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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
2. Multi-cultural membership.

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

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**