

How do we see decision-making
in our congregation,
given our place in the paschal mystery
and cycles in religious life?



To: Sisters, Agregees and Associates

From: Sisters Mary Drexler and Moira Sullivan, Co-chairs of Steering Committee

Date: July, 2018

Re: Upcoming Chapters of Affairs and Elections

The Sisters recently received a letter inviting them to commit to participation in both Chapters. Agregees and Associates will also be receiving a similar letter with more explanation related to what who have made this commitment of involvement, we believe the following information is relevant for all in order to be current in understanding what will occur this next year.

Topics and Dates: The topics and dates for the Chapter of Affairs have been categorized into four areas: governance, membership, mission/charism and resources. The first topic to be explored is that of governance and is planned for September 8 and 9, 2018. (See * below...) Mission/charism will be the focus on November 10 and 11; Membership on February 9 and 10; and Resources on March 9 and 10. Be sure to enter these dates into your calendars. Chapter of Elections will take place on the April 6 and 7, 2019 and May 4 and 5, 2019 weekends. Only Sisters may participate in the Chapter of Elections.

Facilitator: Sister Mary Dacey, SSJ from Philadelphia, will facilitate both Chapters; she has been working with the Steering Committee these last months. We are grateful for her willingness to take on this role and her skills and expertise as a facilitator.

Opening Ritual: Chapter will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 8, 2018 with prayer woven into or following an overarching presentation to set the tone for the Chapter of Affairs. The actual business of the day will begin after the opening session.

Participation: There are levels of involvement as you may remember from the previous letter from Government and/or Sr. Susan Herzing and Sr. Ann Marie Cappello. Also needed are **volunteers** in several capacities: committee for Prayer/Environment, Logistics (meals, room-setup, breaks, etc.), Clerical (assist with session minutes, etc.). If you are willing to offer your time and/or talent in any of these capacities, *please* contact Moira Sullivan, SSJ at S.msullivan@ssjerie.org or 460-8671 as soon as possible. Delegates *may also* serve on committees. Agregees and Associates are invited to consider offering assistance on any one of these committees.

Process: For the Chapters, we will use a process of communal discernment that focuses on reflection, deep listening and the voice of every participant. The article by Carole Shinnick provides background on this process, and the attached trifold provides details on how it will be carried out.

September weekend: The Government Committee will present sections of our Constitutions for review. Delegates will receive materials from the Committee prior to the weekend for study, reflection and discussion. This Committee will deal specifically with sections of the Constitutions related to this topic of decision-making by leadership and membership. (Other sections of the Constitutions for review will occur at other times within the Chapter as they relate to one of the topics.)

Liturgies for the Sunday of each Chapter weekend will be held at 4:00 P.M. Saturdays by Father Jerry Simmons in Chapel. Please note there will be no Sunday morning liturgy on those weekends.

Contact information: Should you have any questions at any time, please feel free to contact Sr. Mary Drexler at 814-464-3307 or at s.mdrexler@ssjerie.org. Sr. Moira Sullivan can be contacted at 814-460-8671 or at s.msullivan@ssjerie.org. Thank you!

CRITERIA AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CHAPTER PARTICIPANTS

- I have the physical stamina to attend all meetings for the entire time they are scheduled:
 - September 8-9, 2018
 - November 10-11, 2018
 - February 9-10, 2019
 - March 9-10, 2019
 - April 6-7, 2019 (Chapter of Elections)
 - May 4-5, 2019 (Chapter of Elections, if needed)
 - June 9, 2019
- I have the ability to hear in both small and large group settings, and the humility to make it known whenever clarification is needed at the time it is needed.
- I have the ability to process mentally.
 - I can remain awake and alert during all presentations and discussions in order to process information and make responsible decisions.
 - I can stay focused on and not wander from the topic under discussion.
- I am willing to listen attentively to every idea and opinion without judgment.
- I am willing to state my own hopes and fears in the midst of the current realities of religious life and our Congregation.
- I am able to let go of my desires for the good of the whole.
- Most importantly, I am willing to make a commitment of time to personal preparation and all necessary chapter efforts.
- I am willing to invest time in reading and studying all chapter materials.
- I am willing to enter into personal and communal contemplative prayer and discernment regarding chapter issues.

***Those who decide they are unable to meet all the necessary criteria above may still attend chapter meetings as an observer.