

CHAPTER STATEMENT

Eleventh General Chapter 2016

We the Sisters of Mercy of the Parramatta Congregation
acknowledge gratefully that we are co-creators with the Divine,
in an evolving 'sacrament of communion' which includes everything that exists.

Laudato Si # 9

We wish to live contemplatively,
as active ecclesial women,
allowing ourselves to be drawn deeper
into the dynamic Mystery at the heart of life and matter.

We will share with others,
including people of different faiths and no religious faith,
the joys and struggles of this spiritual journey.

Mindful that we are called by the world and the church at this particular time in history
to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, we will continue to respond mercifully to both.

We will enjoy and celebrate Earth's beauty and bounty
and her many species.

We will honour our duty to love and care for her
and add to her well-being wherever possible.

We will live simply, in a way
that takes into account the fragility of Mother Earth
by using her resources more sparingly
and, where possible, living with less.

We will protect the rights of the natural world
and make practical efforts to stem the hurtful effects
of climate change, pollution
and the 'throw away' mentality.

We will open our hearts to the cries of the poor
using our energies, gifts and resources
to address violence and discrimination
especially for women and children,
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples,
displaced persons, minority groups, the homeless,
those suffering hardship because of poverty
and those affected by injustice within the Church.

We will do this at personal, local and systemic levels
through friendship, direct assistance, advocacy
and research and by joining networks or partnerships
with groups that have similar values and goals.

We will use our gifts as educators in all our ministries
to assist those in need of support in their learning.

We will continue educating ourselves and others
to further awareness of the challenges and
needs of our time.

We will encourage understanding
and practice of our faith,
informed by new knowledge
and the interaction of science,
theology and spirituality.

As Mercy women religious, we will continue to develop
healthy ways of living and working together
as a community of equals, participating graciously
in the evolution of religious life and
contemporary expressions of mercy.

We will nurture relations that are kind, just,
respectful and inclusive among each other
and those with whom we share our Mercy ministries.