



2024-2031

SOCIETY OF ST. TERESA OF JESUS



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## A. GENERAL DELEGATION OF FORMATION.

### 1. FORMATION IN THE SOCIETY OF ST. TERESA OF JESUS:

- It is oriented to support the process of identification with Jesus: *to think, feel and love like Jesus, to act and speak like Him is our essential occupation.* Art.65
- It understands the person in an integral way, in all his/her dimensions and on a continuous journey of conversion. Art.66
- It recognizes the experience of God lived according to the charism as the unifying center of the person. Art.67
- It is lived with others in the midst of reality and in communion with the Church. Art. 68
- It embraces all of life as a place of formation. Art. 69
- It offers different mediations for the different stages of the formative journey and in specific places and times. Art. 70
- It is oriented to initiate personal and community processes help each sister take responsibility for her following of Jesus. FP, p. 28
- Promotes the deepening of the experience of discernment and of personal and community accompaniment.
- It listens, seeking to become critically aware of the advances, movements, changes, etc. that are taking place in society and in the world in order to take them into account in the planning of formation processes.

#### **Taking into account the current reality, the delegation of formation has the following objectives:**

1. To promote a formation at the service of a Religious Life that understands itself to be on a journey with others, in continuous search for the Kingdom and in dialogue and interdependence with the world today.
2. To deepen and develop the Chapter option in the Society through formation.

*We are part of creation and of the human community, which is vulnerable and in continuous movement. We recognize that we are companions on the journey and sisters of all. On this journey, as we listen to reality and the Word and are enlivened by the Teresian spirituality that awakens an active hope in us, we commit ourselves to:*

*Grow in the new awareness of our community identity, learning to live in interculturality and promoting a synodal way of living out our relationships, our mission, our processes of discernment, our ways of leading, and our structures.*

*Work with others in the search for the common good and in building global citizenship as an alternative to a world that has been wounded by injustice, individualism, and polarization. We care for those whose lives are being threatened, especially migrants and those who are excluded and displaced. XVIII General Chapter STJ 2023*

3. To embrace the agreements of the XVIII General Chapter that refer to formation:
  - Care for life in the stages after retirement and in sickness.
  - Reflection on the juniorate.
  - Renewal and updating of the CIT.

4. Accompany initial formation (pre-novitiate, novitiate, juniorate, preparation for vows) in dialogue with the general and provincial governments and formation teams and encourage ongoing reflection on these stages.
5. Encourage processes of ongoing formation (New Generations, TER, other stages of life) in the different realities of the Society and accompany the processes that are being carried out.
6. To reflect on formation in the Society today in continuity with the process initiated in the last six years.

## **2. COMPOSITION.**

The General Delegation of Formation is composed of the General Delegate of Formation, the General Formation Team, those in charge of the formation teams in each province and the Delegation, and the sisters who accompany the different stages of initial formation. Other teams may arise over time to respond to formation needs.

The General Formation Team is composed of the following sisters: Asunción Codes PTE, Alzira Nascimento PNSA, Isabel del Valle PTE, Michelle Pavón PTMX, Rose Porgo DNDA, Teresa Katumbu, General Government and Guadalupe Hoyos, General Delegate of Formation.

Those responsible for formation in each province are: Alzira Nascimento PNSA, Pilar Aliende PTMP, Inés Barrozo PSJ, Josefa Kasinde PNSR, Pilar García PTMX, Rose Porgo DNDA, Susana Alonso PTNSE, Teresa Gil PTE and Teresa Iglesias PTNSP.

The formator of the continental novitiate of America in Colombia is Susana Alonso and the formator of the novitiate of Africa in Angola is Josefa Kasinde.

### **Functions of the general formation team:**

1. It provides a framework for and encourages a shared vision of the process of formation.
2. It ensures that the sisters and communities desire to live a faith that is mature and a religious life that is one of service and constant dialogue with today's world.
3. Accompany and connect different formative realities - teams, structures, etc - of the Society.
4. Help the provincial formation teams to discern reality based on a formative point of view.
5. Reflect, discern, and propose initiatives and processes that are "inter": interprovincial and inter-institutional ensuring that they respond to the searches of the XVIII General Chapter and to the demands of reality.

## **3. ORGANIZATION**

The general delegate of formation has a general formation team with which she meets periodically to reflect, participate in formation, discern, and consider the needs of the different stages of formation and realities, propose formation actions, and evaluate.

At the beginning of the quadrennium, the delegate of formation, the general formation team, those responsible for the formation teams of the provinces and the delegation and the formators of the initial stages meet to learn about the reality of the Society in this area and to

discern together the purpose of formation and how to respond to the objectives of formation for this time.

The general delegate of formation will convene meetings with the provincial delegates/those responsible for formation to carry forward the objectives of the delegation and to respond to new challenges or situations that arise.

The General Formation Team will meet with each provincial formation team to know and accompany the formative processes of the provinces.

There is a possibility of forming new teams from the delegation to respond to different formation needs.

## **B. PLANNING OF THE GENERAL DELEGATION OF FORMATION**

The XVII General Chapter encourages us to come together with others and advance towards a new vision of life shared as brothers and sisters of all. We travel this path listening to reality and to the Word, with the experience that Teresian spirituality brings out the beauty and dignity of every creature and encourages in us an active, prophetic and creative hope capable of initiating processes of healing, reconciliation and abundant life for all.

### **1. A WAY OF DISCERNING REALITY**

In our work as a team with the formation delegates of the provinces and the delegation of Notre Dame d'Afrique, we received a pressing invitation to ensure our formation processes include discernment of reality. A complex and diversified reality that cries out for fraternity, openness to walking with others, critical thinking, resilience, creativity in our responses and in our approach to processes. We also see that discernment requires openness, listening, and searching together for answers to the needs and cries that come to us. We wish to enter more and more into this experience of discernment on a personal and community level.

To move in this direction, we are aware that, when we look at formative processes, we encounter conflicting values that should be recognized as such because of their interdependence:

- personal formation/community processes;
- focus on local reality/global outlook and attention;
- offer resources, materials, activities/promote processes;
- rely on foundations, theory, reflection/proposals drawn from life, experiences, etc.

This way of addressing formation proposals invites us to understand, in each reality, the particular emphasis or the movement needed so that we can move forward in accordance with the common project to which we are called.

## 2. THE FORMATION WE WISH TO OFFER

Through contemplation and discernment of the reality of the world and of the Society, and in dialogue with our possibilities, **we want to promote formation that is:**

- **Committed to the development of the Chapter's vision**

It helps to develop the potential of a Teresian spirituality that nourishes our belonging to the Church and the awareness that we are sisters to all. It recognizes the diversity of countries and cultures and encourages us to live intercultural experiences. It fosters formative processes at the personal and community level and with others. It cultivates a sense of vocation in life and promotes processes of conversion. It develops critical thinking and encourages us to live in mission.

- **On the way with others.**

It promotes different formative offerings so that in each reality the life of the communities, leadership and formation processes are strengthened and supported. It offers spaces for lay people and sisters. It generates a network, sharing planning, practices and resources. It collaborates with other congregations, church groups and social movements. It works with the government, the formation teams of the provinces, the PJVT and the Apostolic Animation Teams (EAA).

- **Responds to the calls we hear.**

Offer specific formation: for coordinators and formators, for the accompaniment others, providing community itineraries and deepening of the themes that emerge from the Chapter option.

To look at initial formation in a collaborative way to care for the vocational process of the sisters based on the current reality.

To provide quality ongoing formation in each reality which responds to the different stages of life.

## 3. KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS.

### ACCOMPANIMENT

*On this journey, listening to reality and to the Word, we recognize each other as companions on the way, as sisters to every person, and so we want to:*

- Strengthen the culture of accompaniment as a means of bringing about processes of authenticity and freedom for mission.

#### Actions:

1. Formation in accompaniment for formators, coordinators, and those accompanying Spiritual Exercises and life processes.
2. Help generate formative itineraries so that the community becomes a space that both accompanies and is accompanied.
3. Promote the AcompañaOrantes network.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The AcompañaOrantes network arises from the CIT: "Accompanying Prayer Processes and Spiritual Exercises". Avila, February 2023.

## TERESIAN SPIRITUALITY

*Inspired by the Teresian spirituality that instills in us an active, prophetic and creative hope, we want to:*

- Facilitate experiences of a healing Teresian spirituality that nourishes us and moves us to care for others and to heal.

### Actions:

4. Promote charismatic formation in the Teresian Family.
5. Offer different opportunities and experiences of reconciliation and personal and social integration that demonstrate the healing power of Teresian spirituality.

## COMMUNITY IDENTITY

*We have felt called to grow in the new awareness of our community identity, and for that reason we want to:*

- Deepen our understanding of this new awareness of our identity and promote personal processes and community experiences that awaken in us an innate sense of community and of “being with and for others”.

### Actions:

6. Foster spaces and strategies that help us to look for and experience the way of living Religious Life from this new awareness of our community identity.
7. To engage with other congregations, sharing some aspects of life and mission and deepening the commitment to live inter-congregationally.
8. Collaborate with groups, institutions, and projects that build the common good and global citizenship in a synodal way.

## INTERCULTURALITY

*As part of a diverse and multicultural human community, we need to generate intercultural learning processes in our contexts of life and mission, that is why we want to:*

- Promote intercultural formation and commit ourselves to this process.

### Actions:

9. Systematize the formation for intercultural living, guided by people who have experience in this.

## SYNODALITY

*In this journey with others, we want to promote a synodal way in our relationships, mission, discernment, leadership and structures. We want to:*

- Offer paths of formation that generate open and inclusive communities imbued with a sense of being church and that promote listening, the development of critical thinking, discernment, participation and reconciliation.

### Actions:

10. Get to know the documents that have been elaborated for the synod in the different continents: assemblies, episcopal conferences, conferences of religious, etc., so as to open diverse spaces of dialogue and participation that help us to confront our current practices.

11. Face the theme of conflict in different situations we live in, in a synodal way.

## FORMATION

*In these times of fragility and uncertainty, we are called to courageously commit to a better future, and that is why we want to:*

- Update our formation plans according to the current moment of Religious Life.

### Actions:

12. Promote an integral reflection on initial formation in the Society today.

**Zaragoza, December 2024**