

The Original Copy of Mother Georgianne's Vow at the Time of the Election.
October 24, 1968

The 1968 General Chapter was the first held after Vatican II ended. The spirit of collegiality and openness generated hope and creativity within the congregation. At the time of the election of the General Superior the custom included the recitation of an oath that focused on fidelity to discipline and order. As Georgianne Segner, SSND, heard the tally of voting and realized she could be elected she quickly wrote her own "oath." As she told the author, the former oath seemed too negative and she felt the Spirit was calling the congregation to greater trust.

Therefore with some trepidation she asked the bishop's permission to recite her version of an oath rather than the customary one. When asked, the bishop simply nodded in the affirmative. She said it was the most significant "nod" of her life. Below is her oath.

"Your Excellency, I beg exception to pronounce my oath according to our present text – and substitute the following. (The bishop nodded.)

Before God.

In the presence of the representative of the church and before this legislative body of our Congregation

I DO VOW to expend all my strength with God's grace

In creating an atmosphere of greater openness
to the Holy Spirit in our Congregation
during this period of renewal and experimentation.
so that all of us working together may spread
the message of the Gospel
and the teaching of the Church
in the spirit of Mother Theresa
wherever PROVIDENCE may call us.

With faith and courage and love, I accept this
responsibility to bring us to
UNITY IN CHRIST through our diversities.

In YOUR WILL O GOD IS MY PEACE."