

Sisters of St. Francis
o f M a r y I m m a c u l a t e

Local Chapter Prayer and Process
Regarding an Extraordinary Chapter
May, 2024 Meeting

Prior to the meeting:

- 1. Read the article from RCRI entitled “*Sooner Rather than Later: Preparing for Institute’s Journey to Fulfillment.*” (included in this mailing)**
- 2. Choose 2 concepts or sentences that stood out to you as significant, challenging, or that gave you clarity.**
- 3. Review the *Questions for Consideration* in the April letter from the Central Administration. (included in this mailing)**

Meeting Day:

Opening Prayer: Adapted from: Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkehr: *The Heart’s Journey through the Seasons*)

ALL: Loving God, we come from the East, South, West and North. We come as women religious, as Joliet Franciscans, to review our reality. May the energy of the Four Directions help us emerge in a manner that is pleasing to You.

Reader 1: Great Spirit of the East, dance your vision in our bones. Birth your love into our being. Surprise us with the taste of joy and teach us the sounds of hope. PAUSE.

Reader 2: Great Spirit of the South, Spring is promising new life. Our fruitful times will be restored. The emptiness of winter days will be left far behind us. Receive our gratitude. Touch our open heart and fill it. PAUSE.

Reader 3: Great Spirit of the West, give clarity to our decisions and actions so we can release what keeps us from growing. May every yielding of our strong will be a graceful letting go so new life can stir. PAUSE.

Reader 4: Great Spirit of the North, come with your strong rays of hope. Come with your whispering winds of rain. Send courage to accept the inevitable pain that is a part of the birthing process. May we lean into your strong embrace as the first signs of revitalization grow stronger in us every day. PAUSE.

ALL: In Jesus name, we pray! Amen.

Quiet Moment to recall the article and review your two sentences or two concepts.

Sharing: With no discussion or explanation each sister is invited to share the two sentences she chose from the article that affected her, or meant something to her, challenged her, or that gave some clarity.

Quiet Moment:

Sharing: Each sister has a chance to share why she chose those sentences/ concepts. About 3 minutes each.

Quiet Moment: What observations or insights came forth from the group?

What did you hear your group saying?

Open brief sharing:

Discussion:

1. What are your overall responses to the *Questions for Consideration* and their significance?
2. Are there any further time-sensitive questions we want to raise for the Extraordinary Chapter?

Feedback:

1. Name two or three reactions from your group to the proposed constitutional changes.
2. Does your group have any time sensitive questions that you want to raise for the Extraordinary Chapter?

Please email or send your answers Renée Cipriani by May 25.

Email: rcipriani@jolietfranciscans.org

or

US mail to: 1433 Essington Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Closing: Let us bless each other as we return to our journeying locations:

Together: May the sun bring us new energy by day.
May the noon softly restore us by night
May the rain wash away our worries.
May the breeze blow new strength into our being.
And may we walk gently through the world and know its beauty,
All the days of our life.

(First Nation Blessing-Apache)

Central Administration

Jeanne Bessette, OSF

Jeanne Bessette, OSF
President

Peggy Quinn, OSF

Peggy Quinn, OSF
Councilor

Roberta A. Naegel, OSF

Roberta Naegel, OSF
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