

WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE 18TH GENERAL CHAPTER

urge ourselves and all our Sisters to face the reality of poverty in our world and to allow God to touch us deeply through it. We are convinced that this call demands a deep, personal and communal conversion—one that affects our prayer, our community life, and our ministry directed toward education.

We contemplate Jesus Christ,
who was sent to bring good news to the poor.
out of that contemplation, our charism and experience,
we commit ourselves

- to live simply and gratefully,
- to avail ourselves of opportunities to be with the materially poor,
- to share our lives and resources more directly with the poor,
- to evaluate our ministries in the light of concrete but non-exclusive ways of preferring the poor,
- to respond to urgent needs, being especially sensitive to the needs of women and youth,
- to share responsibility for changing structures that create and perpetuate poverty,
- to permeate our education with a vision of the possibilities for a new world order based on Christian values, recognizing the role that women play in the transformation of society.

Finally, we urge those in general congregational leadership, in collaboration with provinces and regions, to take responsibility for long-range planning that will enable us as an international congregation to use our resources more effectively in addressing the needs of the poor. We also encourage each sister to ready herself to respond to the challenges of this responsible stewardship.

Implementing the Directional Statement, we have heard anew the voices of the poor, the cry of creation, and the call for justice. Theological reflection on our experience of these urgent pleas, in the light of Scripture, You Are Sent, and our charism, will impel us to act.

- We reverence all creation as a sacred revelation of God. Establishing a right and just relationship with creation, each sister and local community will counteract the tendency toward consumerism and embrace a radically simple lifestyle.

- We prefer to be with and respond to persons who are materially poor or who suffer other forms of poverty. Each province/region will commit a definite percentage of its personnel and finances to address the needs of the poor.
- We work locally and congregationally against unjust structures, especially as they affect women and youth. As a congregation, we will establish an International Network for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation.
- We continue our monthly day of solidarity with the poor. We will pray, fast, and share how they have touched our lives.

Trusting in God's love, in our care for one another, and in the power of the poor to evangelize us,

. We risk in faith for a more just and truly human world.

Unanimously approved, November 9, 1992