



COMPANY
OF THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY
OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL



Lines of Action

Inter-Assembly: 2003 – 2009

Our passion for Jesus
impels us to go to those who are poor
with fearlessness,
compassion and creativity.

January 2004

Dear Sisters,

May the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ always be with us!

In the document “A New Fire”, the 1997 General Assembly outlined the convictions and commitments that were to animate and stimulate the life of the Company for the following six years while stressing “*Inculturation of the Charism in a Changing World*”.

The 2003 General Assembly was focused on revising the Constitutions and Statutes. Its objective was to “Revise to Revitalize” your vocation as Daughters of Charity while facing with hope the challenges of the beginning of the third millennium.

Having completed this arduous task of study and revision, the General Assembly asked the General Council to develop Lines of Action which would energize the Company during this new inter-Assembly period. After dialogue and reflection with the Director General and the General Council, we have the joy of presenting these “*Lines of Action*”. These reference points reflect the spirit and work of the Assembly. They are an effort to give life to “*this time of Grace*”, this “*breath of revitalization*” as a *new movement* of the Spirit within the Company.

We are asking the Provinces to develop a method for putting these Lines of Action into practise during the next five years. You can adapt them to your own situation, so that each Local Community may integrate them within their Community Plans.

How can one achieve this? We propose a variety of ways.

- A Provincial Council Planning Session where each line of action would be studied.
- A Provincial Meeting to assist in developing the Provincial Plan in light of these Lines of Action.
- A Sister Servant Meeting to suggest Lines of Action that are common to all houses.
- A meeting of the Vocation Ministry Team to help in developing the Vocation Ministry Plan in light of these Lines of Action.
- A Formation Commission Meeting to assist in developing the Formation Plan in light of these Lines of Action.
- A meeting of every Sister Servant with her Community to develop the Local Community Plan in light of these Lines of Action.

In this 150th anniversary year of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, we confide this new step to the Mother of the Company. May Mary, “Shining Star” and “Cause of our Joy”, lighten our steps. May she also encourage us to move forward along this *pathway of revitalization* in developing “creativity of charity” to respond to the constant appeals of those who are poor with *creative and fearless fidelity to the spirit of our Founders*.

Deeply united with you on this journey,

Robert P. Maloney, C.M.
Superior General

Sister Evelyne Franc, D.C.
Superioress General

**We are experiencing a
NEW TIME OF GRACE**

which is **CALLING** us :

To **“PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP...”** (*cf. Luke 5:4; NMI 15*) in order to live out the radicality of the beatitudes.

At the threshold of the third millennium, the **Church** invites us to do so.

To **REVITALISE OUR CHARISM** with creative fidelity to the spirit of our Founders.

At the end of the General Assembly, the **Company** invites us to do so.

To **FORGE AHEAD** with confidence and enthusiasm in order to be witnesses of Christ’s merciful love to those who are poor.

Following her beatification, **Sister Rosalie Rendu** invites us to do so.

MISSION

To **revitalize** our service to those who are poor, **let us go further down** the path already taken in order to:

- ***Develop** new responses to the appeals coming from “here and there” with courage and with “creativity in charity” (NMI 50).*
- ***Continue** our apostolic reflection and revise our responses to Mission.*
- ***Intensify** our collaboration with the laity, the Vincentian Family and other groups through concrete and long term projects with and for those who are poor.*
- ***Search** for new responses to situations that undermine respect for life, human rights, peace and ecological harmony.*
- ***Establish** work groups on the international/ Provincial/local levels to commit ourselves to serving those who are migrants, refugees, or displaced.*

RELATIONSHIPS

To **revitalize** our relationships, **let us go beyond** what already exists to:

- ***Give** a new impetus to our spiritual life so that in our Communities we experience God and communion among our Sisters for the Mission.*
- ***Develop** greater attentiveness to the Spirit at work in the lives of peoples and in events in the world. In the light of this, discern individually and communally the values and counter-values of today's culture.*
- ***Intensify** our proximity of life and heart with those who poor.*
- ***Create** joyful communities where diversity is accepted as an enrichment.*
- ***Encourage** participation, co-responsibility and subsidiarity on all levels.*

FORMATION

To **revitalize** our charism **let us go beyond** what has been achieved to:

- ***Make our own** the updated Constitutions and Statutes.*
- ***Revise** the Provincial, Community and Formation Plans in the light of this deepening.*
- ***Exercise** discernment at all stages of our life.*
- ***Encourage** Vincentian Formation and reinterpret the thinking of our Founders in the light of today.*
- ***Foster** initiatives for international/continental/interprovincial meetings.*

INTERNATIONALITY OF THE COMPANY

To **deepen** ever more **our belonging** to the Company, **let us go beyond** how we have expressed it to:

- *Share mutually our human and material resources on all levels and witness to communion, solidarity and the internationality of the Company.*
- *Take on, individually and communally, a simple life style consistent with the spirit, and end of the Company and with the reality of those who are poor in today's world. Develop and revise our budgets in this perspective.*
- *Learn one of these three languages: English, Spanish, or French to progressively simplify official communication in the Company and the organization of international meetings.*

VOCATION MINISTRY

To be **even more explicit** in **announcing the gospel** to the young and help them better **understand** the charism of the Company let us:

- *Create a dynamic, creative and open Vocation Ministry on the Provincial and inter-Provincial levels in collaboration with the local Church and involving each local community and each Daughter of Charity.*
- *Warmly **welcome** the young desiring to share in our life of service and prayer.*
- *Assist the young in their vocational discernment based on gospel motivations.*
- *Live our gift of self to Christ and to those who are poor in joy and hope.*

“I ask the Lord to teach us all to fly... gracefully and smoothly, higher than ever before, so that the Company can really be free for God and free for the poor. That was Saint Vincent’s dream... May the Lord bear us up on eagle’s wings and help us... to fly gracefully to God and teach others, especially the poor, how to fly too.”

(cf. Robert Maloney, CM: Opening of the Assembly)

“I would like to invite you to confide all this to the Blessed Virgin: Mary, you who are “the humble and faithful servant of the designs of the Father, the model of those who are pure in heart”, we choose you as “Teacher of the spiritual life” and we entrust to you the Company’s future. Obtain for us, the Spirit of simplicity, so that we may become, like you, the transparent reflection of God for our suffering brothers and sisters, for the Sisters in our communities and for everyone we meet.”

(Sister Evelyne Franc: Closing of the Assembly)



**O Mary conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to you.**