

The Call of the 25th General Chapter

Our charism, gift of the Spirit, was embodied in Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, who, longing for the oneness of all in God... seeking God's will, struggled for unity in our international community and responded to urgent needs, preferring the poor and educating with a world vision. In these gifts of the Spirit to our foundress, Mother Theresa, we recognize the evolving charism of our congregation (YAS, Prologue).

Compelled by the urgent crises of our times, we, School Sisters of Notre Dame, “longing for the oneness of all in God,” commit to actions that deepen our relationships of communion, wherever we are.

We strive to be credible witnesses of universal communion through deepening our efforts to live as an intercultural faith community of one mind and one heart.

- ~ We examine our personal and communal lifestyles in the collaborative spirit of synodality, listening, discerning, and missioning. We co-create structures and practices that challenge, free, and unite us.
- ~ We embrace our vulnerability as individuals, community, congregation, church, and world, and with total trust in God, accept our interdependence with one another and the whole of creation.
- ~ We heal divisions and fractured relationships through forgiveness, reconciliation, dialogue, compassion, peacemaking, and bridge-building within our congregation and beyond.

We are committed to sustaining our charism and life in mission as a faith-filled, welcoming, and inclusive community.

- ~ We come before God willing to be changed, to accept our mission more intensely, and to respond to God's continuing call to mission.
- ~ We invite new members, associates, and colleagues to join us in proclaiming the good news in the spirit of our charism.

We acknowledge our own complicity in the social sin of our global community, and we commit ourselves to further systemic change.

- ~ We are educators in all that we are and do, exploring concrete avenues to eliminate root causes of injustice.
- ~ We are present with people at the peripheries and collaborate together to end all forms of discrimination, inequity, and violence.
- ~ We, as a *Laudato Si'* congregation, unite with the church's movement to address the environmental and humanitarian crisis within the framework of an integral ecology.

We are called and sent to deepen communion with God and among people wherever we are... As the desire of Jesus that all be one becomes more fully our own, our striving for unity embraces all humanity and the whole of creation (YAS, C 9).