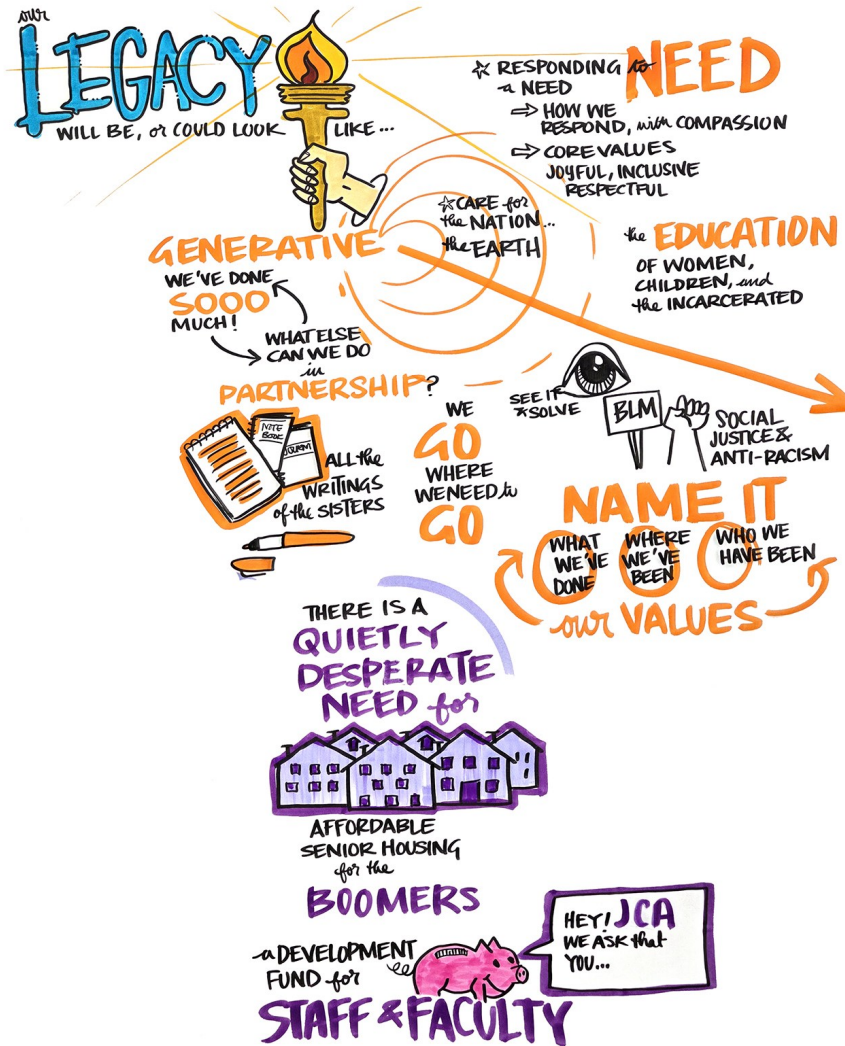


Legacy Born of a Franciscan Heart



Local Chapter
April, 2026

Introduction: We have been called together to continue the conversation from the summer of '25 Summer Gathering.

1st Conversation: We begin with checking in with each other.

Call to Prayer

With uncertainty comes opportunity. When the path ahead is not clear and the destination difficult to make out, it provides opportunity to re-imagine, o reshape, to be flexible and nimble.

Nicole Trahan, FMI, Occasional Papers

Empower our imagination, O Generous God. Bless this time we have together to look at and ponder our own generosity and generativity looking forward. Amen

Reading 1 The Franciscan Heart from Ilia Delio, OSF, Ph.D.

Francis was praying alone ..., uttering a mantra in the form of a question: "Who are You, O God? And who am I?" The more Francis wandered into the fields of nature, the more he wandered into the fields of his own heart. The outer world invited him to enter his inner world. The more he found God within himself, the more he saw God outside himself where every detail of nature spoke to him of God. As the Franciscan penitent Angela of Foligno exclaimed: "All creation is pregnant with God!"

Prayer led Francis into the truth of his own reality and into the truth of the world. Nothing was outside the embrace of God's love. It was love that moved Francis into other worlds: the world of the leper, the world of the poor, the world of earthworms and wolves, into the world of everything, because only in the world is God born through love. Francis set his heart on God's passionate love, his mind on knowing this love and his eyes on seeing this love.

Pause

Reading 2 Mark 12:41-45 Generosity, The Widow's Mite

He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums.

A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents.

Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."



Pause

Reading 3 Francis' Generativity: The First Christmas Crib

What he did on the birthday of our Lord Jesus near the little town of Greccio in the third year before his glorious death should be devoutly remembered each year... "for I wish to recreate the birth of the Babe born in Bethlehem, so that we will see with our own eyes He did not have even the barest necessities"...the good folk came and were filled with joy as if for the first time over a whole new mystery.

Celano, First Life

Francis left Greccio that year with a new heart, for the brothers would keep alive the custom of celebrating Christmas in that fashion. And the people of Greccio would spread the word to the next village, and from there it would cover the whole of Italy and maybe the world. Someday, perhaps, every man and woman could look into the altar crèche at Christmas and know he had someone special to love, someone divine to care for and would begin anew to love.

Murray Bodo

Pause



Response: Collected thoughts on Generativity – the gift that keeps giving

Legacy: Legacy means something valuable or meaningful that is passed down from the past. It can be traditions, achievements, ideas or even material things left behind for future generations.

Lord of all, teach us what is ours to do.

Generativity: Generativity is the psychological need to nurture, guide, and contribute to the next generation and society.

Gracious God, open our hearts to the needs around us.

Financial Stewardship: Setting up endowments through gifts to support charities or ministries long-term.

Holy Spirit, guide us to meaningful giving.

Shifting the Narrative: Congregations are encouraged to view the end of their ministry as a time to "build a legacy," focusing on how God is still at work and ensuring that the congregation's impact continues.

Jesus, our brother, lift our hearts to share our story of God in our lives as you shared yours in word and action.

Asset Stewardship: Congregations evaluate their resources, including property, funds, and trusts, to determine how they can best be used for future, long-term ministry or charitable purposes.

God of all Love, call us to honest evaluation of our assets. Fill us with wisdom and integrity to make life giving decisions.

Discerning Future Actions: Deciding how to distribute assets to support other nonprofits, ministries, or community initiatives.

Gentle Spirit Let us listen to one another and to the world around us.

PAUSE / REFLECT / SHARE:

What is stirring in me after all the readings?

PLEASE FORMULATE YOUR GROUP RESPONSE TO EACH OF FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

1. How do you view generosity and generativity through a Franciscan lens?

2. What do you suggest that we all talk about this summer as we prepare for Chapter in 2027?

Closing Song:

Holy Is Name

John Michael Talbot

(sing or play)

Verses



1. My soul ___ pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord, ___

2. He has mer-cy _____ in ev - 'ry gen-er - a - tion. He



1. and my spir-it ___ ex-alt-s in God my Sav-ior. For he has

2. has ___ re-vealed ___ his pow-er and his glo - ry. He has cast



1. looked with mer-cy on my low-li - ness, and my name ___ will be for-

2. down the might-y in their ar-ro-gance, and has lift-ed up ___ the



1. ev - er ex - alt - ed.

For the might - y God has done great

2. meek and the low - ly.

He has come to help his ser - vant



1. things for me,

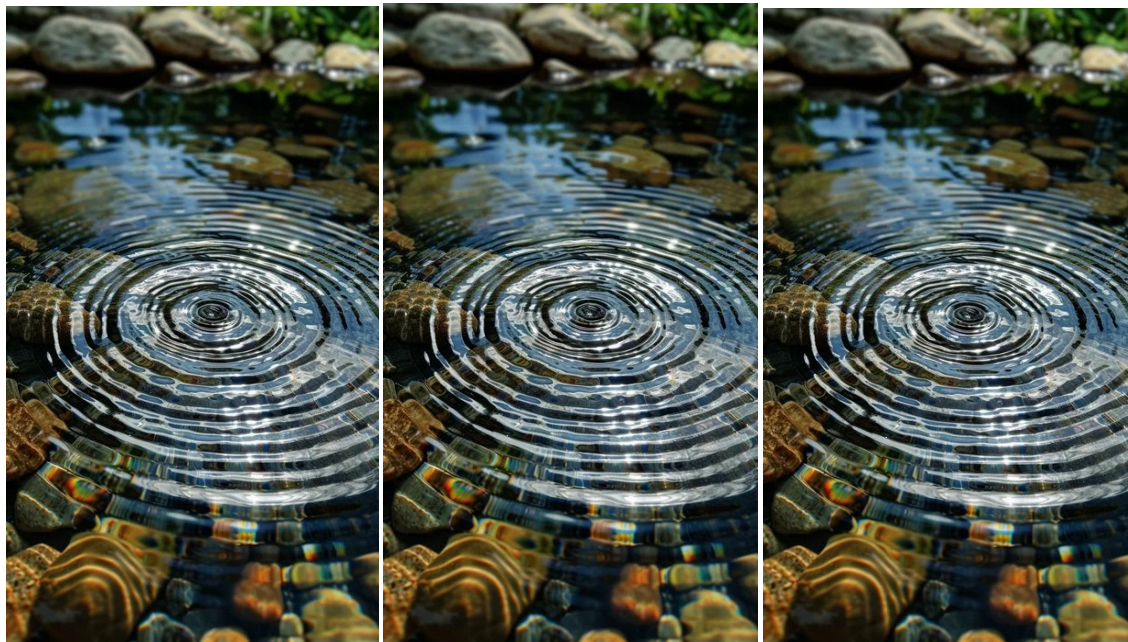
and his mer-cy ___ will reach from age to

2. Is - ra - el;

he ___ re-mem - bers ___ his prom - ise to our

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, hear our prayers of gratitude for the journey past and for the journey forward together. Following the whispers of the Holy Spirit we renew our commitment to find our way to share our Franciscan Heart for the next generation of followers of Jesus. Make us compassionate companions who praise your wonders every day, like Francis, Clare and your Son Jesus. Amen



The Ripple Effect

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

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