



Chapter Meeting Communique June 27, 2023

Morning Session

Before the formal beginning of today's meeting, Sister Rosemary DePaul announced the death of Michael Plunkett, a longtime friend, and co-worker with the community. Michael worked for years at Camilla Hall and formed lifetime friends there. We join Sister Regina [Jean] Plunkett and her brother Jack in mourning Michael's passing.

Second Big Picture Conversation- Responsible Membership

Sister Rosemary DePaul then opened the meeting by leading the group into thoughts about the goals of community, which Mimi described as creating an environment where each sister can go deeper into responsible membership, foregoing a personal agenda in favor of the greater good. Mimi pointed out that our communal future depends on our being honest and direct in communicating with one another.

Sister Catherine then asked the delegates to consider "What was the desire of our younger hearts?" "What energy filled us in the moments of our younger days?" Delegates then listened to "If Not Now, Tell Me When" by Carrie Newcomer, which was played as an introduction.

Delegates were asked to discuss Big Picture #2—Responsible Membership. In doing so, they were asked to take a deeper step into earlier material and ask themselves: "What is the new that could be ready to surface? What will look different in future years? What gives us energy from the topic 'Responsible Membership?' What is the most urgent community response?"

Following the discussion, a sister from each table responded orally to the question: "What is the urgent community response that you most want to take as a next step and to which we can commit at this time?" The shared responses grew from the table discussions. Delegates were then given the opportunity to provide their own individual insights gained from the discussion. This concluded the first half of the day's program.

After the discussion had been concluded, members of the delegation joined in celebrating the Eucharist in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Father Dabney, with true Redemptorist fervor, spoke lovingly of the special feast and Mary's special role in the Church and in our lives. A delicious dinner followed the time in chapel.

Afternoon Session

Third Big Picture Conversation—Collaboration for Mission

Sister Kathryn Clemmer introduced the Third Big Picture Conversation – Collaboration for Mission. As many others had mentioned beforehand, she noted that delegates were aware that they were presently standing on the foundation of earlier faithful sisters. At the present time, they were being called to answer a new call for collaboration, to share and embrace the gifts of others, and to pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit to guide our present process.

Sister Joanne then began preparation for the discussion of the final Big Picture Conversation. She suggested that as we enter the process, we ask, “What is God asking us to do? Where and with whom?” She and Sister Catherine joined in reading a short story to the delegates: *What Do You Do with an Idea?* She added as a point for consideration, “If it was just you, what is the idea in your heart that may spark enthusiasm?” She further noted that collaboration can be a difficult process, citing the example of her own community’s joining and adapting with other groups within the community. The delegates were then asked to discuss questions centered on the Third Big Picture. Two questions were listed:

- As you consider this topic as presented in the proposed Direction Statement along with the Synthesis from the Pre-Chapter meeting, what gives you energy?
- What is the idea you most want to put forward as a next step and to which you can commit at this time?

Following the table discussions, responses were divided among the tables. Tables 1-15 offered their responses to the first question; Tables 16-30 responded to the second.

Sister Catherine then spoke about a repeated question: “Where is this all headed?” With some help for further clarification, Sister Monica Sicilia then provided a possible “not yet defined” process for implementation. Sister Monica provided an image for consideration: The chapter is providing us with a thread to start a process; weaving will be done in implementation. Once our Direction Statement is approved, the new administration will invite us into implementation. The scenario is not yet defined; the necessary process/structure will be established.

Those sisters who had been nominated for administrative positions were asked to remain for a meeting at 4:00.

The meeting ended with a contemplative pause.