

2024-2030

ANIMATION PLAN GENERAL GOVERNMENT



Rome, December 2025



CONGREGATION ANIMATION PLAN

GENERAL GOVERNMENT 2024–2030

PRESENTATION

Since we were elected by the 37th General Chapter to animate the Congregation for the next six years, we have experienced an intense period of meetings, visits and activities that are part of our service. Re-establishing the Provinces and erecting the Region required us to hold Provincial and Regional chapters during the first half of 2025. The preparation of documents, Statutes, Apostolic Plans, etc., kept the entire Congregation busy with these preparatory tasks. We were happy to accompany the meetings, thanks to which we were able to visit and greet many sisters. We saw that the Congregation is alive, organised and facing its challenges everywhere.

Between trips and meetings, we have drawn up this Plan for the animation of the Congregation, which we hope will help us to understand, accompany and encourage the sisters and communities, the Provinces and the Region during the coming years.

We are living in a particularly difficult time for the world, the Church and the Congregation. Current events have presented us with new challenges marked by cultural, political and social changes, the end of which is not yet in sight. A growing transformation in the way of understanding reality and certain scandals committed by some of its members have meant a loss of credibility and a decline in the number of faithful in the Church, while its internal changes and attempts to open up to today's world have not been enough to prevent the distancing of many, especially adolescents and young people. This decline in the number of faithful has led to a decrease in religious vocations, which also affects our Congregation, which has gradually become smaller, with few young women in initial formation and an ageing membership.

Paradoxically, this has led us to deepen our understanding of the value of vulnerability and weakness as the truest place of God's action among us. The fragility of our communities, far from discouraging us, reminds us every day that the Congregation, "the Work" as our founders called it, belongs to God who created it, sustains it and guides it. This impels us to carry out our mission with the zeal, they bequeathed to us and with the strength and enthusiasm inspired by our charism.

THE GOVERNING TEAM

We were called together as a governing team at a time when the Church has made a strong call for synodality. We believe that the quality of our leadership will depend largely on our ability to exercise synodal leadership and promote teamwork and community discernment, and to walk together at all levels of the Congregation.

To this end, we consider the following attitudes as basic guidelines for exercising leadership and promoting animation and accompaniment throughout the Congregation.

1. Practise active listening as an act of respect, always considering all voices, especially those who are often marginalised.
2. Encourage real participation so that decisions are made jointly, integrating different points of view and promoting co-responsibility.
3. Discerning communally, understanding that the best decisions arise from dialogue, joint reflection, and recognition of diversity within the group.
4. Experience authority as service, inspired by closeness, empathy and a willingness to accompany rather than direct.
5. Make decisions by seeking consensus, even if some processes are delayed, knowing that this is more inclusive, profound and lasting.
6. Maintain open and honest communication to create environments of trust, transparency, and cooperation.
7. Accompanying one another in personal and community growth, living fraternal correction and care for one another.
8. Create times and means for reflection and study of certain current issues that we see as necessary for our animation and personal growth.
9. Maintain a balance between our personal and community spaces for prayer, work, relaxation and rest.
10. Evaluate our work from time to time to deepen what is appropriate and amend what we see as necessary.

SPIRITUAL ANIMATION

Spiritual animation is a responsibility of the service of authority at its different levels. It is responsible for promoting the sisters' fidelity to the mission of the Congregation and their harmony with the spirit of the founders.

"Community life is a fundamental part and primary witness of our mission," and its revitalisation is the task of all sisters and communities. The Chapter has entrusted us with promoting a process of personal conversion to recreate fraternity. (Cf. Final Doc. p.9-12).

To encourage this process of renewal and strengthening of community relations, we propose to make various visits to the communities. These visits will be opportunities for encounter that will help the sisters to strengthen their Sacred Hearts identity and their belonging to an international family, through dialogue, reflection and sharing. This will allow us to get to know the sisters and communities better and to provide encouragement that is more closely suited to the reality of each Province and Region.

In particular, canonical visits will be times for reviewing and evaluating our journey together and the attitudes that foster fraternal relationships.

We are promoting among the younger sisters who have not done (or have not completed) theological studies, different possible ways of doing so. We believe that theological formation is essential for a congregation like ours, which is dedicated to evangelising apostolic life.

We have entrusted an ad hoc group composed of Valéria Gomes (Brazil), María del Mar Pérez (Spain) and Montserrat Montecino (Chile) to develop a Plan for Ongoing Formation (which has been pending since the previous Chapter) which in continuity with the Initial Formation Plan, will help to recreate religious life in all its dimensions, rekindle the longing for God and the ministry of adoration, improve the quality of community meetings, and revitalise missionary zeal.

We try to make our bimonthly INFO a tool for Ongoing Formation that allows us, beyond mere sharing and informative communication, to recreate the bond and interest in getting to know each other better and fraternal friendship, and to offer some reflections on formation for personal and community growth. In addition, once a year we will produce a common INFO for sisters and brothers as a means of unity and communion.

We will give the sisters the document "Our SS.CC. Melody," prepared by a group of sisters in the previous period, as a programme for deepening the elements of our charism.

ACCOMPANYING THE MISSION

ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE

Once the Provinces and the Region have been established, each with its own government and organisation, we will accompany them on their journey according to their individual realities, accepting and respecting their diversity and needs.

We will pay special attention to the DRC Region which, by decision of the Chapter, depends on the General Government and must follow a path to become a Province.

The Expanded General Council, in which we meet with the provincial superiors, will be a good means of exercising synodal leadership and promoting it in other areas of governance, animation, and participation. It will meet once a year in person and every two or three months online. Together we will seek topics for reflection that will help us unify criteria, build common meanings, and share experiences.

Along the same lines, it will be important to accompany the journey of the Conferences with their diversity of styles, rhythms and ways of organising themselves based on their own Statutes.

At the same time, we will accompany the respective governments in situations that need special attention.

CONGREGATIONAL APOSTOLIC PLAN (CAP)

The Chapter has asked the General Government to ensure the implementation of the PAC in all Provinces and Regions. We will follow up on this decision and evaluate it before the end of this period, to present it to the General Chapter in 2030.

Given that the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) offers a good service of formation, initiatives and proposals on issues related to Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation, we will remain connected through Susana

Villarreal ss.cc. to encourage sisters and communities with the activities and resources proposed by the UISG.

CONSTITUTIONS

The draft of the new Constitutions has been awaiting a chapter decision on the organisation and structure of the Congregation for some time. Aurora Laguarda ss.cc. and Mercedes Bayo ss.cc. are working on the latest version, which we will make public as soon as possible. For final approval, we will hold an extraordinary Chapter in August 2027 in Spain at the house of San Lorenzo del Escorial (Madrid), the composition of which was already decided at the 37th General Chapter.

YOUTH VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

The Chapter has given the Congregation a PLAN FOR ACCOMPANYING SS.CC. YOUTH MINISTRY for the entire Congregation. This document focuses on the personal accompaniment of young people in their processes of human growth and maturation in the faith. We have begun to encourage its study and understanding by the teams of sisters and lay people who work directly with young people, and we will accompany its implementation by offering guidance to the different presences in analysing pastoral contexts, detecting different needs and training in pastoral processes. To this end, with the accompaniment of Noemí García ss.cc., we will propose meetings and provide materials for youth pastoral work.

We will also promote the work of vocational pastoral care, with meetings and appropriate materials, respecting the diversity of styles and organisation of each province or country, but insisting on the urgency of accompanying young people in their discernment of their life project.

INITIAL FORMATION

One of the main concerns of the Government is Initial Formation. It is worth remembering that the future of the Congregation depends on the quality of the formation of its new members. This requires good preparation on the part of the sisters responsible for accompanying each stage and the fulfilment of the Initial Formation Plan with the necessary adaptations to each context.

We recognise that, despite the efforts, activities and resources employed in recent years, we have had some undesirable situations in Initial formation. We have appointed María Vidal ss.cc. as General Coordinator of Initial Formation,

with whom we will work through Pushpa Rani Arputham ss.cc. to try to generate some new forms and practices that may yield different results.

EDUCATIONAL MISSION

The Chapter presented the Congregation with GUIDELINES FOR SS.CC. EDUCATION, with recommendations to promote its further development in all its educational centres, making the necessary adaptations to each situation. We will monitor their implementation and hold meetings to share experiences and address issues that require a certain degree of uniformity (gender, AI, global education plan, educational pastoral care, etc.). This monitoring will be carried out by Susana Villarreal ss.cc.

HAINAN PROJECT

In recent years, the Congregation has been accompanying the growth of the SS.CC. diocesan Congregation in Hainan (China) with formation, dialogue and closeness. During this period, as requested by the Chapter, we will take responsibility, as the general government, for continuing to provide the support that is requested of us, seeking sisters who can make these contributions.

FUTURE OF POITIERS

The community in Poitiers has been strengthened by the arrival of Sisters Norma Naula (Ecuador) and Violeta Vidal (Chile) several months ago, and Joséphine Musila (DRC), who will join them this week. This diverse community faces the challenge of integration, while continuing to provide support to the elderly sisters living in the residence and carrying out the consultations and administrative procedures entrusted to it by the Chapter with a view to the future (cf. Final Document, p.23-24). They are being accompanied by Patricia Villarroel, ss.cc.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Since the beginning of this term, we have confirmed Sister Evelyne Royer as general administrator and have decided to renew the members of the Solidarity Economy Commission (CES) for three years. Mary McCloskey (Ireland), Romeka Situmorang (Indonesia), Berta Córdoba (Colombia), and Jolie Kwengani (DRC). This commission will be accompanied by Susana Villarreal ss.cc., and will meet annually for two weeks at the general house. Its objectives are to study the financial reports of each Province and Region each year and to take care of the solidarity of the Congregation. In agreement with

the General Government, it will have the task of promoting formation activities for treasurers and/or for sisters of the Congregation, when it seems appropriate, according to possibilities and circumstances. We will insist, when appropriate, on the preparation of sisters for the change of administrative service and on the need to have teams to accompany the administrator of the Province and Region.

SECRETARIAT AND GENERAL ARCHIVES

Considering the current reality of the Congregation, we have made a discernment after which we decided to hire a lay person to take care of the General Secretariat and archives. She will team up with the current secretarial assistant, Emmanuelle Reiva, and will support the General Government in matters of secretarial work and administrative procedures.

We are looking for a professional to audit our general archives and provide us with the necessary guidance to continue organising our existing documents and materials.

AYMER FOUNDATION

The General Chapter has requested that the work carried out by the AYMER Foundation which supports certain projects of the Congregation be publicised in different places where we are present. We will take this recommendation into account, especially during visits to the Provinces and Regions.

COMMISSION FOR SPIRITUAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF THE CONGREGATION

In accordance with the decision of the General Chapters of the sisters and brothers, the Commission for Spiritual and Historical Heritage of the Congregation will be composed of sisters and brothers. For this period, it is made up of Noemí García and Jean Blaise as Coordinators, and Beatriz Montaner, Mercedes Bayo, Fernando Cordero, Andrzej Lukawsky and Éric Hernout. Its objectives are to support the work of the General Governments with various activities and publications, and to interact with the postulator and his work on the causes of beatification and canonisation (cf. Doc. Final p.26-28).

SECULAR BRANCH OF THE SACRED HEARTS

The General Chapters of sisters and brothers have called for reflection on the Secular Branch and the specific identity of SS.CC. lay people (cf. Final Doc. p.28-30). They recommended with special emphasis strengthening the ministry of reparatory adoration entrusted by the Church to the Congregation, and encouraging joint activities that ensure co-responsibility and shared mission.

At the same time, it was decided to guarantee the continuity of the Spiritual Animation Team of the Secular Branch (SAT) by incorporating two of the lay people elected by them. Following this election, the team is now composed of Pushpa Rani Arputham ss.cc., Stephan Banjare ss.cc., on behalf of the General Governments, Rosa Elena Barros ss.cc. and Yoseph Bala ss.cc., and Marie Pluchet (France) and Eladio Poblete (Chile) as representatives of the Secular Branch.

The accompaniment of the communities of the Secular Branch depends on the sisters and brothers of the corresponding countries, and we will be able to encourage it during the canonical visits of both General Governments.

CALENDAR 2024 - 2030

EXPANDED GENERAL COUNCIL IN PERSON

2025	22-28 September in ROME
2026	21–27 September in CHILE
2027	20–26 September in HAWAII
2028	September – LIMA (simultaneously with the brothers)
2029	September – KINSHASA

CANONICAL VISITS

2026	DRC Chile/Paraguay	March – April October – November
2027	Northern Europe/Quebec Asia/Pacific-USA	March – April October – November
2028	Ecuador/Colombia Peru/Brazil/Mexico/Bolivia	March – April October – November
2029	Spain-Mozambique	March – April

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

September 2029 – LIMA

GENERAL CHAPTERS

Extraordinary Chapter August 2027 in El Escorial – SPAIN
 Ordinary Chapter September 2030 in ROME

SESSIONS POITIERS

2026 July
 2028 July

INITIAL FORMATION

2028 – 1st Semester – Preparation for Perpetual Vows

2028 – During the second semester – Meeting of Formators

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT
 DECEMBER 2025**