

July 19, 2024

Dear Sisters,

We are deeply grateful for all the time, energy and passion that have gone into the important discussions regarding Chapter 2026. There's plenty more to come!

One issue that needs to be settled is the question of hybrid vs in-person participation. After listening to comments from Sisters at our June 22nd gathering and subsequently reading feedback, we have decided to choose the in-person model. Some points of support:

1. There was a noticeable and positive shift in moving to in-person Chapter at the June 22nd event. Feedback supported this shift through both the written word and oral comments.
2. Sister Mary Jo Nelson, OLVN has walked faithfully with us these past two years as our facilitator. She has certainly come to know us! We are at a new moment ~ one that bridges our rich past history to the newness that change brings. Mary Jo is committed to all of the Pre Chapter work that will unfold these next two years as she will work side by side with the soon to be formed Chapter Planning Committee, the Leadership Team, and the Coordinating Group. Based on her vast experience with religious communities she has learned the value of one-on-one relationships and the dynamic that in-person work brings. She has clearly stated her commitment to an in-person Chapter and it is one that we honor. Aware of the important value of inclusivity, every effort will be made to involve every Sister in all Pre-Chapter work by providing a variety of venues, times and groupings.
3. We are upgrading the tech capabilities in the Joan de Lourdes Room and the other large gathering places (former Archives and Auditorium.) Provision for a private, secure livestream via a webinar is being explored to increase "Listeners" capability. Webinar attendees will be able to view and listen to all of the presentations, but they will not be able to join in discussions and will not interact with one another.
4. The dates for Chapter 2026 are set for June 21-28. The actual schedule within that week will be worked out by the Chapter Planning Committee to best accommodate our participants and to honor your feedback.

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5. We encourage full participation at the Discovering . . . Committee-sponsored September meeting on Membership and the final wrap-up of their hard work at the November 16th meeting.
6. The Roadmap that was shared by Leadership brings us to the important milestone of selecting through prayerful discernment the Chapter Planning Committee in December 2024. More to come on that process!

Realizing that most decisions can't please everyone, we ask your trustful support regarding our decision to have an in-person Chapter 2026.

Let us pray with gratitude for our abundance of resources that enable God's work to unfold ~ and for the gift of one another as faithful and visionary Sisters of St. Joseph in today's world. We are here for each other ~ this is our time.

With prayerful gratitude and blessings,

Tesa and the Leadership Team

Tesa Elizabeth Maria Phyllis Karen Thomasine Eileen