

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH
 Chapter 2018-19 Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2019 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1) Prayer	The day began with a prayer at 9:00am on Saturday, February 9, 2019.	Sister Mary Herrmann officially opened the Chapter 2018-19 February session at 9:00am.
2) Roll Call	<p>Sister Mary Ann White performed the roll call of the 56 delegates.</p> <p>Two delegates were unable to attend this weekend’s session; one delegate came in after roll call.</p>	Roll call of the Sisters acknowledged 53 delegates.
3) Opening statements / Formation committee presentation	<p>The theme for this Chapter session was Membership. Sister Mary Dacey began by reminding everyone present that membership also includes existing members, it should not just be focused on new members. She also thanked the Formation committee for the work they did to prepare for the weekend.</p> <p>On behalf of the Formation committee, S. Rosemary O’Brien spoke about the <i>Radical Times, Radical Response</i> strategic plan completed in 2015 and the courageous conversations which led to the 2015 statement that was shared again on everyone’s table. The words are the same but we are living in a different reality now. The world and the church need the gift of our charism now; how do we extend our gift? Haven Dinges performed an interpretive dance and then quiet time was given to reflect on personalizing the printed statement and determining how each member has lived the statement.</p> <p>Our membership is associated with our call, our vocation and our charism, and is expressed in communion with others. Our sacred call is lived in diverse ways but the call belongs to all of us. We are a smaller group now, but still powerful. S. Rosemary also pointed out that sometimes we don’t always see or are not aware of our own gifts.</p>	A table activity was done to name/affirm/encourage the gifts in the people present at each table.

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4) Membership Theme	<p>S. Mary Dacey reminded everyone of the importance of following the communal discernment process and stressed the importance of actively listening to everyone at the table. The home and consensus table conversations focused on the question:</p> <p><i>Based on what we have heard about our gifts and community life, do we have the capacity and will to welcome new members?</i></p> <p>Before the afternoon consensus discussions began S. Mary Dacey gave a quick review. She reminded everyone of the umbrella concept, which covers the fiscal responsibilities/realities of life and the canonical responsibilities. She said that it was important to think about our current number of vowed Sisters, the diminishment of Sisters world-wide (50% of religious communities today have less than 50 members), the small leadership pool we now have, and our median age (81). She cautioned that while having consensus discussions it is important to remember and consider our present reality, not our desires.</p>	
5) Leadership model review	<p>S. Mary Dacey reviewed the leadership model and reminded everyone present that we have had three in leadership and 2 additional councilors-at-large since 1999, and this is a canonical directive. However, it is being discussed because the change had not yet been made to the Constitutions. On 11/21/19 the government committee sent a letter explaining the situation and requested a leaning.</p> <p>S. Mary Dacey called for a vote and asked if everyone present would be able to vote on all of the government changes.</p>	<p>All 54 delegates unanimously voted to accept the government changes as presented.</p>
6) Wrap-up	<p>Sisters Mary Drexler and Marianne Stuckert will take the Membership consensus statements and will work to compose directional statements that will be presented at tomorrow's Chapter session.</p>	
7) Adjournment	<p>The Saturday Chapter session stopped at 2:30 pm., and ended with Mass at 4pm.</p>	

Submitted by Jenn Woodard, Recorder