



Institute Direction Statement of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Animated by the Gospel and Catherine McAuley's passion for the poor, we, the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, are impelled to commit our lives and resources to act in solidarity with the economically poor of the world, especially women and children; women seeking fullness of life and equality in church and society; one another as we embrace our multicultural and international reality.

This commitment will impel us to develop and act from a multicultural and international perspective; speak with a corporate voice; work for systemic change; practice non-violence; act in harmony and interdependence with all creation; and call ourselves to continual conversion in our lifestyle and ministries.

*adopted at the 1991 Founding Chapter,
revised 2005 Chapter;
affirmed Institute Chapter 2011*

Chapter 2017 Recommitment

Called to New Consciousness

God of Mercy, Wisdom and Mystery, who do you desire us to be now for one another and for our suffering world in order to continue our transformation toward greater integrity of word and deed?

The Sixth Institute Chapter has come to believe that the God of Mercy, Wisdom and Mystery is calling us, as Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, an international and intercultural community, to deepen our relationship with God and one another, and to intensify our work in communion with others who seek a more just and inclusive world. We recognize a yearning for oneness in all of creation, in all peoples and within our Institute. Our suffering world calls us to speak and act with integrity and clear intention.

Relationship

We hear a call to strengthen our relationships with one another through . . .

- ❖ reverence for our international and intercultural community;
- ❖ greater availability to one another;
- ❖ healing of personal and communal wounds;
- ❖ contemplative dialogue;

- ❖ integration of contemplation and action;
- ❖ a simple lifestyle;
- ❖ governance that calls forth the voice and engagement of each member.

Critical Concerns

We hear a demand to embrace anew our Critical Concerns through the lens of nonviolence, and . . .

- ❖ to grow in our personal practice of nonviolence and peacemaking, actively collaborate with communities and organizations that foster peace and nonviolence and work to change violent systems and structures;
- ❖ to work zealously toward the sustainability of all life by caring for Earth’s ecosystems, addressing global climate change, advocating for the fundamental right to clean water and committing ourselves to an integral “ecological conversion”¹;
- ❖ to continue our commitment to eliminate personal, communal and institutional racism while working to dismantle structures, policies and processes that oppress;
- ❖ to advocate for the intrinsic value of women’s lives and to promote equality of women in Church and society;
- ❖ to act in solidarity with migrants, immigrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking, seeking with them a more just and inclusive world.

Calls to Respond

We hear the cry of our suffering world. The impoverishment of peoples, the devastation of Earth, and oppressive social norms and systems call us in this moment to act . . .

- ❖ to become better educated and to participate in engaged dialogue on gender identity and sexual orientation;
- ❖ to continue to assure that financial decisions are consistent with our mission and our needs;
- ❖ to intensify efforts to align our investments with our values and, especially now, to pursue education and action against practices of extractive industries that are destroying people, communities and Earth.

In order to respond to the urgent needs of our day, this Sixth Institute Chapter commits us to a renewed exploration and fuller expression of our communal documents². We welcome all to join us in a “revolution of tenderness.”³ In Catherine McAuley’s spirit of union and charity we voice the call of Jesus, “that all may be one.”

¹ Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’*

² *Constitutions; 1991 Founding Document and Direction Statement; 2005 Critical Concerns; 2011 Chapter Declaration*

³ Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel, Art.88*