

Chapter

Small Group

Meeting #2

Reports



Contact Person: S. Ann Marie Cappello

Participants

S. Joseph Marie Fitzgerald

Jane Zawacki, Associate

S. Ann Marie Joint

S. Margaret Pellerite (via phone)

S. Elizabeth Ann Niebauer

S. Susan Herzing (via written reflection)

S. Jude Marie Talerico

Issue 1: Charism/Mission

Rationale: The need to maintain the presence of the SSJ Charism now and into the future and ensure our identity and legacy is nurtured.

Number of persons who raised the issue: 8

Number of persons who raised the issue

Issue 2: Agregees/Associates

Rationale: Associates and Agregees help maintain the presence of the SSJ Charism now and into the future, wherever they are and however they are able.

Number of persons who raised the issue: 8

Contact Person: Pat Marshall

Participants:

Richard Marshall

Mark McNerney

Linda Kuhn

Mitzi Bannister

Ellen McNerney

Kathy Anysz

Pat Fronzaglia

Issue 1: Future Leadership

Rationale: While everyone agreed that all of these topics are important, 5 people felt future leadership was the most pressing matter. The remaining 3 people chose leadership as their second choice. Three people felt charism/mission was most important to be addressed, with the other 5 choosing it as second.

- The group pointed to the Neighborhood Network as an example of charism/ministry being carried out by lay people.
- One person commented that if there were no continuing charism there would be nothing to lead.

Number of persons who raised the issue: 5

Issue 2: Charism/Mission

Rationale:

Number of persons who raised the issue 3

Contact Person: Mary Fromknecht, SSJ

Participants

Nancy Fischer, SSJ

Stephanie Hall, SSJA

Marianne Stuckert, SSJ

Nancy Prenatt, SSJ

Linda Fusco, SSJ

Carol Mrehouse, SSJ

Deb Seng, SSJAG

Issue 1: Charism/Mission

Rationale: This is the essence of who we are. All the rationale listed in the synthesis. How do we live the mission so long as we are alive and how do we enable it to live after we (vowed) are gone?

Number of persons who raised the issue: 8

Issue 2: Agregree/Associates

All the rationale from the synthesis. There will be Agregree and Associates after the Sisters have gone. How can we provide some ongoing SSJ connection for them and others?

Number of persons who raised the issue: 8

Contact Person: Margaret Chrymko

Participants:

Edith Benson

Jon Fuhrman

Not present but provided input: Jan Larrey

Mary Furhman

Nancy Donnelly

Not present but provided input: Sr. Margaret Frank

Issue 1: Charism / Mission

- Future of our sponsored ministries. What are we call to?
- There is a great need within our culture to promote unityâ€¦ a gift given by God and our mission to promote it.
- Embracing our current realitiesâ€¦ how do we ensure that our Mission outlives the Sisters?
- Need to maintain the presence of the SSJ Charism now and into the future and ensure our identity and legacy is nurtured.
- How will Mission and Charism be continued into the future?

Rationale: Mission is critical. Interrelated topics that cannot be separated from Charism/Mission are:

- Agreeges / Associates (including sub-points from Synthesis Handout) AND
- Resources / Property / Space (including sub-points from Synthesis Handout)

Mission cannot be implemented without people and resources. Determining future direction of ministries involves consideration of opportunities created by the people, their gifts, and resources/property/space available.

Unity and community were noted as especially important.

Number of persons who raised the issue: Group reached consensus on this issue.

Issue 2: Future Leadership:

- The pool of canonical leadership is diminishing.
- When there are no Sisters, how will Associates and Agreeges be led?
- What are options for leadership in the future?
- Continue updating on future leadership.

Leadership is critical. Another topic also fits under Leadership:

- Agreeges/Associates (including sub-points from Synthesis Handout).
- Some leadership (beyond canonical) could come from Agreeges and Associates. There is also a need for leadership for the Agreeges and Associates.
- Topics are interrelated and can't be separated.

Number of persons who raised the issue : Group reached consensus on this issue.

Date of Meeting: 5/23/22

Contact Person: Betsy Wiest, Agregee

Meeting Members: Arlene Chaney, Agregee (excused)
Sr. Mary Drexler (excused)
Sr. Mary Herrmann
Sr. Phyllis McCracken
Jeanne Marie Ryan, Agregee
Sr. Ann Stephanie Stano (excused)

Areas for Chapter Consideration:

Jeanne (who indicated Arlene shared her view) felt the two areas of greatest importance for consideration to be covered for the upcoming Chapter are: Charism/Mission and Future Leadership.

Sr. Mary Herrmann - Properties will be handled by KEB. If we are diminished, how does the Agregee/associates continue?

Sr. Phyllis McCracken: All religious communities are looking at future leadership. Some are looking at conservatorship but that is not where we are at this time.

The group at the meeting felt that at this time, Charism/Mission and Future Leadership were the two areas that need to be addressed at the upcoming Chapter. The role of Agregee and Associates as well as the use of Resources, Property and Space will, most likely, be addressed within Charism/Mission and Future Leadership.

Betsy agreed to send the minutes to the entire group asking that if Sr. Mary Drexler or Sr. Ann Stephanie Stano had a different opinion, the group could share additional conversation via email.

Pre-Chapter Group Session Two Meeting Date: May 24, 2022 6:30-8:00 pm

Group Contact: Clare Marie Beichner, SSJ

Present:

Sisters: Clare Marie Beichner, Claudia Dombrowski, Josette Gocella, Rosemary O'Brien

Agreees: Cindy Brown, Teresa Cieslikowski, Charlene Kellerman

Associates: Gretchen Gallagher-Durney, Brandon Vogt

Priority Issue #1:

Charism/Mission

- Emphasis on relationships, encompassing ourselves, agreees and associates, partners in ministry, world in need
- Embracing our charism/mission with on-going formation on spirituality, inviting others to share
- Quality of life within our presence and relationships, living this more fully; promoting unity
- Involves research upon best practices and what is being done in other congregations

Priority Issue #2

Associates/Agreees

- Research and investigate what others are doing—such as best practices, how involved, areas of on-going enrichment, spirituality, ways of living charism
- Greater, active involvement; integrating gifts and resources of them/ more pro-active approach
- Integral to our becoming more of who we are as SSJ and the Gospel call

Please Note:

- ✓ Our group expressed that the future leadership area may be addressed and discussed more fully from the government committee. We believe the topic of future leadership requires intentional study of best practices, alternatives, and options from other congregations.
- ✓ Resources/Property/Space likely to be addressed by RTRR/KEB group with the information shared as possible

The following includes input from: Sisters Bernadine Gehringer, Jean Baptiste DiLuzio, Margaret Frank, Mary Ann White, Michele Healy, Phyllis Hilbert, Moira Sullivan, Ricarda Vincent and Agregee Cindy Polesnak:

First Choices are:

Four (4) chose Agregees/Associates,
Four (4) chose Charism/Mission,
One (1) chose Spirituality (Resources/Property).

Second Choices are:

Four (4) chose Future Leadership,
Four (4) chose Associates and Agregees
One (1) chose Spirituality.

Further Discussion regarded whether or not these issues are really Chapter issues. There were suggestions that they are all closely related to each other; that Charism/Mission be combined with Associates/Agregees. It was also noted that KEB meetings are considering the issue of Resources/Property and that, therefore, this issue would be addressed by the Congregation regardless of Chapter.

Submitted by Sister Ricarda



Pre-Chapter Small Group Discussion Response Form

Contact Person: S. Marjorie

Date of meeting 5-28-22

Group participants:

1. S. Lucille Destefano	6. S. Margaret O'Brien
2. S. Martha Howick	7. S. Marjorie Adams
3. S. Catherine Manning	8.
4. S. Veronica Mittal	9.
5. S. Maria Druffer	10.

Issues/Topics/Area	Rationale	# of persons who raised it
1. Charism / Mission	a) Complete revisions of government section of Constitutions from our previous chapter. b) How will our SSS Charism and ministries be continued now & future c) The role of Agregees/Associates in continuing our mission and ministries	7
2. Properties/Resources/Space	a) Need to clarify ownership vs sponsorship What are ALL of our ownerships? b) Are Heritage Apt's a part of our mission? Why? c) How will we share properties/space d) Goals and timing of divestment of properties.	5

Please return to Cass Shimek by March 31, 2022.





Pre-Chapter Small Group Discussion Response Form

Contact Person: S. Mary Helen Forney

Date of meetings May 25, 2022
June 1, 2022

Group participants:

1. <i>S. Josephine</i>	6. <i>S. Carmel</i>
2. <i>S. Colette</i>	7. <i>S. Stephanie</i>
3. <i>S. Maria Assumpta</i>	8. <i>S. Marie Timmons</i>
4. <i>S. M. Millicent</i>	9.
5. <i>S. Mary Helen</i>	10.

Issues/Topics/Area	Rationale	# of persons who raised it
1. <i>Charism/Mission</i>	<i>(over)</i>	<i>Consensus</i>
2. <i>Future Leadership</i>	<i>(over)</i>	<i>Consensus</i>

Please return to Cass Shimek by Friday, June 3, 2022.



ISSUES/ TOPICS/ AREA

under Charism/Mission 8 persons

Rationale: Our Spirituality is utmost; A crisis in country, church, culture, world. The times we are living in demand we focus on a right relationship with God, others, creation. We must find ways to keep our faith and fervor, our calling, our purpose to move to "the More" upwards in Christ Jesus: ultimately Heaven!

Under Future Leadership: 8 persons

Next important step, canonical implications ; a SSJ in Leadership, hopefully Federation Sister at some point in time ; An Associate, Agregre' as director of Associates ; lost contact during Covid; merging: SSJ's

After much discussion, we ranked the issues as follows:

1. **Future Leadership**
In all future discussions it is important to surface possible options and possibly refine the roles in Leadership of the Congregation.
2. **Agregees/Associates**
There is a need to CLARIFY the identity/role of these groups in relationship to the Sisters.
What greater inclusion do they want and why? What gifts and talents do they have to share that they are not already sharing? If not, why not?
In the future they will probably be selecting their own leaders, rather than expecting a Sister of St. Joseph to lead them.
Ways to carry on the SSJ charism will be determined in part by the reality of the future.
3. **Resources/Property/Space**
We see no need for a Spirituality Center.
The SSJ archive information would be housed in the Erie Diocesan Archives, where all other diocesan information is now housed.
Potential Housing requires continuing study and much clarification.
4. **Charism/Mission**
The SSJ Charism will live on in the lives of those to whom we have ministered and touched, and in the institutions we have founded. It is not up to us to carve it in stone; we need to trust that our Charism will endure for future generations.

Group Members:

**Rosemaire Chisholm
Andre Feulner
Margaret Hardner
Mary Rita Kuhn
Mary Arnold Tann
Sally Villa
Dorothy Wilwohl**

Group
S. Andre'