio member for each province.
- ❖ Representation will be based on the principles of equality and proportionality.

Approved October 24, 2017

***Composition of the
General Council 2018-2024***
(YAS, C 101; GD 101)

We, the members of the 24th General Chapter, determine that the general council be composed of the general superior and five councilors.

Approved October 24, 2017

***Functioning of the
General Council 2018-2024***

We, the members of the 24th General Chapter, determine that the general council is free to make its own decisions as to how it will function.

Approved October 24, 2017

Number of General Councilors

We, the members of the 24th General Chapter, determine that the number of general councilors to be elected at future general chapters be at least three. This requires a change in *You Are Sent*, Constitution 101, as follows:

The general chapter members have the duty to elect a general superior and at least ~~five~~ **three** general councilors, each of whom has made perpetual profession in the congregation; the general superior must be at least thirty-five years of age and perpetually professed at least five years. (YAS, C 101)

Approved by the 24th General Chapter on October 24, 2017

[Legislation pending approval by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL)]

Abrogation of the Acts of the 23rd General Chapter

We, the members of the 24th General Chapter, determine that the following Acts of the 23rd General Chapter, having been completed or integrated into the ongoing life and spirit of the congregation, are abrogated as specific legal acts:

A. Completed:

1. Congregational Structure of Major Areas (*Abrogated October 24, 2017*)
2. Composition of the General Council, 2013-2018 (*Abrogated October 24, 2017*)
3. Functioning of the General Council, 2013-2018 (*Abrogated October 24, 2017*)
4. Length of Term for General Council (*Abrogated October 24, 2017*)
5. Congregational Communications (*Abrogated October 24, 2017*)
6. Guidelines for Representation at the 24th General Chapter
(*Abrogated October 24, 2017*)

B. Integrated into the ongoing life and spirit of the congregation:

1. Directional Statement: Love Cannot Wait (*Abrogated October 24, 2017*)
2. Holding All in Common (*Abrogated October 24, 2017*)
3. Personal Development in Community/Initial and Ongoing Formation

(*Abrogated October 24, 2017*)

Adapted from Circular 34/17*

Promulgation of the Directional Statement and Acts of the 24th General Chapter, November 15, 2017

The Chapter members asked the general council, in this official promulgation of the results of the General Chapter, to make note of the broad context within which to receive the Directional Statement, *Love Gives Everything*. Specifically, they wanted to direct attention to the encyclical of Pope Francis, *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home* (May 2015). This encyclical is a significant addition to the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church and was much in the minds and hearts of the Chapter members when we considered the integrated focus of the various elements of the Directional Statement. They urge us to use this encyclical as a significant help in understanding *Love Gives Everything*.

* General Council Circular 34/17: Official Announcement

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