

School Sisters of Notre Dame
Directional Statements from General Chapters 1987 to 2023

Directional Statements by year, number of General Chapters, title,
world/SSND context, and key words

1987 – 18th *Make the Concerns of the Poor Our Own.*

We recognize many opportunities for building a more human world, as well as the existence of many life-threatening problems. One of these problems is poverty....

Since poverty is the foundation of our congregation, we School Sisters of Notre Dame recognize in this situation a special call of God. The General Chapter now emphasizes the call of *You Are Sent* to make the concerns of the poor our own. Live simply, be with the materially poor, share our lives and resources.

1992 – 19th *Mandate for Action (Risking in Faith)*

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 risk in faith for a more just and truly human world. Reverence all creation as a sacred revelation of God. Establish an International Network for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

1997 – 20th *Call of the 20th General Chapter*

Impelled by the spirit of Jesus Christ, we struggle in solidarity with those who are poor for justice and a global community.

We reaffirm the *Mandate for Action* and call the congregation to respond anew to our prophetic mission as women religious moving into the third millennium. Revitalize community living. Reverse those personal and communal choices which exploit the earth and impoverish peoples.

2002 – 21st *Call to Transformation*

We have heard the desire of our sisters to draw deeply from the wellsprings of our life... We have heard the cry of the world. Although precious and beautiful in God's design, the earth and its people exist today in a fragile, divided and fragmented condition. We see also that expanding globalization is widening the gap between rich and poor.

As community we are sent in the power of the Spirit to continue Christ's mission... to be transformed and to transform our world, bringing all to that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent. (YAS, C 48) We call each sister to open her entire life to radical transformation.

2007 – 22nd *Call to Solidarity*

We embrace a new moment in our history as an international congregation. Recognize new potential for acting interdependently. Open to reconfiguration within the congregation.

Call to Solidarity with all Creation, we are ready, personally and communally, to risk all we are and all we have for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ. We claim in a new way our internationality, our ministry of education for the transformation of the world and Eucharist as the center of our lives.

2012 – 23rd *Love Cannot Wait*

We are profoundly affected and challenged by the many divisions in our world and church today and by the social, economic and ecological crises of our times.

As an international congregation of apostolic women religious, we are called and sent to address these divisions and crises with audacity and hope.

Embrace dialogue as a way of life that leads to new discoveries.

Live more simply, responsibly and sustainably.

2017 – 24th *Love Gives Everything*

At this critical turning point in the sacred history of creation and humanity, we have heard our deep desire to trust and dare.

We direct our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent. 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.

2023 – 25th *The Call of the 25th General Chapter*

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.

Strive to be credible witnesses... live as an intercultural faith community of one mind and one heart. Committed to sustaining our charism and life in mission as a faith-filled, welcoming, and inclusive community. Acknowledge our own complicity in the social sin of our global community.