Apostolic Religious Life of the School Sisters of Notre Dame

Part One: Situations in the Church and World Today

Introduction
Four affirmations:
1. God
2. Jesus Christ
3. Charism
4. Church and World
Summary: Apostolic religious life is primarily about being called by the living God to follow Jesus Christ in a particular community of disciples who are sent into the world to serve and minister in His name.

I. Changes in the Global Context

1. People
   A. Migration
   B. Urbanization
   C. Globalization of Communications Technology

2. Instability
   A. Ethnic Conflict
   B. Global Terrorism

3. The Role of Religion
   A. Secularization, mostly in Europe
   B. Increase in (mostly conservative and even fundamentalist) religion around the world

II. Catholic Church as a “World Church”

III. Challenges for Apostolic Religious Life

1. Decline in new members and an aging population
IV. Opportunities for Apostolic Religious Life

1. Intercultural membership

2. Collaboration:
   - Within the congregation
   - Inter-congregationally
   - Partnerships in mission with the laity

3. Potential to develop a truly apostolic religious life:
   - Contemplative and prophetic dimensions
   - Mission
   - Rediscovery of the potential of the vows and the relevance of the vowed life

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Part Two: The Living Charism and our Congregational Identity

❖ Introduction

❖ The Concept of Charism

❖ Charism and “Deep Story”

❖ Our Experience of Trying to Define Charism

❖ Reinventing Charism Today

❖ Charism: The Meeting of our Deep Story with the Urgent Needs of our Time

❖ Implications for Formation – some suggestions for further reflection and dialogue