



## **Delegates' Virtual Meeting May 31, 2023**

On May 31, Sister Catherine Bertrand and Sister Joanne Hanrahan, our Chapter facilitators, had an opportunity to speak directly with the Chapter delegates about the definitive processes that would form the basis for the 2023 summer Chapter meetings.

Sister Catherine voiced that the hope of the facilitators is that by the end of Chapter, delegates will be enlivened and enriched, renewed, and even more committed than ever to all that it means to be a part of our IHM congregation.

This summary is organized using the major topics that were discussed.

### **How we come to Chapter: how we arrived here, what grounds us-- attentive to a contemplative, reflective, and discerning presence**

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Delegates were first reminded that the new Chapter process evolved from a Task Force created at the last Chapter. The present Chapter will follow those recommendations in working with a simplified, contemplative process as we choose future directions and leadership.

It was also noted that questions during the meeting would be ideally limited solely to "Clarification" questions. For example: What will it be? What will it mean? What will be the process?

### **Walk through Chapter Agenda Draft—each movement of the Chapter**

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Sister Joanne Hanrahan guided the delegates through the proposed agenda for the Chapter. As the delegates reviewed the agenda, some important items that will be covered during the Chapter were highlighted.

**June 25:** Celebratory ritual opening of the Chapter and the convening of the Chapter by Sister Mary Ellen. Delegates will consider the RCA recommendations for Chapter that have been collected since the last Chapter.

**June 26** will include the finance and stewardship presentation, followed by the afternoon session discussion about our *First Big Picture Conversation: Prayerful Loving Relationships*.

**On June 27**, delegates will discuss the *Second Big Picture Conversation: Responsible Membership* and the *Third Big Picture Conversation: Collaboration for Mission*. Material for these conversations was synthesized from feedback from earlier Chapter meetings. A response to the finance and leadership reports given on June 26 would be provided on June 28.

### **Draft of the Direction Statement—first considerations, response to draft**

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Sister Joanne gave an overview of the proposed direction statement, introducing Sister Margaret Langer who gave an explanation and review of its contents on behalf of the Writing Team.

On **June 28**, a proposed Direction Statement will be provided for consideration.

After questions from the delegations, it was noted that discussion regarding the proposed direction will be provided during the days of Chapter and a final statement will be constructed by the existing Writing Team for approval.

### **Preview of Election Process—flow of the process**

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On **June 29 and June 30**, delegates will consider those sisters who have submitted their names as nominees for administrative positions. After a rather detailed process, it is hoped that members of the delegation will become more familiar with each nominee. The nominees themselves will have the opportunity to respond to questions that are being raised.

A review of the voting procedures will be provided to the delegation and if readiness seems evident, voting for the General Superior and the Sister Assistant may begin on June 30.

Elections will continue and be finalized on **July 1**. There will be a final affirmation of the Direction Statement.

The final day, **July 2**, will consist of Eucharist, the closing of the Chapter, and the signing of the Chapter's enactments.

### **Best ways to prepare for Chapter—personal commitment to study, reflection, and prayer. Refer to the Resources on the website.**

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Sister Catherine spoke to the delegation about preparing their hearts and minds as they come to Chapter by asking-- *How do we come from that place that is really God inspired? How will we speak to each other in a way that really is loving, and is it for the good of the whole?*

It was noted that the best means of preparation for the Chapter would be for delegates to look at the Chapter website periodically.

Delegates were thanked for their continued personal commitment to their role as a delegate.