Stewardship & Sustainability References
Cited in Caritas Fall Meeting 2016 Feedback
And the *Dream Book*

**Foundational statements**

- Re-imagine the use of Mount Loretto buildings and property to address the mission of Jesus and the needs of the world/cries of the poor
- Maintain our values of community living, community prayer, togetherness, understand what it means to “incarnate the hospitality of God.”
- Continue to keep the community engaged in the conversations related to the process
- Continue providing resources for life-long learning along the lines of mission, charism and the use of resources (including land and buildings)
- Consider the mission of the Mt. Loretto property with consideration of care for Earth
- Balance green space, use of the buildings and environmental areas
- Foster diversity in the use of property/facilities
- Grow into hospitality, just as Nano did, and be transformed by those we are called to serve
- Risk, to receive all without judgment; embrace hospitality with an open, welcoming heart
- Deepen theological and scriptural studies of hospitality, the love of God as expressed through the Sacred Heart
- Foster a spirituality of ministry grounded in hospitality and zeal
- Be an uncommon community of unconditional love
- Live: “Not words, but deeds.”

**CONSIDER:** “What is the meaning of our power that is good?” (Barbara Marx Hubbard)

**Community Life**

- Continue to encourage new members
- Consider all opportunities for life-long formation for every member at every level
- Vocation, formation and associate office work together as we imagine new ways of welcoming
- That there will be opportunities for vocation accompaniment/discernment in Bolivia; encourage new members associates, live-in experiences
- Continue to use the invitation process
- Develop a Vocation Team
- Develop a Formation Team
- Promote strong contemplative prayer life
• Support those who are willing to serve the community
• Enhance our technology communication
• Foster inter-generational living
• Use resources to (establish a Trust or something similar) to provide livelihood for those who wish to live and work in areas of extreme poverty where salaries are not available
• Provide a class in finances to help understand our system better
• Encourage leadership style that will be collaborative allowing people to speak their truth
• Promote our website; improve use of web site for peace and justice advocacy and action
• Since our leadership pool was so small in 2012 Chapter, that we consider ways to engage and encourage sisters with potential leadership qualities
• That we welcome college-age students to join us for liturgy, days of retreat or renewal, as well as outreach opportunities
• Encourage young women to devote some years of their life to our community
• Imagine new ministries to continue our mission and charism
• Include our associates in more ministries
• Create a “complaint-free” environment
• That our home be known as a house of prayer
• Support the ministry desires of all members as we are able to do so
• Continue ongoing relationship with peace and justice projects of the Upper Mississippi Valley Congregations
• Seek and listen for a common call
• Search for models of leadership which value gifts, collaboration, service, solidarity and unconditional love
• Assure that we always have a common community home
• Provide for the well-being and wellness of all
• Increase service opportunities: national and international
• Foster “hubs of co-creativity” (Barbara Marx Hubbard)
• Promote a monthly “Justice Café” toward education and advocacy, ipjjusticecafe.ning.com
• Host sessions on community organizing
• Increase use of materials from LCWR, NFC, NRVC, etc.
• That all community members be willing to admit mistakes and work together collaboratively to make corrections

Suggestions for Future Use of Land and Buildings

• Broaden our view in regard to uses of our Motherhouse
• Utilize green areas for natural habitat (creating lungs for Dubuque); consider city and inter-congregational conversancy effort
• Turn 4th & 5th floors into living space for elderly friends and relatives
• Open a wing of our motherhouse to those who are poor/reduce homelessness
• Open the doors of Mt. Loretto to those who need shelter
• Keep what we currently own and re-purpose it as we respond to the signs of the time
• Sell all and build new
• Provide community retreats similar to the “Charism” retreat
• Use Mount Loretto for a Spiritual Center for people seeking peace, prayer, refreshment and renewal as well as direction and discernment, truth, transformation, healing and hope; create a Center for spiritual activism
• Create a Center of Listening and Learning for social justice issues
• One day heat Mt. Loretto with solar power

Next Steps

• Evaluate financial resources necessary to achieve the determined new direction
• Meet need for a more-in-depth focus on our facilities, finances, and statistics about the number of sisters to be housed in the future
• Research city codes, zoning, government regulations, etc regarding buildings and property
• Cite one practical need, given our numbers and gifts, which we can realistically meet with our current Mount Loretto buildings and property
• Hire a professional group that specializes in assisting religious communities to plan for their future growth that includes the better utilization of the community’s resources, in-depth analysis, a study on the marketability of our properties, the cost of building new as well as the savings if we stay at 2360 Carter versus purchase or build new to continue to meet the care and well-being of each Sister and continue mission on location. Assure that those chosen to do a feasibility study are experienced in working with religious communities; the study should include an in-depth look at our current and future financial resources, and personnel needs
• Do a land study by someone to aid our decisions
• Recommend that next steps include a community group to work with the facilitators/agency to present concrete action steps to move forward; --Establish a committee of 4-6 people who would guide the community process for future planning

Partnerships

• Form with the city of Dubuque – officials, planners, civil and church communities to be aware of the needs of the city at this time
• Form partnerships for mission, charism, justice, service for others, community and self.
• Assure that agencies/partners possess values similar to Presentation values and mission
• Invite others to dream and plan with us for the best use of our resources
• Invite Dubuque area religious congregations to work with us, or we work with them, in using wisely our resources, combining our efforts
Suggested Uses for Céad Mile Fáilte

- A house of Welcome for women: Come & See Weekends; DBQ’s Got Sisters
- A place where women/men could come for discernment, time away
- A place where community could rotate: PBVM’s associates, women/men who are interested in living Presentation life for a temporary period of time
- As part of the above, the apartment downstairs might provide temporary space for a woman leaving Maria House; this woman and her child/children could be part of the community upstairs
- Complete furnishings for lower level to be an independent apartment
- Provide low rent housing for the “graduates” of Maria House
- Widen out tent for temporary membership
- Use CMF as a house of welcome composed of some sisters and some laity, women/children who need to get on their feet
- Have more connections with our college students
- Use CMF for low-income family or for a group who want to work in ministry with us for a period of time
- Find new uses for CMF until we are blessed with more vocations, i.e., weekend retreats for a period of time
- Find new uses for CMF until we are blessed with more vocations, i.e., weekend retreats
- Look at new options for using CMF
- Use to CMF to house any who wish to give a few years of service – associates, family members, young people wanting to do service after college

Suggested Uses for Field/Grounds

- Do something with the field
- Community gardens in connection with Wahlert (i.e. home economics) Sisters provide seeds, students help in raising and distributing produce
- Utilize solar energy
- Consider organic/or some form of community gardens: feed the hungry
- Assure that the ball field will no longer lay fallow
- Provide simple-screened-in hermitages
- Foster an “edible” landscape
- Join the city of Dubuque and other religious congregations to initiate a “conservancy” effort to maintain nature-beauty, the lungs of DBQ, support leisure and natural beauty

Suggested Uses for Gym

- Use gym for place where people get things they need and make it handicap accessible
- Other creative/imaginative uses that serve the common good

Suggested Use for Path around Lake

- Build a yurt on property behind pond
Appendix 6
Stewardship and Sustainability References

Caritas Fall 2016 Summary Narrative
Submitted by Gina Foletta
11 January 2017

The summary charts reflect an initial pass at the main ideas from the data submitted from each of the 12 Caritas groups. The color-coding indicates similar ideas.

Each row in the first chart reflects the Four Significant threads identified from each Caritas group. Each cell in the second chart reflects the ONE Significant thread from each Caritas group. It seems clear that Mission is at the forefront, appearing about 13 times. Contemplative living as we listen to the cries of the poor about 10 times; examining the use of our property, about 8 times; hospitality emerges about 7 times; and forming partnerships about 3 times.

Each cell in the third chart reflects the Become a Reality ideas Caritas group. This is simply a list and I did not attempt to determine any things in common.

Each cell in the last chart reflects the Next Steps ideas from each Caritas group. A few of these matched some of the threads from the first two charts: hospitality; feasibility study of our property; engaging contemplation; fostering partnerships. It seems clear from at least 8 of the Caritas groups that ongoing Community discussion is important.

One last observation is that displaying the information in chart form can sometimes be misleading; that is the identified ideas may come across as disjoint. This is not the case. In fact, several of the highlighted ideas may overlap’ for example, contemplation and discussion are typically underpinnings of action ideas.