



Self Determination

Congregation of the Humility of Mary

Self Determination Statement

(Corporate Document as Approved by 1992 Representative Assembly)

The principle of self determination is a means by which the Sisters of the Humility of Mary respond to the Spirit. It is a multifaceted concept which embodies responsibilities as well as rights. This principle allows members of the congregation the freedom to develop their gifts and to minister in the manner to which they feel called by the Spirit. It implies a balance and harmony between individual freedom and responsibility to the congregation. Each sister is personally responsible to help mold a corporate vision, and to direct herself to a ministry within the spirit and goals of that corporate vision. These decisions are not made in isolation. They are a response which flows from attentiveness to the tradition of our Christian heritage, the needs of humankind, and the charism, mission statement and constitution of the congregation. Interaction with others is an essential element in determining both our individual and our corporate response.

The principle of self determination affirms that the community may support a given ministry on a corporate level while respecting each member's right to make a personal commitment in relation to ministry.

While the freedom of each person is encouraged, the ideal of shared time, talent and treasure is, likewise, an important value of community life. It is necessary that the congregation retain the right to call the individual to a vision which is consistent with the corporate vision. It is appropriate that the administration provide this leadership.

Finally, as each member of the congregation seeks to respond to the Spirit, her own conscience must, ultimately, determine her decision.