

THE APOSTOLATE (IN-SERVICE)

I. Preparation for

A. Need for survey to determine:

1. Hierarchical attitudes
2. Accessibility of in-service training centers
3. Aptitudes of individual sisters
4. Resources of local communities
 - a) Financial
 - b) Temporal
 - c) Utilitarian

B. Evaluation of present program

1. During formation
2. Early years of professed religious
3. During years of full-time assignments
4. During and after retirement

C. Implications for a life of service

1. Interpretation of Mother McAuley's apostolate
2. Within the framework of our present Constitutions:
service of the poor, sick, and ignorant.
3. Traditions with a fresh look

D. Workshops for interested individuals

II. Participation in

According to the proposals on the apostolate submitted by the provinces, provisions are being made for an extensive program outside the convent. This is needed. Might we consider how we can also serve the Church better by taking account of another dimension: Meeting the needs of others by bringing them into the convent?

A. Primary goal: sharing what the sisters have and are with the people of God, that they may come to know the invisible Christ through His visible sign, the consecrated religious.

B. Secondary goal: Promotion of the spirit of Mercy

C. General means of achieving both goals

1. Sharing professional knowledge and competence
2. Providing cultural atmosphere conducive to fruitful discussion
3. Promoting social relationships within the group
4. Utilizing facilities of institutions
5. Contributing free service to the civic community who help to support us
6. Creating a vehicle for apostolic work for Sisters who contribute their optimum in a convent environment.
7. Meeting adults on an adult level

D. Special means of achieving both goals

1. Without rewriting our Constitutions and before any modifications of Canon Law are made, the Sisters of Mercy might reappraise their practice of the works of Mercy.
2. Sisters might act as hostesses or good citizens, sponsoring pilot projects such as group dynamics, discussion of social problems, cultural arts; study of THE CONSTITUTION ON THE CHURCH and/or other literature pertaining to the teachings of the Church.
3. Sisters might become actively engaged in collaborating with existing groups in their own locale

E. Suggested means with respect to particular apostolic levels

1. Hospitals

- a) Look upon daily tasks as an integral part of parish and diocesan activity, involving patients, visitors, staff and employees
- b) Nourish family spirit in a program geared to spiritual and temporal interests of medical staff and personnel

2. Colleges

- a) Promote collaboration of college professors and alumnae, on a voluntary basis and without remuneration, to prepare the alumnae to engage in adult discussion groups designed to assist interested members of middle-class society

b) Enlist volunteers to assist in tutoring, counseling or job finding for students

c) Expand works and ideas already being implemented

3. Secondary Schools

a) Train mature students for leadership

b) Create opportunities for high school alumni to engage in recreational activities, music, arts and crafts

c) Assist CCD volunteers in preparation of classwork and sharing available materials

d) Meet with parent groups to discuss questions relevant to teen-agers

e) Plan lectures to be given by specialists in parent-youth relationships

4. Elementary Schools

a) Meet parents on different levels of interest

(1) Sex education for children

(2) Careers or higher education opportunities, in the light of available scholarships, etc.

(3) Spiritual life in the family

(a) Apostleship of prayer for parents

(b) Liturgical worship

(4) Child care

(5) Psychology of the adolescent

F. Unique position of sisters

1. Advantageous for bridging the gap between rich and poor, educated and uneducated

2. Suitable for creating channels of communication within the convent

3. Appropriate in that the convent is a safe marketplace for the giving of time, experience and self

G. The convent in the extended apostolate

1. Place of friendship

2. Refuge for the weary

3. Haven for those seeking counsel
4. "Dispensary" for cordiality, understanding, love

H. Some practical considerations

1. Obedience

- a) Always the regulator of the quantity and quality of work to be undertaken
- b) Safeguard of fidelity to present commitments

2. 2. Volunteer basis

- *a) Desirability of gleaning information regarding apostolic interests of Sisters before initiating new projects
- b) Need for a given convent to engage in works meeting interests and capabilities of Sisters within that local convent

*Refers to Sisters in a given local convent.