



Impelled by *God's* inclusive *Love*

Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston — General Chapter Weekend
October 27—29, 2017

Click here to view a Video summary of the weekend
<https://youtu.be/LBHnWtBOM8U>



As we began the second weekend of our Chapter of Affairs, our facilitator, Chris Partisano, CSJ, reminded us that this weekend was an opportunity to spend time together in deeper reflection and decision making as we envision our future. She reviewed the broad strokes of the September Chapter weekend and commented that it is clear that the, “God of the future is still calling us to new horizons.”

The focus of Friday afternoon was our Congregational Financial Report. Continuing our contemplative, congregational retreat mode we reflected on the report presented by Bob Belléy, Director of Finance, and Lee Hogan, CSJ, Treasurer.

After some contemplative reflection, there was a rich discussion which centered on using our resources not only for membership but also for furthering our charism and mission into the future. The large group sharing centered on what excites us about using our resources for mission.

On Saturday morning, our Chapter facilitator, Chris Partisano, CSJ, reviewed the agenda for the day and introduced Maryann Enright, CSJ, and Ann Marie Grady, CSJ, as members of the Process Committee who heard, observed, and read what happened during the Chapter sessions in September. In an inspiring visual presentation, the committee captured what they saw and heard and what we said. The presentation is included in the video link above reflects, in a visual way, what happened during that weekend and led us into our contemplative hearts.

After this, through color, song, and dance, the Leadership Team prepared to answer questions, listen to comments, and respond to members of the Congregation regarding the Accountability Report that had been distributed earlier in the month. From the responses of the Congregation, it was evident that the Accountability Report was well received for its creativity, inclusivity and honesty.

Later in the morning, the sisters from Saint Joseph Hall and Fontbonne Convent were invited to share their responses to the Accountability Report via Zoom video conferencing. Virginia Kelleher, CSJ, reported for Saint Joseph Hall and Miriam Theresa Ringer, CSJ, shared responses from Fontbonne Convent. Both indicated that the sisters expressed gratitude and appreciation for all that the report highlighted. Chris Partisano, CSJ, then directed the members of Chapter to enter into a contemplative space. After the period of contemplation there was table conversation around the following questions:

What needs to be brought forth?

What needs to be strengthened?

What is emerging?

Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning were spent in consideration of six governance proposals developed by the Ad Hoc Governance Committee and recommended by the Leadership Team to the Chapter. These proposals had been presented in September before Chapter began.

Throughout the remainder of Saturday afternoon and most of Sunday morning, there was ample time to reflect on and discuss where each person stood in relation to these proposals. “Leanings” of all present was taken regarding each proposal. This gave all a sense of which proposals might need more time for discussion and contemplative dialogue before moving to a vote.

As Sunday’s afternoon session opened, all present were invited to reflect on what kind of directional statement captures the pieces of what we have said. Each participant received a work sheet listing the elements of Saturday’s video from the Process Committee the essence of which was: Strengthen Mission, Strengthen Relationships for Mission, Strengthen the Spiritual, and Tell the Story.

The participants spent time in reflective quiet to deepen the contemplative process with the question “What is the movement that is rising in you?” When all reassembled, participants chose one of the statements to discuss in a group setting. Following these group discussions, the main points from each group were presented.

At the conclusion of this sharing, Rosemary Brennan, CSJ, asked the assembly to affirm the directions suggested by these four movements as the directions that will enable us to move into the future. The assembly did so in song and dance, and by lighting their pen lights in approval. Rosemary then thanked all the participants, Chris Partisano, CSJ, our facilitator, the Steering Committee, and all the committees who helped with various parts of the Chapter. She asked us to contemplate and appreciate the graces of this time. Following the completion of written evaluations by the participants, the Chapter of Affairs closed with the singing of *We Are One*.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS REPORT:

Writers —Marilyn McGoldrick, CSJ, Peggy Comfrey, CSJ, Betty Cawley, CSJ, and Joanne Gallagher, CSJ

Photographers — Anne Marie Garrity, CSJ, Zita Fleming, CSJ, Mary Rita Grady, CSJ, Kathy Green, CSJ, Rita Cormier, CSJA,

