

## PRAYING WITH THE CAPITULAR ACTS 2019

*“The Love of Christ Impels Us” (2 Cor. 5:14)*

***Pray, Witness, Proclaim***

Praying with the Acts of the 48<sup>th</sup> General Chapter means being constantly aware where God is working in my life, in my Sisters, in our Congregation and in the world. It means being sensitive to the calls of God, acknowledging key points of growth in grace, as well as recognizing areas of struggle, thereby, allowing our charism to grow and develop within the context of our present world and the needs of the Church.

This monthly recollection guide is designed to help us, individually and as a community, enter more deeply into the process of renewal proposed by the Capitular Acts 2019. Each month presents the major themes and orientations taken from the Capitular Acts. These texts are meant to be read contemplatively together with the accompanying texts from the Sacred Scriptures. Questions are provided for personal reflection and prayer and for community faith sharing.

We hope that these recollection guides will serve to inspire us to undertake concrete actions adapted to our local contexts, towards a more authentic living of our consecrated life.

Let us together open our hearts to the Spirit that dispels our weariness and skepticism and heed the call for a renewal of our life.



**JANUARY 2020**  
**Renewing My Initial “YES”**

“We discern the call of the Spirit in these challenges to rediscover the wealth and the potentialities of the life we are all called to embrace.”

(Letter of Mother Maria Goretti Lee, Superior General)

1. As I begin my prayer, I ask for the **grace** of a renewed enthusiasm to follow Jesus and serve Him as a Sister of St. Paul of Chartres today.
2. I recall the significant moments in my spiritual pilgrimage especially the moment when I first heard the call of God. With this call, what important changes in my life took place? With St. Paul, I take time to pray and thank the Lord for the gift of my vocation.

*<sup>15</sup>But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup>to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, <sup>17</sup>nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus. (Galatians 1:15-17)*

*<sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” <sup>5</sup>And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” And He said, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, <sup>6</sup>but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.” (Acts 9:4-6)*

3. I prayerfully read the Letter of Mother General (Capitular Acts 2019). I consider the following points by seeing, listening, and discerning the action of the Holy Spirit in my personal and communal life.
  - There are new urgencies that call for renewal and adaptation of our consecrated life and urge us to take on new forms of generous response: the challenges of globalization, interculturality, formation of new generations, new perspectives of mission, ecological crisis and many others.
  - Our 48th General Chapter ventured to discern new paths of renewal and discover “new wineskins” in order to authentically live our consecrated life today, while remaining faithful to our founding charism.
  - For religious life to survive the current changes, we are called to return to the essential: JESUS ALONE! To be deeply rooted and centered in Jesus implies above all a profound encounter with Him who loves us immensely.
  - To be authentic witnesses and effective proclaimers of Jesus in our times, we need to undertake new paths of renewal in the three dimensions of our life: consecration, communion and mission.

- In our life of CONSECRATION, we are invited to return to the Paschal source of our vocation, the radical stripping of ourselves of all that is not Jesus.

What feelings and thoughts were evoked in me?

What specific points captured my attention and awakened my enthusiasm to follow Jesus in a more intimate way?

What is my deepest desire as I renew my “YES” to Jesus and to the SPC life and mission?

**I consider these questions and talk about them with the Lord.**

4. Following my prayer, I reread the letter of Mother General in the Capitular Acts 2019 as I renew my “yes” to His call, deepen my relationship with Jesus, and respond to the call to witness and to be sent in any mission.
5. **Points for Sharing:** I share my significant prayer experience on any of the points above. As a community, we will plan a structure on how we can strengthen our “yes” to God and be more consistent in our response.