

February 6, 2025

Dear Sisters and Associates,

As this new year continues to unfold – with lots of new realities anticipated and unanticipated – we write to provide an update on the evolution of our Living into Our Legacy Task Force and its subcommittees. This task force has been operating since February of 2024 and has accomplished substantial work – some obvious, some behind-the-scenes. The task force chairperson, Sr. Meg Guider, has put together a report on their activities and accomplishments:

- Involved Sisters and Associates in thinking and openly sharing their feelings about the meaning and importance of *Legacy* as well as the significance of planning for our present and our future with greater intentionality on the part of membership.
- Included volunteers – sisters and others – recognized for their expertise in specific areas, as well as sisters and associates to become members of four sub-committees, chaired respectively by Barbara Kwiatkowski (Charism, Spirituality and Mission), Sue Bruno (Care of Members), M.J. Griffin (Stewardship of Resources) and Darcy Mason (Associate Relationship).
- Recommended that the congregation hold an extraordinary chapter in the summer of 2024 to consider some governance changes.
- Pursued some deeper and potentially formative reflection on our own stories (our six-word stories), our place in the church and the world, and our relationships with one another.
- Experimented with the Synodal Process of “Conversations in the Spirit” to the degree that Sisters and Associates *know its context* (Pope Francis’s call for members of the church, including women religious, to become more synodal in discernment and decision-making), *have practiced and experienced the process, and have benefitted from the insights gleaned from feedback.*
- Reflected on where the Spirit is leading us as a congregation, mindful of key themes that emerged from a synthesis (of a much larger collection of detailed input from Local Chapters) regarding where we find ourselves today.

- Completed and shared a modified SWOT analysis of our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, as an initial step in identifying priorities and setting goals and objectives.
- Invited Sisters to provide concrete proposals for action based upon the reflections done over the course of six months (March-September).
- Provided the members of the Legacy Task Force sub-committees with an afternoon of quality input from Sr. Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA, a canon lawyer who has worked with congregations working on issues and concerns related to legacy and planning.
- Through the “Living into Our Legacy” initiative, the Legacy Task Force has offered Sisters and Associates meaningful opportunities for listening, reflecting upon and responding to the hopes, questions and concerns that we hold in our hearts.
- Prepared the Sisters and Associates for continued involvement in processes that will be initiated by members of the Governing Board/Central Administration in coordination and collaboration with the sub-committees put in place by the Legacy Task Force.

Whew! This exhaustive list is pretty amazing in retrospect. We have ALL worked hard and well together. Today, though, we are in a different moment than when we began this work almost a year ago.

Darcy Mason has worked with the Associate Relationship Committee, which has decided that their questions have been discussed and answered for the present moment. That committee has completed their task for now. Darcy will continue to work with the Associate Leadership Committee.

With a change in membership of the Governing Board last fall, all of the committees are now chaired by members of the Central Administration who continue to work with members of their individual committees. With that new reality, we have come to the conclusion that our work will be more streamlined with the Central Administration coordinating these legacy efforts in lieu of a separate task force. In fact, Meg has graciously made that recommendation to us, and we agree.

The Care of Members Committee planned the most recent engagement for Local Chapters. The Spirituality and Mission Committee will be planning a conversation within the next couple of months. Additionally, our plan is to use our two days together this summer to continue work on naming our legacy.

Our sisters in Brazil are undertaking their own planning process, which will be reported to our sisters in the United States after their February 7-9, 2025, assembly. That letter will also address issues from our work together at last summer’s extraordinary chapter. Please stay tuned.

As always, we depend upon your prayers, your positive support, your insights and the work you are doing together in your Local Chapters (Sisters) and other gatherings (Associates). And we are very grateful to Meg for her leadership and planning during the launching of this future-oriented work and Darcy for her continuing leadership of our Associate Relationship program.

Praying peace and all good for each of you,

Your sisters,



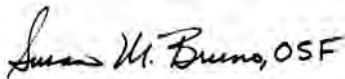
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