

Formation Session

Charism and Core Values

Opening Prayer:

God of reconciliation, passionate for your whole creation, impel us by the love of Christ to see your guiding hand in leading us to forgiveness, pardon, and peace.

Give us the courage to hear every story of every person with dignity and respect. By the power of your precious blood, help us to heal and to be healed. Help us to make whole and to become whole. We pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

CHARISM OF THE SISTERS OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD AND THE CORE VALUES

The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, as a community, have recognized and received the Charism of Reconciliation.

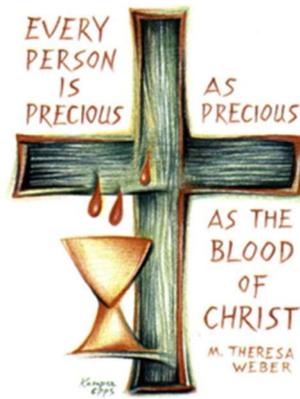
What is a charism?

Charism is defined as:

A mark, a character, a flavor, a living legacy, a precious heritage of the Sisters.

A constant guiding spirituality which evolves and is shaped by its members and partners.





CHARISM AND CORE VALUES

“Each one’s individual charism is discovered anew each day in the give and take of the historical moment that is the raw material for our mission. For some, their charism may be very visible, for others, perhaps for most, their charism will be hidden in the ordinariness of the moment. How do I allow God through me, to bring a little bit of the Kingdom now?”

The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood are given the Charism of Reconciliation. Their special way of living out the Gospel message is to be a reconciling presence in the world.

What is reconciliation?

The dictionary tells us it is the restoration of friendly relations. But our understanding as Partners in Mission with the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood means more than that.

To give presence to those who would otherwise not be heard at all and to hold the filter of the gospel before all our burning eyes until, finally,

the world begins to see what a heart steeped in the Precious Blood has come to see – God's presence here, now, in everyone.

The person with a heart filled with the Precious Blood:

Knows people are people,

not colors or sexes or ages or types.

Is open to the world, no one is a stranger or an outcast.

No ethnic jokes are ever told.

No racial slurs are ever uttered.

No enemy bashing is ever practiced.

The heart that beats with Precious Blood knows we are all one blood with President Putin; we are all one blood with the Taliban; we are all one blood with the persecuted in Syria; we are all one blood with the Aids patients in our cities; we are alone with the people in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Ukraine.

The blood of Christ has not gone dry, it is crying out to be born again in us for it is on our backs now that the poor of our time must be lifted up, that the beautiful earth must be nurtured; [that the exploiter and the oppressed, the rich and the poor, the keeper and kept, the male and female must be reconciled.] That blood shed by violence may become blood made precious.

Let the Precious Blood flow through us!

From: Adapted from the Precious Blood Congress, 1993, Joan Chittister, OSB

The Sisters want to “be” the sign and not just wear the sign.

THE SISTERS OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD MISSION STATEMENT:

We, the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O’Fallon, Missouri, form a community that finds its mission in the Church. Rooted in the Eucharist and personal prayer, we continue the mission of Jesus by striving to be and to experience Christ’s redeeming presence as we affirm and empower one another and those we serve, especially the poor.



Each one is called by God to become a professed member of our Congregation. Each has answered a call to use her expression of the charism in her prayer and mission and ministry. For some it may be a quieter contemplative prayer for reconciliation. For others it might be pouring out daily to young minds not just knowledge but also the ability to recognize a loving God in their life. To the person at the food pantry, it may be helping them hunger for a God without whom they will never be satisfied. When the founding sisters came together, they longed for a more contemplative life of prayer. While they still prayed before the Blessed Sacrament, they soon felt that God was asking them to take up some of the world’s chalice of suffering, to educate young girls whose minds were being neglected by society. Praying for the power of the Precious Blood to be active in the lives of others was obviously an integral aspect of the charism of reconciliation. To this day our members speak of the inner pull they experience in wanting and needing to be more contemplative while in ministry.

We are sent to be Christ’s continual reconciling, caring hospitable Presence so that all will be drawn to reconciliation with their God. Reconciliation or “reconciling presence,” as we are naming this grace today, is our mission. Regardless of what ministry (work) we do, we will be a reconciling presence. This presence can be described as:

**HOSPITALITY
PRESENCE
RESPONSE TO HUMAN NEEDS
And
RECONCILIATION**

These are what we refer to as the Sisters' CORE VALUES.

How do you feel you can be aware of these core values in your own life as a Partner with the Sisters?

Discuss ways in which you currently share the values of

- Hospitality
- Presence
- Response to human needs
- Reconciliation

Any other ways that you can become a reconciling presence?



Now regarding spiritual gifts, I do not want you to be unaware. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To everyone the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gift of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of the spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. **From Paul's Letter to the Corinthians**

The Holy Spirit also enriches the entire evangelizing Church with different charisms. They are not an inheritance, safely secured and entrusted to a small group for safekeeping; rather they are gifts of the Spirit integrated into the body of the Church, drawn into the center which is Christ and then channeled into an evangelizing impulse. A sure sign of the authenticity of a charism is its ecclesial character, its ability to be integrated harmoniously into the life of God's holy and faithful people for the good of all. **From Pope Francis – The Joy of the Gospel**

Journal Questions:

List a few of your special gifts from the Spirit. What have you experienced as a gift you have been given? What traits or character or virtues do you feel are developed in your personhood?

How have you shared these gifts with those around you?

Closing Prayer:

We are all washed clean in the blood of the Lamb, our sins forgiven, our hearts strengthened, our lives given purpose.

Grant to me, this day, O Saving God, the power of the precious blood so that I might see violence and disharmony around and within me.

Move me to bring your life-giving love, your reconciling power to those who do not know you and cannot hear your voice in the events of their lives.

May this day be one of praise and honor to the saving blood of Jesus.

Amen.

I Forgive Me – Charles Holt

I forgive you.

I forgive you.

Everything that I've been holding on to.

I let go.

I surrender.

I surrender.

I'm ready for my change.

I'm ready for my change.

I forgive them.

I forgive them.

Everything that I've been holding on to.

I let go.

I surrender.

I surrender.

I'm ready for my change.

I'm ready for my change.

I forgive me.

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