



Chapter Communique June 29, 2023

Members of the delegation joined for the Eucharistic Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. Father Dabney took the opportunity to speak about SS. Peter and Paul as dynamic but flawed leaders of the early Church. Despite these flaws, though, they both willingly served their church and suffered martyrdom because of their commitment.

Morning Session

Sister Kathryn Clemmer next welcomed delegates to the meeting, invoking Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Sister Marianne Lallone then guided a brief opening prayer centered on the hymn, "Holy Spirit, Breath of God." She also mentioned that after groups of nominees had presented their community desires and qualifications for leadership, members of the Chapter would join in singing the refrain, "Holy Spirit, breathe new life in us."

Sister Catherine introduced the process to be followed for the presentation of nominees for the council positions. The order of presentations had been determined by chance, specifically by the drawing of numbers! Nominees would present their relevant information to the delegates in specified groups. Following the sixth member of each group, there would be a slight pause as members of the delegation sang the refrain, "Holy Spirit, breathe new life in us."

The first group of presenters included Sisters Ellen Giardino, Donna Kelley, Rose Bernadette Mulligan, Kathleen Schipani, Mary Sue Carwile, and Antoine Therese Lawlor.

The second group of presenters included Sisters Elaine de Chantal Brookes, Regina Havens, Janet Walters, Joseph Marie Carter, Mary Anne Spaetti, and Mary Jo Ely.

The third group of presenters included Sisters John Evelyn DiTrolio, Stephen Anne Roderiguez, Mary Ellen Tenny, Christine Virginia O'Donnell, and Monica Therese Sicilia.

At the completion of the presentations, members of the delegation enjoyed another delicious lunch. This time it was Chinese food!

Afternoon Session

After the delegates returned for the afternoon session, Sister Catherine gave instructions for the afternoon discussions. Seventeen "table response" papers had been given to each table. On each paper, there were two headings: "Affirmations--gifts, skills" and "Question/area of concern." Delegates were asked to write the name of each nominee at the top of a paper. When the nominee had been discussed by the delegates, the completed paper was to be brought to the stage, where each nominee's name had been placed on a small stand. The papers were to be placed with the print side facing down. Delegates were asked to discuss each nominee in a contemplative, dialogic process. Nominees did not remain in the hall during the discussions.

The tables were divided to ensure that each nominee would receive equal attention. For example, tables 1-10 would begin the discussion with the first nominee; tables 11-20 would start with nominee #8 and work to #17 and then complete #1 - #7; the third group, tables 21-29 would begin with the final nominee (#17) and move through the nominees to #1. The numbering system was meant to ensure that every nominee got equal attention, no matter where they were in the numerical order. Sister Catherine urged the delegates to work with a contemplative, dialogic presence.

Nominees would receive these "table responses" after the meeting and have the opportunity to respond to them at tomorrow's meeting.