INTERVENTION IN ADDICTIONS

POLICY

Members of the Congregation are called to assist and support a Sister who may be dealing with an addiction.\* When a need for intervention is indicated, it should be undertaken with courage, care and concern, without delay and with clear facts to support the process.

# PROCEDURES

1. A concerned member of the community speaks with the Sister on a one-to-one basis, expressing her concern, citing concrete facts and encouraging her to pursue professional evaluation.
2. If there is no evidence that the Sister has sought appropriate help, concerned members of the community will contact the Sister’s Leadership Team Liaison.
3. The Leadership Team Liaison will coordinate an intervention process that will include a trained professional. It may also include community members, family and friends.
4. If a Sister does not cooperate with this process, the Leadership Team Liaison will continue to offer firm but charitable insistence on evaluation and treatment.
5. The Leadership Team Liaison will be involved in treatment, follow-up and on-going support of the Sister and her local community.
6. In order to recognize the early signs of addiction, to prevent dependency on substances, and to familiarize the Sisters with addictive processes, the Congregation will provide on-going informational and educational programs that address addictions.

\*Addiction exists when a Sister’s behavior and/or consumption related to alcohol, tobacco, other chemical substances, food, gambling, spending, sex, clutter, work, or any other excessively compulsive behavior:

* 1. Repeatedly interferes with her participation in the life of the community and in the proper performance of her ministry;
	2. Impacts her dependability;
	3. Impairs interpersonal relationships;
	4. Affects her physical, mental, emotional and/or spiritual health;

(5) Is a source of harm to others.

\*A Sister who is addicted often is unaware of her addiction and the extent of its gravity. It is integral to the very nature of addictions that the individual denies her addiction and uses many defense mechanisms to protect her addiction. Professional evaluation is usually necessary to effect proper treatment and recovery.