

CHAPTER 2024

The Chapter Planning Committee offers “What We Heard in Summer Listening Sessions 2023”

Hope, expressed and embraced

Consciousness of the transformation and freedom -personal and communal – to which we are invited. What must we embrace? What must we let go of? What needs to change?

Frequent citing of **Advocacy**—diversity of issues is a positive; advocating is something almost all of us can do.

Are we willing to risk and accept the consequences of where and with whom we will stand?

Frequent call to Earth as one with whom we stand

Value of **Collaboration** for growth, education, advocacy/justice

Federation, LCWR, groups outside our circles

Associates

Charism—a unique contribution we can make

Be who we say we are

Move from saying to doing

Renewal of life in **Community**

Vows lived in community as non-negotiables in religious life

Prayer and discernment together can improve quality of life

Need for healing and reconciliation among us

Contemplative Engagement/Communal Discernment

Every group cited contemplative dialogue, deep listening, growing in communal discernment in some way.

In order to know who we say we are, we need to know the hearts of each other. We have difficult decisions for the future and are just beginning a contemplative life stance. We need to focus and listen to each other—requires great silence.

Synod and synodality—participation and model for how we are together

How are we using our governance model for Contemplative Engagement and Communal Discernment?

Leadership

Structure, Qualities needed,
Relationship with membership – give and take –

Missing

A sense of VISION and URGENCY

EARTH – cosmic spirituality, climate change, etc.

Repeated calls for **ongoing formation/education**—in reconciliation, in discernment, in emerging religious life, leadership

Synthesis Statement

In light of our Mission and our reality, what unique contribution can the Sisters of Saint Joseph make to respond to the needs of the Church and the world over the next five years?

Rooted in relationship with our Triune God, we are called as vowed women religious to respond to the urgent challenges of the present moment and to an emerging future. Totally dependent on God's grace, we desire to claim our charism of unioning love...

by living contemplatively,
discerning communally,
serving collaboratively,
advocating fiercely,

to be a healing presence in our Congregation, Church, and world.