

Camilla responses for chapter sharing

Wisdom shared:

- In this time of Eucharistic revival that we as a Congregation will always cherish Eucharist as being the center of our lives and will continue to deepen our understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist in our community living
- Recognizing that our Rule is a covenant with God and God with us, may we always balance the spirit of the rule with the commitment
- To better understand the role of the Big Picture Conversations so we can speak of what means the most and leads us to transformation individually and Congregationally

Grace

- That each of us are accepting and open to what happens at chapter not outwardly but inwardly
- That there may be a joyful acceptance of Chapter
- That we begin to know God's presence (individually and communally) as we live more tenderly
- Grace of unity
- That we have a sense of our history
- Past has been much activity and now prayer (for our sisters in Camilla) recognize that it is great to settle down and find what this contemplation is

Wisdom

- Need to adapt a travelers' heart
- Welcome change with prudence and courage
- Have a strong personal identity by praying together and caring for each other
- Change of consciousness to the world
- Contemplative prayer – be open to prayer forms
- Comparing the zeal of our founding sisters with the zeal of Camilla Sisters recognizing the zeal is for a different time and the need to be open to let go so newness can come in
- To have a realistic view of members on mission who have medical issues and to balance that going forward
- Recognized the challenge of Covid and beyond Covid knowing our prayer has to be conscious that we are coping with things beyond our control
- The Literacy program is an asset for Camilla and the need for more service opportunities in Camilla

Grace

- Gifts of the Holy spirit
- Stark naked courage to go ahead coupled with deep spirituality
- Necessity of being informed – assume personal responsibility to learn more and to learn from one another
- Importance of time for assessment and reflection – accept now and have hope for the future
- Remember our part but realize what god has begun
- Look at Camilla as a second calling – welcome home. (I will give time to pray and read)

What wisdom do you wish to share with our Sisters regarding the direction of our Chapter?

- Synod as example- contemplation leads us deeper, so we can be inviting to all
- Logo is a good start, action must come after listening, opening us to the needs of the Church & the world
- emphasize how we pray together, simplify rather than add on, embrace ICEL 2024 (led to a supportive side conversation)
- juggle fear with an attitudinal change...Be not afraid! The Spirit is guiding us, ability to let go of fear is a fruit of contemplation
- Hold on to our "IHM"ness, what calls us to Christ...do that which is vital to be "faithful" to what we believe & then be "fearless"
- not just presence, but participation
- chapter in many ways is an "inside job", expect others to do it, too
- (as many of us are physically bent) be bent over in love & reach out however you can
- need for acceptance of outcomes of Chapter as God's will
- move along with the Church & reach out to the all the world
- we'll look at the world...who needs us (ex. online literacy at Camilla)
- being proactive not reactive requires a new mindset
- "pioneer" spirit involves giving, trusting and patience
- embrace possibilities with prudence & open hearts
- common ministry- creates necessary community support
- as our numbers become 1/3 of what they were, danger of spreading ourselves too thin
- we are all there even when only one IHM is there
- we educate even if not in a classroom
- importance of collaborative opportunities
- collaboration with other IHMs is new, but good
- go further with companions, tap into them more in collaboration, what do they desire us to do most

What is the grace you most desire for this Chapter?

- "buy into it" as the Spirit is saying & moving through Chapter, support those in the delegation & beyond
- open communication, patience in listening, unbiased opinions, positivity, respect, dignity & compassion and caring for each sister
- patient understanding of one another is God's will
- remember that inclusivity means "everyone"
- respond to the call to common discernment, called to make things known

-(S. Kate Magee summarized the discussion and what she heard)...our conversation today is reflecting the chapter umbrella of being open to transformation by contemplation, entering more deeply into relationship, owning responsible membership & embracing collaboration in mission
-have gratitude for what we have by utilizing what we have
-prayer counts, pray always

What wisdom do you wish to share with our Sisters regarding the direction of our Chapter?

-the many colors of the turning leaves seem like a message of “renewal” ... and I am borrowing the words of a poem I read recently that speak of renewal as “our life force turning inward to listen

-my “wisdom” is perhaps the realization that I cannot “claim” wisdom - that I do not have all the answers, that “relying on Providence” is what real wisdom is

-living each day with optimism seems the key to counter-cultural living in our pessimistic world . . .

-letting the Holy Spirit in . . . listening to the Holy Spirit in every aspect of our lives. . . seems to be what relying on Providence actually means

-we are called to “balance” the needs of our Church with our resources . . . while holding true to our heritage, our values, our IHMness

-our Chapter logo “Behold I am doing all things new. Listen” incites a sense of anticipation, deep trust, a sense of waiting for something wonderful happening . . . it is exciting . . .

-living with paradox: God does 100 percent of the work and yet I must do 100 percent of the work . . .

-our spiritual life must be given top priority in order for our active life to be fruitful

-our synodial experience has shown us the need for Church Leaders with integrity . . . how the flock needs good pastors . . . we ourselves can

remember those who “ mentored” us, and now we need to step up and be “mentors” to one another and to all those with whom we minister. . .

-my wisdom is realizing how “little things” really make a difference; for example, just stopping to see a sister in her room can make a big difference in her life

- **What wisdom do you wish to share with our Sisters regarding the direction of our Chapter?**

- openness to the “new” that awaits us

-fidelity to the long legacy of IHM spirituality

-inclusivity - embracing the Spirit everywhere and in everyone

-seeing, hearing, affirming the neediness within and around us

-learning to live with paradox - concrete examples within the discussion:

*technology, and the constant attention to emails, texting can take the place of personal and face-to-face

relationships BUT ALSO technology makes it possible to communicate face-to-face with Literacy Learning

a New Language Programs, live-streaming Congregational meetings etc.

*numbers and institutionalized living certainly challenge the environment of Camilla as a “Convent Home”

BUT ALSO the nurses and aides and activities’ personnel are apt possibilities for deepening and engaging

in IHM hospitality and dismantling borders

*many sisters at Camilla feel not seen, not heard, not reached . . . the kind of neediness experienced by so

many in our world BUT ALSO Camilla can be a place where emerging needs are witnessed and served

-the grace to practice and value communal prayer as “strength for the journey”

-openness to the wisdom that comes from honest dialogue

What wisdom do you wish to share with our Sisters regarding the direction of our Chapter?

Be realistic, propose the possible; trust that God will make all things NEW.

Be faithful and creative in choosing ways to live our charisma and our mission in the present

Follow the direction of the Holy Spirit; be open to the call

Keep it simple

All are carriers of the Holy Spirit

All is gift; God loves us and chose us

Prayer is the heart of our life

Each Sister is precious to God

Listen to the "NEW" that God is calling us to as we hear the cry of the poor, the Earth, and the young

What is the Grace you most desire of the Chapter?

To be transformed by renewed fidelity to our charism and love for the Eucharist

To embrace our current realities and gratefully live as "joyful bearers of God's redeeming love"

That Sisters respect one another, all ages, wherever they are

To see in a new way in this time; be open to the newness

Prompted by Faith— take risks

Listen contemplatively to what each is saying— allow Holy Spirit to act through it

Growing acceptance

What wisdom do you wish to share with our Sisters regarding the direction of our Chapter?

- Open heart and mind, spirit
- Church needs patience and vision
- Ability to accept change
- Maintain the vision of our Founders

What is the grace you most desire for this Chapter?

- Recognize power of the Holy Spirit
- Strengthening community

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What wisdom do you wish to share with our Sisters regarding the direction of our Chapter?

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- When I think of all the changes in the many Chapters I experienced...majority of changes good, some not so good.
- Are our Convent homes able to accommodate our Sisters who can still do the mission work? Can our sisters keep up?
- No matter what is decided – will it make us more holy? Keep prayer first! Perhaps ministry will change but not our prayer life. Prayer that moves to action. Wisdom is expressed in action. If we are grounded in our prayer life we can meet any challenge, change or shift.
- How will Camilla Sisters be able to express proposals for Chapter?

What is the grace you most desire for this Chapter?

- Honesty, doing who we say we are!
- Build on what we have; we are blessed in so many ways. Have a sense of gratitude.
- Other chapters more defined...in some way, easier.
- We must continue to look beyond ourselves to the people we serve.
- We need grace of determination.

1. What wisdom do you wish to share with our Sisters regarding the direction of our Chapter?

- Continue the work of Chapter 2018
- Listen to the NEW expressions of our charism especially regarding the marginalized.
- Be attentive to the cries of our young people who have no one to confide in. Reach out to them and share the catholic faith and traditions with them. Be models for them.
- Realize that our ability to teach is a great gift to share. Parent Education is so essential now. Let us reach out to the families in our parishes and help them to form healthy and happy relationships.
- Continue to collaborate with literacy programs. Support Camilla literacy initiative.
- Our congregation was created to answer the needs of the church. Let's return to that spirit of mission and be open to new expressions of our charism.
- May the delegates be faithful to keeping Jesus as the Center of their lives so that every decision made will be authentic and wise.
- Renewed devotion to the Eucharist
- Awareness of our humanity and acceptance in community.
- Move forward prayerfully and thoughtfully. Be discerning.
- Collaborate more with Companions.

2. What is the grace you most desire for this Chapter?

- Openness to new needs of the Church.
- May we be who we are called to be – authentic living of our religious life.
- Always aware of the Common God not just our own needs.
- Awareness and authenticity.
- Openness to different cultures.