



Sisters of Charity of Nazareth

excerpts from the keynote address
of their General Assembly (2013)

by outgoing President Mary Elizabeth Miller



“We are blessed by the **wisdom** of so many
and the **energy**
of those who continue to follow Catherine Spalding
in living the call of the Gospel...”

New Beginnings

Since our historic General Assembly in 2008, in Bangalore, India, our Sisters from Pittsburgh, in a great leap of faith, risked new beginnings and became SCNs. Our Eastern Province Sisters completed their discernment and opted to move into two Provinces.



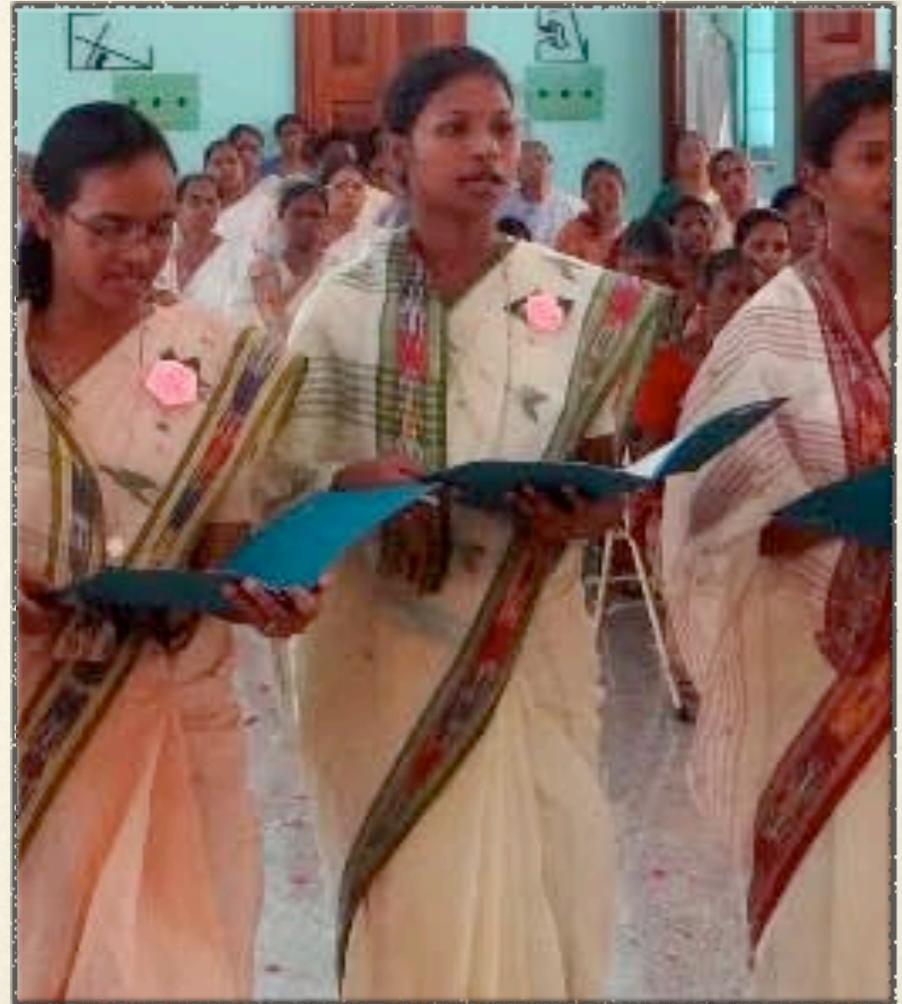
New Pathways

As we gather today, we are indeed a NEW Congregation that is very much alive and exploring new pathways in initial formation and in the witness of our lives.



Unity in Diversity

As a community, we, though different, come together in unity, and there is a merging of our individual stories, without losing them, into a larger story. The heart of our Community, then, is the mystical dimension that binds us to Christ, a mystical vision that emerges from a faithful and diligent contemplation of the Gospel.



New Perspective on Religious Life

Religious life today — with its diminishment through aging and fewer vocations — has taken on a new perspective for our world! At one time we offered so much service through institutional and diverse forms of ministry. Today, as we continue some of these ministries, we offer something deeper — we offer spirituality for which society, with all its brokenness, hungers in tangible ways.



New Directions in Ministry

We are faced blatantly with issues and questions of trafficking, immigration, terrorism, tremendous advances in technology and the explosion of social media. We are faced with the desperate need to care for the earth, and to respond to enormous suffering because of poverty, human rights violations, racism, casteism, sexism and much more. We are called in unreserved faith, and given the energy for greater collaboration and networking.



Standing Together in Changing Times

...as daughters of Catherine, we are invited to read the signs of our times and embrace the global reality which challenges us to larger perspectives of international and diverse membership. We are uncertain today about where the future will lead us, but what we can be certain about is that we shall stand together in the changes that our mission and life present.



New Paradigms

In addition, as a Congregation, we need to truly understand that these changes will invite us to discern and develop new paradigms of living the Gospel, our charism and our Mission Statement across the world with renewed passion. These new paradigms will mean further innovations in our formation programs and creative ways of using our diminishing energy and membership.



Vision Statement

Also during the General Assembly, the following Vision Statement was affirmed:

“We will promote the dignity and equality of women and oppressed people in Church and in society.”



New Directives

Delegates approved four Directives as well:

1. Deepen our spirituality through contemplation, dialogue and theological development across cultures and from different perspectives.
2. Create vibrant community life and deepen relationships to further the mission.
3. Promote the leadership and equality of all in the Church, especially women, through education, dialogue, networking, advocacy and the use of inclusive language.
4. Focus on bringing about systemic change as we are present to people in all aspects of our mission.

Ministries in the U.S.

SCN Family Ministries in the United States include:

- Advocacy efforts on behalf of poor and victimized people and the environment
- Housing, health care and services for the elderly
- Parish ministry, including youth ministry
- Social services
- Staff for shelters that welcome runaway teens and the homeless
- Low-income housing ministry
- Adult literacy programs
- Hospital outreach programs
- Retreat facilities and programs
- Arts education and cultural programs
- Education
- Health care

A New Era, Directed by God

We, the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, are on the threshold of a new era, the third century of our existence! God, in all graciousness, has been part of our past, directing our efforts and wisely arranging everything for our good. We recognize it, experience it, and have a tremendous sense of being loved by God.



For more information, please visit
<http://www.scnfamily.org>