

THE PROMOTION OF THE LAITY

(Acts of 1993 FDNSC General Chapter, pg 12)

Fr Chevalier wanted to establish an association which would enable the laity to share in the life and mission of the religious congregations he founded. He saw this as a means of helping them to live the spirituality of the Heart of Jesus and make it known to others.

The Chapter affirms the many initiatives concerning the laity that are already being undertaken in different provinces.

In provinces where there are associates, a sister should be appointed by the provincial to accompany them in their commitment to live our spirit and mission, according to the particular circumstances of their vocation. The Chapter encourages the provinces to communicate information about their lay associates which will be included in the General Bulletin.

It is suggested that the Annals, and other means, be used to make our spirituality known amongst the laity.

The promotion of the laity in the Church is an important part of our mission today. Where possible we assist in their formation, recognizing their special talents and skills and welcoming them as our collaborators.

The Chapter encourages the sisters to give responsibility to the laity and to form catechists, community leaders and development workers.

Religious and laity are called to support and strengthen one another so that **the Sacred Heart of Jesus may be everywhere loved!**

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Mission of the FDNSC

- As Jesus was sent by the Father in the power of the Spirit to proclaim the Good News to the poor, so we are sent by the Church to make known the strong and merciful love of God revealed in his Heart. In the Missionary spirit, strengthened by the charism of Father Chevalier, we remain open to the needs of our world and the demands to make our own the hopes and anxieties of the people of our times, especially those who are poor, suffering or deprived in any way. (*FDNSC Constitutions*, # 80)