

YOUTH AND VOCATION MINISTRY

*I believe that each one of us
has a **mission on earth**...
and that we must seek how God
can use us for the spreading
of the Gospel and its fulfillment.¹*

In this time of the General Chapter we give witness to the great desire in us to live a consecrated life that is a way of happiness² ... We observed with joy the ground covered by the Congregation in drawing close to the young: Christian or Non-Christian, wherever they come from. We are reaching out to them, impelled by the passion of God for humanity and the certitude that He always walks with us.

The task of **Youth and Vocation Ministry** is to accompany the young in their search for truth and freedom, so that they may attain fullness of life and happiness by discovering their own vocation-mission.

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¹ M. Marie Eugénie, *Letter to Fr. Lacordaire, not dated between 1841-1843, FT p.73*

² Sr. Cristina Maria, *Superior General 1994-2006, Report of Government, General Chapter 2006, p.7*

Each person is unique but is also marked by his or her times. Like everyone, they have their own strengths and weaknesses, but **young people** are particularly engaged in searching for meaning and happiness in their lives. They want to find truth and authenticity in themselves and in others. They **want to build their lives.**

***M**y friends, in the heart of everyone there is the desire for a home. Even more so in the young person's heart there is a great longing for a proper home, a stable home, one to which he can not only return with joy, but where every guest who arrives can be joyfully welcomed. There is a yearning for a home where the daily bread is love, pardon and understanding. It is a place where the truth is the source out of which flows peace of heart... Do not be discouraged at the sight of crumbling houses, frustrated desires and faded longings. God the Creator, who inspires in young hearts an immense yearning for happiness, will not abandon you in the difficult construction of the house called life.³*

All our **Assumption religious communities**, as places of prayer, silence, listening, and hospitality, are called to welcome the young. And we sisters are meant to become *people who transmit fundamental values that guide, orient and give meaning to every human life⁴.*

³ Benedict XVI, Krakow-Poland, 27 May 2006

⁴ Sr. Cristina Maria, *ibid.*

ORIENTATION 1

Help each one to discover his/her mission on earth.

1. Accompany the young, respecting their pace as they get to know themselves and discover their vocation and their project of life.
2. Give opportunities for profound human and spiritual experiences that awaken their inner thirst. Help them express what is within.
3. Provide the time and space for them to encounter one another, to give of themselves and to make commitments.
4. Guide them to encounter Jesus Christ as the source of freedom and joy.

ORIENTATION 2

Ensure a solid education for the young that springs from reality, develops the whole person, and favors experience and commitment for the transformation of society.

1. Put in place a pedagogy founded on experience which integrates young people's faith and life, their beliefs and their culture.
2. Strengthen the critical sense and the spirit of discernment so they can situate themselves with respect to other persons, situations and the new technologies of information and communication.
3. Develop the natural virtues as a foundation for personal growth.
4. Awaken a sense of history that will enable them to assume their family and cultural heritage, to open themselves to the universal, and to develop independent thought.

ORIENTATION 3

Form leaders to become agents of transformation and change.

1. Empower young people to become leaders and bridges among themselves and across generations.
2. Trust their potential for leadership to carry out projects, especially those in favor of justice, peace, respect for creation and solidarity.
3. Promote networking (provincial, continental, church, organizations...).

ORIENTATION 4

Revitalize our work for Assumption vocations.

1. Make our religious communities good news that manifests the joy of belonging to Christ and following Him.
2. Communicate the passion of God for the world and make known our way of working in the Church for the transformation of society.
3. Accompany the young to respond to the call of Christ and to commit themselves.
4. Engage every sister of the province in the work for vocations. Invest human and material resources.