

## Pre-Election Process at the Chapter of Elections

This contemplative discernment process for elections grew out of the evaluations from the last chapter, along with the recommendations of the IHM task force that was created as a result. It is designed to reverence the meaning and manner of engaging in communal discernment, consciously attending to the movement of the Spirit within and among. Though it does not use parliamentary procedure in the same manner as it was used in past chapters, such processes have been affirmed by canon lawyers and are becoming common practice in many congregations. There are a number of components that are part of this process, some of which take place prior to the Chapter and some which take place within the Chapter itself, but with the intent of creating an integrated and united whole involving the entire community.

- Every effort is being made to make available the same pertinent information to all involved in the process in a respectful, gentle, yet honest way for both delegates and those affirmed for leadership.
- As part of the preparation for elections, the 25 sisters with the most affirmations were invited to participate in a discernment experience and will continue to engage in conversation with each other and with members of the congregation and beyond.
- Those sisters who have indicated a willingness to continue in the process after the discernment retreat will become part of the list of nominees for the Chapter of Elections.
- Each nominee having received some guide questions will create a written response which delegates will receive upon their arrival at Chapter. At the Chapter itself, within the context of prayer, each nominee will also have an opportunity to address the delegates.
- Following the presentations of the nominees, table groupings of delegates will have an opportunity to focus together on each nominee providing brief written feedback agreed upon by the table group, affirming her skills and gifts, as well as surfacing a significant question and/or concern which you would like her to address.
- Nominees will be seated at their own table(s) during this part of the election process.
- When the delegates have completed their feedback for each nominee, these forms will be given to the respective nominee, who will then have an opportunity to reflect on them overnight.
- The following day, nominees will have a second opportunity to briefly share her response regarding the feedback (affirmations, questions, concerns) she received from the delegates.
- After all of the nominees have shared, there will be time for further conversation among delegates.
- When the delegates have indicated their readiness, the balloting will begin for General Superior followed by on-going reflection and dialogue as needed for the election of the rest of the council members.