

Courageous re-imagining for mission



The 2013 General Chapter was held in Loyola Hall, Liverpool, UK. For over a year the Society engaged in a process of communal discernment regarding its *Future Directions*. This process invited each FCJ sister to seek God's dreams for our Society's future and to raise deep questions as to what God is asking of us as we live as Faithful Companions of Jesus in our world and Church today.

The Chapter planning committee took our responses to this question and formulated a discernment question ... a question that is addressed to God as well as to each member of the Chapter as the Chapter body enters in to a further communal discernment to set future directions for our Society?

*O Cosmic Christ, where are you leading
your small evolving Society of gifted companions
to be salt and light in your emerging universe?*

Our question is a prayer of longing to know where God is leading us today, to seek God's will in the contemporary Church and in the contemporary world. We desire to engage more fully the theology of the cosmos. We are aware of our diminishment and place our hope for the future 'in God alone'. Our FCJ Society is constantly changing and yet the deepest things remain the same. We desire to deepen, share and live our charism (Marie Madeleine's vision) with our thirsty world in a way that is relevant today. We recognize too our giftedness as well as our vulnerability. As both 'salt' and 'light', we desire to be contemplatives in action with a passion for mission in today's world and church. We see ourselves as part of a changing and emerging reality in God. We desire to live this with hope in the 21st century so as to open new vistas.



Delegates voting at the General Chapter 2013

The outcome of the Chapter was a document, the *Chapter Directions*. You can [download](#) a copy of these directions if you wish. As we FCJs – individually, as local groups, as Provinces and as a Society – live into and work with these directions, we hope that our FCJ Companions in Mission, families, friends and colleagues will also find meaning and inspiration here and will share the richness of their reflections with us. We are all invited!

*In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
This Word was in the beginning with God.
Everything came to be through the Word,
and apart from the Word nothing at all came to be.
What came to be in the Word was Life,
And the Life was the Light of human beings.¹*
John 1:1-4

Our evolving universe, so rich in mystery, beauty, chaos and diversity pulsates with the subtle vibrancy of the Spirit of God – God who longs for intimacy and **interconnected relationship**.

God's unifying energy made visible in Christ Jesus, 'God With Us', ignites **hope in our shadowlands**, in the gaps and gullies where the lost, forsaken and forgotten lie hidden.

Our fragile, fragmented world hungers for **compassionate presence**. As women of the Church, standing at the foot of contemporary crosses, we are **channels of hope, love and mercy** in our villages, towns and cities.

1 Scripture reference from 'The New Testament', translated by Nicholas King SJ, published by Kevin Mayhew Ltd, 2004

We commit ourselves to the pilgrimage of discovery into God revealed in the cosmos and we actively integrate this new consciousness into every aspect of our living.

In the Risen Christ, present in creation, we recognise a new impulse moving us to **more love, more union, more compassionate solidarity**. We seek to be in transformative relationship with everyone and everything.

Our FCJ charism impels us to incarnate **contemplative presence** wherever we are.

The interweaving of our lives with Companions in Mission leads to fresh insights beckoning us to **wider horizons**.

We delight that our charism resonates in the hearts of women across different cultures. We want to **respond to their searching**. With boldness and determination we press onwards.

Living out of **surprising abundance** causes us to see with new eyes, and to treasure even

Can we risk courageous re-imagining?



“ What zest life acquires when we allow ourselves to be filled by the love of God! ”

Pope Francis

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