

## A Culture of 'Building'

Video Message by Sister Charmaine Krohe SSND, Provincial Leader for SSND Ministry Boards  
August 2023

Greetings. I am delighted to be able to connect with you again and I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing and restorative summer and feel energized for the work ahead of you. A special welcome to our new board members. For those of you who don't know me, I am Sister Charmaine Krohe, Provincial Leader of the Atlantic-Midwest province. I have been serving in this role since 2016.

On behalf of our Provincial Council, I want to thank all of you for being good news to the people you serve by sharing your time and your expertise. You strengthen our Sisters' faith by joining us in making Christ visible through your very being, and by sharing your love, faith, and hope. This keeps not only your ministry flourishing, but also the mission among God's people, alive.

As our entire international congregation looks forward to the 25<sup>th</sup> General Chapter beginning on October 24<sup>th</sup>, our Foundation Day, we will be using a framework that could be referred to as a '*Culture of Building*'. There are four parts to it which I would like to explain.

Throughout the meetings of the General Chapter, the delegates, who are Sisters from all the international provinces are **Building on** ... the SSND heritage and history. That is our foundation, these are our sturdy roots.

As the gathered delegates are discerning their life and mission for the next six years, we are **Building with** each other. Individual provinces are not doing their own thing, but together as an international congregation, we discern the direction for the next six years. It is a collaborative, communal process to strengthen our unity among us.

Thirdly, the Chapter delegates are **Building for** the people as outlined in our Constitution, *You Are Sent*. This includes the members of our international community as well as people we serve through our ministry of education and our commitments to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. This leads us to the last part, we are

**Building within** the context of our Constitution *You Are Sent*, evolving charism – meaning how we live our call to make one, to unify, in this day and age. This includes our Catholic identity, and the encyclical *Laudato Si'* by Pope Francis.

I want to offer you this same framework of *Building on, with, for and within* for your board for the coming year. As you strategize, plan, deliberate, implement and evaluate, do this within this framework of “Building.” In your work as a board:

**Build on** ... the SSND heritage and history.

**Build with** ... each other, the entire board. Build an excellent governance – management or administration relationship.

**Build for** ... build for the people you serve, build for being a prophetic witness in your community.

**Build within** ... the context of an evolving mission, and a sponsorship relationship, that is, your ministry’s close relationship with the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

We hope what inspires and motivates us for action also inspires you. We stand for Justice, Peace, and the integrity of Creation, lived out through our commitments for the dignity of life and the care of creation.

Take some time now as a board to consider how this framework of *Building on, with, for and within* might be supportive of the work of your own board to live the values and fulfill the mission of your ministry.

- What do you already have for this ‘Building’ project?
- What do you still need?
- What are your thoughts on ways to secure the necessary information, relationships, support and/or resources that are needed?

As you have this conversation with each other, consider some next steps you might take as a board.

### **Pause for Conversation**

Welcome back. I hope this framework of *Building on, with, for and within* offers you an additional lens through which you see your board’s work and experience deeper communion with the entire SSND congregation as we live this ‘*Culture of Building*’ through the upcoming General Chapter. In closing, I invite you to pray the prayer of the 25<sup>th</sup> General Chapter once again with me:

Triune God,

Source of love,  
open and widen our hearts and  
shape us into a new creation of your love.

Word of love,  
teach us how to love  
and be the healing presence needed in our world today.

Spirit of love,  
free us to let go, risk  
and become prophetic witnesses of universal communion.

May blessed Theresa,  
woman of love, accompany us  
on this transformative journey,  
ever seeking to know and do Love's will.

Amen.

Please continue to pray the General Chapter prayer with us through its conclusion on November 17, the day that Mother Theresa was called Blessed. Thank you!