

## **Table Responses and Zoom Group Responses November 11<sup>th</sup> 2023**

### **Competency/Capacity**

- Who decides competency? \*\*\*\*\*
- How do we decide competency? \*\*\*\*\*
- How do we assist sisters to evaluate their own competency? \*\*
- How do we determine the critical mass? \*\*
- Age is not the determining factor for competency. \*
- How do we talk honestly about competency for Chapter and Leadership? \*
- Is competency determined by Leadership? Congregation?
- Distinguish between capacity and competency.
- Do not have a dismissive attitude toward those over 80.
- Are there objective tools to help determine competency?
- We need clarity as to what is needed to be a competent chapter member? Leader?
- If we were tracking delegates capacity, what would that look like?
- How do we include those who determine they are not competent?

### **Questions related to Chapter and Leadership**

- Do we need a new process to determine how delegates will be chosen? Willingness and then election. \*\*\*
- Would it be possible to change the number of members on the leadership team and the number of years between chapters? \*\*
- Our numbers seem to be getting lower faster than projected. \*
- How many delegates are needed for a viable chapter? \*
- Chapter Delegates need to be actively involved in the life of the Congregation.
- Active participation in congregational life, committees is essential for chapter delegates and future leaders.
- How do we elect sisters who are competent?
- Need to move from volunteering to electing.
- What process needs to be put in place when date for last chapter is in place and how is leadership determined?
- What will be our last chapter?
- One group feels strongly that 2026 is more realistic than 2031 for last chapter/
- Do we need to rethink what it means to be accountable as a delegate?
- If we do not have enough sisters in 2031, what happens next?
- Is there a critical mass of sisters available for leadership to be chosen? What is a healthy viable pool?
- How far in advance do we need to know if we have enough competent delegates to have a Chapter?
- What happens if there is not a pool of sisters for Leadership positions

- Who determines what percentage of membership is needed to finalize our decision?
- After evaluation and discussion changes have to be made to our Constitution pertaining to election of delegates.

### **Outreach for total involvement as we move forward**

- It is important that every sister get as involved as fully as she is capable of doing.\*\*\*\*\*
- How do we include and empower the youngest cohort? \*
- What happens if younger members are not involved?
- How do we invite and encourage sisters to participate?
- How do you encourage sisters who are able but not involved to come forth?
- Should the younger cohort have a weighted opinion as we make decisions?
- We need to train, mentor younger sisters for leadership.
- We need to call forth sisters who may not see the abilities they have.

### **Relationship with Institutional Church**

- Are there options to become a non-canonical entity? \*\*
- What authority does the Bishop have in a decision to merge, etc.? \*
- If the Bishop of Rockville Center does not support our decision, can we work with the Bishop of Brooklyn
- Could the Bishop override our decision to merge, unite or form a covenant?

### **Questions related to possible options for the future.**

- Need to explore new options. Lynn indicated that the Vatican was open to Congregations exploring this. \*\*
- How does our relationship with the Federation impact all of this? \*\*
- Who can the commissary be; a religious, layperson, priest,
- someone from another congregation, associate, agreee male, or female?
- Does the Commissary have to be local?
- Is it possible for a Commissary to be a CSJ from our Congregation?
- Who appoints and how is the appointment made of the Commissary?
- Are merger and union still viable options?
- Where does the money go from sale of the property if we join with another congregation?
- What processes need to be in place to divest ourselves of properties, ministries? If we merge or unite can a provision be made that Brentwood CSJ's who live in a LWA house can remain in one of our LWA's.
- Who do we covenant with?
- Are there viable congregations to merge with or are we just prolonging the process.

- What is happening in the federation as to unions, mergers, and/or covenants? How many of their congregations are viable?
- Need to explore all possibilities in more depth. We need more information.
- Are there other options?
- If we become non-canonical, what happens to sisters who wish to remain canonical?

### **Membership/Vocations**

- In light of cultural shifts, do we look for vocations when we are facing diminishment?
- Where are we as a congregation in accepting new members?
- Is there a point at which we as a congregation should not considering entering into a covenant relationship or remain faithful to a process started.

### **Relationship with CIJ's, with Associates, Agreeges**

- What happens to the CIJ's if any remain when we come to completion?
- Do the CIJ's stay with us if we move into covenant?
- How does our relationship with Associates and Agreeges fit into this process

### **Our Myths**

- We think we can do it. We will be in charge forever.
- We will always have the capacity.
- It is our responsibility to actively be a part of Chapter if at all possible.

### **Additional Questions/Comments**

- How do we determine the truth? \*
- If you opt to get a dispensation, do you get a percentage of the community's money to support yourself? \*
- How do we work toward acknowledging completion?
- Need to include this process in our common prayer.
- How do we address the fears of sisters?
- How do we continue the mission?
- Who and how are decisions made in transitioning ministries?
- Where does grieving fit into this?
- How do we face these realities personally and communally? Emphasis on Dirge or a Joyful Acceptance of the new moment.
- How do we go forward the together?

Updated January 16th, 2024

## **Additional Input from Zoom Meetings and Comments Received**

*These are comments that have surfaced numerous times in different venues.*

- Recognition of the importance of these discussions and gratitude that they are happening.
- We must make decisions and act now.
- Awareness that they surface many feelings that color our responses including anger, fear, disbelief, sadness as well as hope, excitement for new possibilities, the desire to move forward trusting that God is with us and the belief that we have been and will be provided for.
- A strong sense of the need for personal and communal prayer and openness to the Spirit as we discern the future.
- The importance of the "We". A need for all sisters to participate as fully as possible, recognizing what is realistic for each sister
- Clarity around the process for assessment for capacity and competency for Chapter and Elected Leadership.
- The desire to explore alternative options for our future what are the possibilities?
- What would be involved in to become a Non-Canonical Institute?
- Discussion of Membership including acceptance of new members.
- Relationship with Agregees, Associates, Partners in Ministry, CIJ's.
- Facing the reality of this time and the need to keep moving forward making decisions about how we will provide for the future care of our sisters, the continuation of our Charism through our mission and the plans for the future for our resources.
- The need for on-going input to inform our decisions and answers for questions as they are raised.
- Importance on continued discussions, in person, on zoom and with self-selected groups.