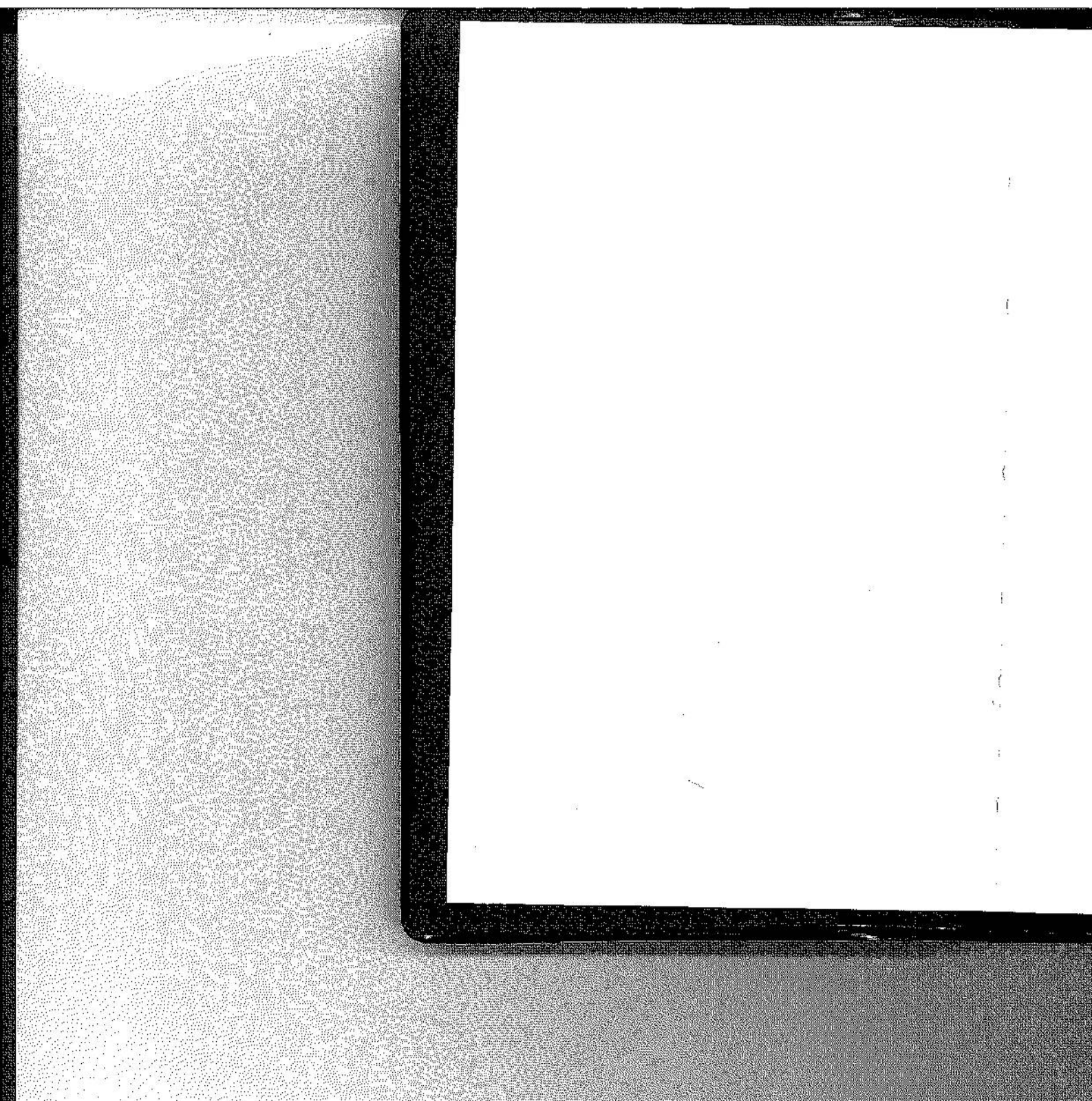




Present.

Decree of

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Voluntary obedience	18
Superiors and the spirit of service	21
Formula of profession	23
III. Life in Union with God	25
Devotions of the Congregation	29
Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus	29
Devotion to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart	30
IV. Spirituality of the Sacred Heart	33
V. Communion in Community	37
Care of the elderly and the sick	44
VI. Sent Forth To Love and Serve	47
VII. Formation	53
Vocation animation	53
Formation in General	54
Admission into the Congregation	56
Stages of Formation	57
Initial Formation	57
Novitiate	58
First profession	65
Juniorate	66
Perpetual Profession	69
Ongoing Formation	71

VIII. Leadership in the Congregation
Organization of the Congregation
General Chapter
Procedures of the General Chapter
Election of Superior General
Election of General Councillors
and Bursar General
General Conference
IX. General Governance
Superior General
General Council
Vicar General
The Secretary
Bursar General
X. Provinces, Regions and Local Communities
Provincial Superior
Resignation
Provincial Council
Provincial Bursar
Provincial Chapter
The functions of the Provincial Chapter
Provincial Council
Regional Superior
Delegation

Local Superior	105
Local Councillors & Bursars	107
XI. Separation of Members	
Re-Admission and Transfers	109
Re-admission	111
Transfer to another Institute	112
XII. Temporal Administration	115
Conclusion	119
Interpretation of the Constitutions	119
Binding force of our Constitutions	119
Analytical Index	123

My dear sisters,

I am most happy
 Constitutions with
 New Constitution
 and a means of
 re-foundation in
 and adopted to be

This is the fourth
 Constitutions since
 Congregation. We
 from the original
 approved by the
 on the feast of the
 These contain the
 our beloved Mother
 God, Mother Maria

Second approved by
 Archbishop Michael
 during the time when
 was Superior General
 the Sacred Congregation
 Archbishop Rob. Spence

These Constitutions were revised after the Second Vatican Council who obliged all Religious Institutes to revise their Constitutions. Between 1970 and 1988 we had Constitutions "Ad Experimentum", to experiment, and thus these Constitutions were purposely never approved by Church's Authority. Our Congregation held two special chapters purposely for this revision, namely the Special Chapter of 1970 which issued Constitutions "ad Experimentum" and another Special Chapter held in 1986 to finalise this period of Constitutions "ad Experimentum".

The outcome of 1986 Special Chapter was the third revised Constitutions approved by the Holy See on 16th July 1988. These were the first Constitutions directly approved by, The Congregation for Religious Institutes and Societies of Apostolic Life, since we were, with the same decree, declared as a Congregation of Pontifical Rights. This Decree was signed by Cardinal Hier M. Hamer O. P. Prefect of the same Congregation. This took place when Sr. Ermellina Mifsud was Superior General.

The fourth approved Constitutions that are being today presented to you, are like our first Constitutions, approved on the feast of the

solemnity of the Sacred Decree is signed by the Institutes of Consecrated Apostolic Life, Cardinal

The whole Congregation a thorough consultation Congregation. Delegation Region worked hard on the General Conference the General Chapter held in all our best to establish direction we all want to individually. The Constitutions of Life, as we have referred General Chapter held in July 2007. In this chapter to refine the Constitutions love and responsibility are the outcome of each our reflection, study and capitulars gathered in the have approved these Constitutions being handed over to be further approved through His Eminence Cardinal Prefect Constitutions, as the Decree inspiration and strength for commit ourselves to glorify

by deepening our love for him and manifesting that love through our apostolate, in the spirit of our Foundress, Mother M. Teresa Nuzzo.”¹

This is the prayer I make for each member who takes these Constitutions as a lamp for her feet, and a light on her path,² “Make our hearts like unto Yours”. Through living these Constitutions, our hearts become more like the heart of Jesus, pierced with the lance of hatred, envy, and any other kind of evil and sinfulness but from the very wound caused by evil, love and life flow out. May the lived spirit of these constitutions render our hearts pregnant with God’s loving-kindness. The evil within and around us, that we come in touch with, in our “charitable mission”,³ pierce our hearts, only to open a wound from which the water and blood of our travail in our ministry, give new life in the spirit to ourselves and those we come in touch with in our apostolate.

May these “new and carefully prepared”⁴ Constitutions and laws be our itinerary guiding us to reach our ultimate destination. It is a

¹ Decree of 30th May, 2008

² Cfr. Psalm 119:105

³ Decree of 18th June 1909

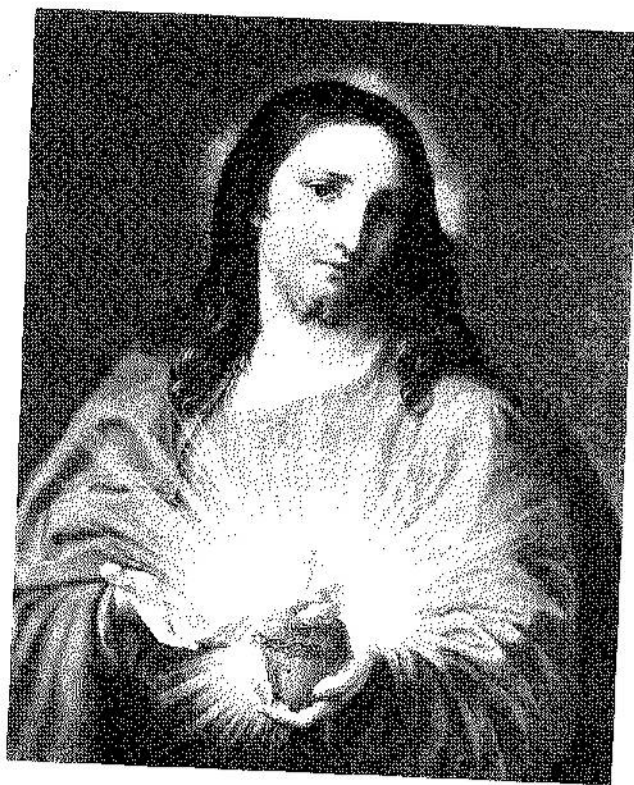
⁴ Covering Letter to Decree P. Sebastion Paciullo, O. Cist.

glorious destination a
holy sisters, who befor
by the spirit of our
to receive the eternal
Foundress, the Servan
Teresa Nuzzo be our in

Sr. Catherine Sey

Sr. Catherine Seychell
Superior General

Issued today
18th June 2008 the 99th an
approving our very first



CONGREGAZIONE
PER GLI ISTITUTI DI VITA CONSACRATA
E LE SOCIETÀ DI VITA APOSTOLICA

Prot. n. M 227-2/2007

DECR

The Congregation of the Daughters of the Holy Heart of Jesus, General Chapter, held from 15th June to 16th July 1988, revised text of the Constitutions which have been approved by the Superior General on 16 July 1988. The Superior General presented the text to this Dicastery, requesting its approval.

After careful study of the document, the Dicastery has approved the modifications in it, with this Decree, for the Constitutions of the Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

May the living of this renewed Constitution provide inspiration and strength for all the members of the Congregation to glorify the Heart of Jesus by manifesting that love through their apostolic life, in the spirit of the Foundress, Maria Teresa Nuzzo.

Vatican City, 30 March 1989
Feast of the Sacred Heart

Paciolla

F. Sebastiano Paciolla, O. Cist.
Undersecretary

ABBREVIATIONS

- A.S. *Annum Sacrum*
- A.I. *The Writings & Analytical Index of MariaTheresa Nuzzo, Foundress of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart, 1997*
- Can. *Code of Canon Law 1983*
- FLC *Life Fraternal Life in Community 1994*
- DFRI *Directives on Formation in Religious Institute 1990*
- D.M. *Dives in Misericordie*
- GDF *General Directives for Formation- Daughters of the Sacred Heart 2001*
- G.S. *Gaudium et Spes 1965*
- G.E. *Gravissimum Educationis 1982*
- H.A. *Haurietis Aquae 1956*
- L.G. *Lumen Gentium 1964*
- P.C. *Perfecta Caritatis 1965*
- V.C. *Vita Consacrata 1996*

INTRODUCTION

God is Love and through
consecrates us and sends
Blessed are we who answer

The Christian who pledges
strives to deepen her baptism
binds her to seek perfection
as the only goal of her life
who first loved her.¹ From
love of one's neighbour
Kingdom and the salvation

Moved by the love of
Foundress Mother Maria
raised to the honour of
the Congregation of the
Heart, in response to the
of society at that time in

The decree "Attentis Ex"
1901, at the request of
Nuzzo, canonically approved

¹ cfr. 1Jn. 4:19

of the "*Opera Pia*" the pious work. This Institute was placed under the direction of Maria Teresa Nuzzo with the approval given by the Archbishop Pietro Pace through the Decree "*Avendo Noi*" on 5th June 1903. This laid the obligation on '*Maestre Pie*', the pious teachers to teach catechism and handcraft to girls as well as starting a school to provide them with the intellectual, moral and cultural education they needed to choose their vocation in life.

On 9th August 1903 Maria Teresa and her companions submitted their desire to take the religious habit and form a Congregation with the title "*Figlie Del Sacro Cuore*." On 12th August 1903, the Archbishop Pietro Pace, by the Decree "*Suotempore Providebitur*" recognized the society of '*Maestre Pie*' as a Religious Congregation to be known as "Daughters of the Sacred Heart" with its own religious habit and Constitutions. By the same Decree the Archbishop nominated Maria Teresa Nuzzo as the first Superior General of the Congregation. On 21st November 1903 Maria Teresa Nuzzo made her perpetual profession. Two of her six companions made their first profession and the rest started their novitiate bringing to birth the new Congregation "Daughters of the Sacred Heart".

On 18th June 1909 the Daughters of the Sacred Heart, by Archbishop Pietro Pace at their presentation he exhorted them saying: "*Daughters, how noble is your charitable mission to win souls for Christ, you and what heavenly reward will you receive if you fulfil your duties faithfully. Moreover, as Daughters of the Sacred Heart in a special way it is your duty to show great zeal and devotion to the Sacred Heart, to make it known and its inexhaustible riches hidden in the depths and to enkindle it in every heart with love*".

These Constitutions were approved by the Apostolic Visitor, His Holiness the Pope. Some of the articles were modified. One of these was the fourth vow of charity. The indication of how strong the love of God gripped the life of our Founder is seen by Bishop Angelo Pace in our vow of Obedience. The Constitutions from the original Constitutions were approved in 1912 and published in 1913. The Constitutions were undertaken

In the meantime Pope John XXIII in the year 1962 convoked the Second Vatican Council, which was carried on by Pope Paul VI up to 1965. During this time the Church called on to all religious Congregations and Societies of Apostolic Institutions to go back to the origin and Charism of their Founders/Foundresses. In our Congregation further revision of the Constitutions was carried out "*ad experimentum*" in 1970. The revision of the code of Canon Law of the Church in the year 1983 necessitated the religious Congregations to revise their own Constitutions to incorporate the new legislation of the Church.

With this in mind, our Congregation undertook the revision of our Constitutions in the extraordinary General Chapter of 1986. The preparation for this Chapter had begun in 1983. These Constitutions were approved on 16th July 1988, by a decree of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. This same Decree recognized the Congregation of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart as an Institute of Pontifical Right.

Over the years the Congregation has continued to grow in Spirit and in number and is now present in different continents and countries. Thus we continue to bear witness to the love of the Sacred Heart wherever we are.

Ch THE C AND ITS

The Daughters of

1. The Congregation of the Sacred Heart is a consecrated life of the same love which our Mother Teresa Nuzzo had for the Congregation to the whole church, under the Supreme Pontiff.¹

Heritage

2. Contemplation manifested in the piercing Christ, impelled Mother to reach out in charity to the less privileged of society moved by the plight of girls in particular who

¹ cfr. Can. 590§2

quality of life and education due to poverty and ignorance. She sought to bring some remedy through the institution she was involved in. The focus of her response to the demands of her time was education both moral and social. This was also the mandate given to her by the Archbishop Pietro Pace, her spiritual director who supported her at the founding of her new Congregation.²

Charism

3. Our Foundress Maria Teresa Nuzzo received a special gift from the Holy Spirit, through her contemplation of the pierced heart of Jesus on the cross. Her profound personal experience of the love of the Father motivated her to reach out to others in charity through simplicity and humility. As Daughters of the Sacred Heart, sharing in the same charism we commit ourselves to glorify the Heart of Jesus by deepening our love for him and by manifesting this same love through our apostolate. We endeavour to enkindle all hearts with his love through a life of witness and reparation.³

² cfr. Decree 5th June 1903

³ cfr. Cons. 1912, Part I ch 2 art. 3, 15

Nature

4. The Congregation of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, pierced with a love⁴ that the Foundress urged her to give her life for Him. Following her ideal of dying to self for others, allowing ourselves to be words, that there is no one's life for others.⁵

5. The Daughters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus manifest a special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Of our Foundress we see the hallmark of our life as ourselves unconditional religious profession of obedience and live a strict imitation of the heart of

Aim And Purpose

6. God's mercy manifested to us when

⁴ cfr. Ibid ch 1 art. 1, 2

⁵ cfr. Jn. 15: 13

Son to heal a world wounded by sin and thus making us a new creation. This redeeming and unfailing love was the source from which our Foundress drew her original inspiration.

7. The Daughters of the Sacred Heart strive to discover the richness of this redeeming love, as it flows from the heart of Jesus. We are called to become the channels of this love for all humanity and especially for those who are most in need in the concrete circumstances of their everyday living. In this way we seek to become the bearers of the love of the Sacred Heart and enkindle other hearts with that love.

D34 8. As Daughters of the Sacred Heart we are called to attend daily the school of Christ.⁶ Inspired by the example of our Foundress we learn from Jesus to have a heart that is meek and humble, courageous and passionate. We commit ourselves to a life of ongoing formation through which our heart and mind are enriched in the school of Christ, enabling us to share this wealth with others to whom we are sent. In our apostolic mission, we seek to promote the integral well-being of young children especially

girls and those m
respond generously
church and endeavor
Kingdom.

9. The insight
Foundress, as it a
spirit, nature and p
traditions of the
spiritual patrimony
the duty of the Dau
to preserve, enhance
patrimony in our lives

Patrons of the Cong

10. The principal
is the most Blessed V
of "Our Lady of the S
learn to love the most
cause it to be loved by
of the Congregation
of Jesus and St. Marg
show our love and de
following their exam

⁶ cfr. Cong. For Catholic Education, Rome 2002. Consecrated Persons and Their Mission in Schools, art.9

⁷ cfr. Cons.1912 part 1 ch.

⁸ cfr. Can. 578

⁹ cfr. Spirit of the DSH De

¹⁰ Ibid

Chapter

RELIGIOUS CO

*"Before I formed you in the womb
and before you were born I called you
I appointed you a prophet to the nations"*

A deeper bond with Christ

11. Our consecration to the Holy Trinity.¹¹ It is deeply personal and it becomes a fuller expression of our faith. Consecration brings out the full dimension of our communion with God, the focus of our life,¹² and the service of the Kingdom of God.

12. Our consecration is initiated by the Father¹³ to the glory of his Son¹⁴ empowered by the Holy Spirit¹⁵ enables us to serve humanity with love and dedication.

¹¹ cfr. V.C. 14-19

¹² cfr. V.C. 15

¹³ cfr. V.C. 17

¹⁴ cfr. V.C. 18

¹⁵ cfr. V.C. 19

13. As a consecrated person, each sister is committed to strengthen her interior life in union with God.¹⁶ Our vocation is the great treasure of God's gift held in fragile earthen vessels.¹⁷ Prayer and asceticism are powerful means to help one to receive further this gift, to discern deeper the will of God and hence to glorify God in one's daily life.¹⁸

Commitment through religious profession

14. Religious profession opens the heart of each sister to the love of the Father that same love which marks the heart of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the world. It is a love which embraces the whole world and everything in it that comes from the Father, and which at the same time seeks to overcome anything in the world that does not come from the Father.

15. The religious profession expresses the individual sister's unconditional and total 'yes' to God and to his covenantal love. This is concretely lived in the sister's commitment to the Congregation and to its mission. The

Congregation on its part
for all the needs of its m

16. One's commitment
life is made through the
The first profession is re
years when it is made o
profession.¹⁹ The period
properly called juniorate.
junior makes her perpetua
to the laws of our Congre

The religious dress and consecration

17. As a sign of our
a witness to our poverty
Sacred Heart wear the dr
Congregation²¹ as defined

The Evangelical Couns

18. Inspired by the B
seeks to live the evangelica
by the gifts of the Holy Spi

¹⁶ cfr. V.C. 36

¹⁷ cfr. 2 Cor. 4:7

¹⁸ cfr. A.I. 4d

¹⁹ cfr. Can. 655

²⁰ cfr. Can. 657§2

²¹ cfr. Can. 669§1

them her own by her enthusiastic and wholehearted living, thus becoming a true witness of the Gospel.

19. Christ invites every Daughter of the Sacred Heart to enter into the dispositions of his heart. Coming to dwell in a world which is searching for the meaning and the true value of life, the Word Incarnate opens to every sister a new way of strength in weakness, freedom in service, life in death.

C.149 20. The individual Sister's response to the gratuitous love of Christ is expressed by the public profession of the evangelical counsels of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience, in the Congregation of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart. It calls us to follow Christ the chaste, poor, and obedient and to renounce wealth, pleasure, prestige, and power. Hence, our chastity, poverty and obedience visibly and efficaciously are to bear witness to this attitude.

21. Relying on God's faithful love and supported by the communion of each other, the sister asks and promises with joy to give herself wholeheartedly to him until death and to glorify the Heart of Jesus in conformity with our Constitutions.

22. The religious vows are the service of others in love, which makes us free to be sisters in communion with all sisters in one's community and to be free in our mission of service. We are free to share the life of the world with whatever resources we may have, without our own security and comfort. Obedience makes us free to respond to the call of Christ as made known by the Holy Spirit, through our superior, in the circumstances of our life.

23. God receives this offering of the Church and unites it to that of Christ. Each sister has his own in Christ, and in the service of the kingdom of God. Christ renews and deepens this commitment, which is a sign of the covenant of God. This commitment deposes the sister with a mission to be a prophet in the world.

24. Called like Mary to a life conformed to his, each sister gives herself completely to God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, he transforms all her potentialities into the mission. In the simplicity