Sisters of the Presentation

of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dubuque, Iowa

Chapter

December 28, 2017 – January 2, 2018
Opening Ritual

Sister Julianne welcomed all to this significant moment in the history of the community, inviting all to enter more deeply into the Call to Radical Hospitality. All joined in the Opening Ritual (contained in the Chapter Booklet, Appendix 1). The sisters viewed the YouTube video, Room At the Table, by Carrie Newcomer (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92OM5bdQ4N4) and reflected on what presence at table truly means. Time was given for personal and group sharing: Where does the world beg for our radical hospitality?

Next, the supportive members of the Chapter stood together and publically expressed their support for the work of the Chapter and acceptance of their role. Each received a candle, symbolic of carrying the light to the world.

Each Canonical Delegate (Appendix 2) was called by name to express publically her support for the work of the Chapter and acceptance of her responsibilities as a Delegate. Each came forward to receive a candle as well.

As the ritual ended, Sister Julianne officially declared the Chapter open at 9:30 AM.

Announcements

Sister Julianne informed the Chapter that Sister Mery Cari Paz, due to health reasons, chose to resign as a Canonical Delegate and would not be attending Chapter. In addition, she noted that Sister Marjorie Loughren, also due to health concerns, would not be able to participate in Chapter as a Canonical Delegate; she may return as a supportive member if her health allows.

Support Staff Approval

Four sisters were recommended to serve as Tellers for the Chapter: Sisters Joan Brincks, Linda Reicks, Jean Ann Meyer, and Jessi Beck. Sister Julianne called for a verbal vote of approval for the recommended Chapter Tellers.

The Chapter unanimously voted to approve the recommended Tellers.

The following sisters were recommended to serve as Secretaries for the Chapter: Sisters Mary Hermann Platt, Joellen Price, and Danielle Jacob, CSFN. Sister Julianne called for a verbal vote of approval for the recommended Chapter Secretaries.

The Chapter unanimously voted to approve the recommended Secretaries.

Sisters Gina Foletta, Beth Kress, and Maura McCarthy were asked to serve as the Writing Team for the Chapter. All present thanked the sisters for their willingness to serve the Chapter.

Sister Marilyn welcomed Sister Catherine Schneider, OSF, back to the community for the Chapter proceedings. Sister Catherine has worked with the sisters of the community in preparation for the Chapter. All warmly welcomed her back for the days of Chapter.
Finally, Sister Marilyn introduced Sister Danielle Jacob, CSFN, to the Chapter. She informed the sisters that Sister Danielle would serve the gathering by capturing the proceedings in minutes and taking pictures of the days of Chapter. She will be working directly with Sisters Joellen and Mary Hermann.

Sisters Joellen and Mary Hermann then explained how the minutes would be managed during the days of Chapter. Each day, Sisters Joellen and Mary Hermann will review the minutes for initial corrections and adjustments; changes will be made as necessary. Final corrected copies will be placed at a table on the south end of Presentation Center. Each Canonical Delegate is asked to review the minutes. Spelling, typos, or grammatical errors can be marked on one of the minute copies. Substantive changes should be written, signed, and given to Sister Joellen or Sister Mary Hermann for consideration. Minutes will be brought to the Chapter for final approval at the end of Chapter.

The final support group to be introduced was **Santa’s Helpers**. There are four sisters assigned for each day of Chapter who will be taking care of the materials in the room and the overall needs of the Chapter members. All thanked them for their assistance.

**Leadership Review**

Members of the Leadership Team presented additional information, augmenting the Five-Year Review (Appendix 3), received by the sisters.

Sisters Julianne and Ann began the presentation (Appendix 4), offering information on Stewardship and Sustainability. (Appendix 5) Sister Julianne noted seven critical aspects of sustainability for religious congregations.

Sister Ann followed, sharing current statistics of the community and information on property, focusing extensively on work being done on the feasibility study.

Each sister received a compilation of the Stewardship and Sustainability References cited in Caritas Fall Meetings. (Appendix 6)

Next, Sister Beth shared an update on the House of 100,000 Welcomes. (Appendix 7) She noted a number of the successes and ways in which many have been touched through this ministry.

Sister Leanne addressed two questions (Appendix 8) that have been asked over the past few years: *Why do we need four full-time sisters on the Leadership Team? Why do all members of the Leadership Team need to live in Dubuque?* She offered an historical overview of the practice and how the current Leadership Team decided to live in Dubuque and Cedar Rapids. In short, it has not always been the practice in the community; it is generally determined by each Leadership Team, based on the needs of the community at the time.
Personal Reflections on Leadership

Each member of the Leadership Team offered a personal reflection on the blessings and challenges of leadership in this day and age. All expressed appreciation for the sharing and the dedicated service of Sisters Julianne, Beth, Ann, and Leanne.

Context and Overview for the Chapter

Sister Catherine reminded the sisters of the purpose and work of the Chapter. She noted four main focuses of the work of the Chapter:

- To assess the on-going life of the Congregation, its faithfulness to mission and its stewardship of resources in light of the charism
- To read the signs of the times and to determine responses to current needs
- To generate a visionary direction that will inspire and call the Congregation to action, in light of current realities
- To elect leadership to facilitate the community’s movement forward and to manage the organization of the institute

She reminded all of the words of the community’s Witness to Love, #113:

The Chapter is a sign of the unity of the congregation in charity.

After a time for personal reflection and small group sharing, Sister Catherine reviewed the steps leading to the Chapter and reminded the sisters of emerging issues that surfaced among them in Pre-chapter dialogue. She offered potential outcomes of a Chapter, noting that the Holy Spirit would be the guide for the deliberations in the days to come.

Following a brief overview of the work of the days of Chapter, Sister Catherine reminded all of the importance of fostering a discerning community environment. She encouraged all to commit to nurturing such an environment.

Each participant received an Intention Card on which she was encouraged to write her intention for
presence during the Chapter of Affairs. These intentions are for personal reflection and will not be shared with others, unless a sister chooses to do so. When the time comes for the Chapter of Elections, each sister will add her intention for presence during the Chapter of Elections.

**IPA Process**

Sisters Elena, Jessi, and Joy facilitated an overview of the 2017 IPA Assembly. (Appendix 9) They explained the unique make-up of the 2017 Assembly and the spirit that pervaded the gathering. Utilizing words, pictures and video imagery, they guided the sisters on a journey through the identity, mission and direction of IPA.

During the IPA presentation, the sisters heard concerns from Presentation People in various parts of the world. Each was asked to consider what, if given the opportunity, she might offer as a concern from her area.

**Exploring the Call to Radical Hospitality**

Sister Catherine noted four seismic shifts in the world that impact how we view and approach all that is around us. She observed that, as religious, we often focus on the negative aspects of these seismic shifts because we are called to address the needs they create. There is, however, a positive tension that also comes as a result of these seismic shifts as well; there is always a BOTH/AND.

All spent time in personal reflection and small group sharing on the following questions:

- Where is radical hospitality missing in our world/society?
- Where is it amazingly present?
- How, in the midst of this, might you provide radical hospitality in light of your charism?
- Where is radical hospitality present in your individual and collective life?

After sharing on the above, each table group considered the following:

> With consideration of these realities, when you reflect on the issues/topics before you, what new conversations might be needed in light of radical hospitality?

Time was given for sharing with the large group. (Appendix 10)

Sister Catherine then asked each sister to imagine herself at the next Chapter, discussing the Chapter of 2017 and the call to Radical Hospitality. She asked each to envision what changes she might be experiencing as a result of that commitment. Each was challenged to describe that vision in 6-8 words. All mingled with different table groupings and shared their “six-word visions.”
The Delegates returned to home table and reflected on what they heard throughout the day, what most affected them and what they want to take away and continue pondering.

Following a few brief announcements, the day’s session ended at 5:00 PM with prayer.
Friday’s session began with prayer in which all called to mind various faces of radical hospitality; faces who inspire us to go beyond ourselves to make the world a better place. The gift of hospitality, shown to the Holy Family, challenges us to bring hospitality to a broken world.

**Deepening/Strengthening Relationships**

Sister Catherine welcomed all for the work of the day. She noted that there would be a variety of conversations through the course of the day taking the group deeper into the theme of radical hospitality. For each conversation, sisters will be asked to change table groups to allow for greater differentiation in the dialogue.

**Deepening/Strengthening Relationships Conversation**

Sister Catherine introduced the first conversation by reminding the Chapter of two statements from the 100,000 Welcomes Circle Summary:

- **We learned that it is all about relationships and that we need to be inviting others to participate in what we see as important.**
- **As we move forward it is our hope that we will embrace radical hospitality and choose ways to live this which will welcome all in mutuality.**

The Chapter participants focused their conversation on the impact that radical hospitality would have on all Presentation relationships. After extensive conversation, each table submitted a table response sheet, sharing one recommended concrete step and the implications of that step. The table responses were collated (Appendix 11) and forwarded to the Writing Committee to assist in preparation of the Chapter documents.

**Mission Outreach: Bringing the Lantern Light of Our Charism Conversation**

Sister Catherine introduced the second conversation that focused on mission outreach. She commended the sisters on their faithful commitment to their mission and dedication to carrying the lantern light of our charism into the world.

Each participant personally reflected on the question: What current world need do I find myself responding to now and how? Responses were written on papers and posted on the wall of Presentation Center, grouped by similar theme. All reflectively read the responses, looking to see what was missing and what was markedly present among them.

Small group conversation followed: **What concrete step could we take that would reflect our commitment to applying radical hospitality to our mission to the world? What are the implications of taking this step?** After extensive conversation, each table submitted a response sheet, sharing one recommended concrete step for mission and the implications of that step. The table responses were collated
Use of Resources Conversation

The third conversation of the day focused on the use of resources, primarily the motherhouse campus. The Leadership Team offered clarification to questions raised by the sisters. Costs to date have been minimal because of the generosity of numerous companies and professionals offering pro bono services; the field booring project, conducted by IWI Engineers and Terracon, is projected to be under $3,500. The Leadership Team has been in dialogue with a variety of religious congregations as they research consulting companies; however, no consultants have been engaged to date. The sisters expressed a deep desire to remain informed and engaged in the process.

Sister Catherine invited the Chapter into a creative imagining about possible future uses of the congregation’s property. She challenged the sisters to dream about this property, sacred to them, and imagine a mission-advancing purpose 10 years into the future. Each group was asked to name two concrete possibilities for the property and facilities and identify the implications of those possibilities. The table responses were collated (Appendix 13) and forwarded to the Writing Committee to assist in preparation of the Chapter documents.

Leadership Conversation

The final conversation of the day focused on leadership in the congregation. According to Canon Law, the primary responsibility of leadership is the care of the members; the secondary responsibility is the ongoing management of the organization and facilitating how the congregation moves forward. It is important for all to understand that leaders and members have two distinct yet related roles. Both want to be in the struggle and to grapple with the realities of community life but do so on different levels. Each must understand her role in the struggle and recognize that the roles are different. Communication and inclusion are important on both levels. Although communication is not specifically part of the conversation, it clearly plays a role in the discussion of leadership.

The sisters engaged in small group conversation about leadership structures and structures for optimum participation of membership. Sister Catherine asked that each table gather the fruits of its discussion, addressing the following questions:
- What is one concrete step you want to explore regarding your leadership structure?
- Your structures for participation?
- What are the implications of taking this step?

The table responses were collated (Appendix 14) and forwarded to the Writing Committee to assist in preparation of the Chapter documents.

The Delegates returned to designated tables and reflected on what they heard throughout the day. The day’s session closed with prayer at 4:30 PM. All were invited to the evening social.
Saturday morning’s session began with prayer at 9:00 AM. All prayed to be united with planet earth, breathing **Radical Hospitality**. During the prayer, the sisters identified places on earth touched by the PBVM charism.

**Direction Setting**

After providing a brief overview of the work of the day, Sister Catherine spoke of potential outcomes of any Chapter:

- New Vision/Direction
- Reaffirmation of a current Vision/Direction
- Acts/Goals/Directives
- Commitments
- Prototypes
- Further conversations/Deeper exploration

Quoting Carol Shinnick, SSND, she reminded the sisters that Chapter Commitments should be “clear enough to guide us, light enough to free us, and rich enough to continuously reveal unimagined possibilities.”

**Chapter Commitments – Draft One**

The Writing Committee shared the process used to create the draft of Chapter Commitments and then offered a first draft to the Chapter for consideration. Following time for clarification of the draft, the Delegates engaged in table conversation, focusing on the following questions:

- **What do you see as the strengths of the document?**
- **What do you see as the weaknesses of the document?**
- **What guidance would you like to offer the Writing Committee going forward?**

Each table shared its response to the draft statement. (Appendix 15) The sisters expressed appreciation for the work of the Writing Committee. Extensive discussion followed on the value of the inclusion of specific listings within the document. Two primary thoughts surfaced in this discussion: listings could limit the action of the community; listings are examples upon which the community could expand at any time. A hand-vote was taken and the Delegates indicated, by a small margin, a preference to remove the listings from the document.

During the large group sharing, it was also noted that some among the Chapter members had hoped the Chapter would set a clearer direction on justice issues; perhaps, strengthening the community’s work in a specific area of justice by identifying a corporate stance on issues not yet identified as such. Although this may not be a direct outcome of this Chapter, there is movement to this end within the community, supported through the work of the Justice Promoters Committee.

Sister Catherine noted that there seemed to be an underlying assumption that the present Directional Statement would remain, with some tweaking done to include the call to radical hospitality. Not all shared this assumption; however, it was agreed that the Writing
Committee would prepare a second draft of the document after which the Chapter would decide if a completely new Directional Statement would need to be written. Having heard the sharing of the Delegates, the Writing Committee met to prepare a second draft.

**Chapter Commitments – Draft Two**

When Chapter reconvened in the afternoon, the Writing Committee offered a second draft of the Chapter Commitments document for consideration. Once again, the Delegates engaged in table conversation, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the document as well as offering guidance for refinement. Each table shared its response to the second draft document. (Appendix 16)

The inclusion of lists in the document was not totally resolved prior to the second draft. After extensive discussion, Sister Catherine asked for a show of hands from the Delegates indicating preference for inclusion or removal of the lists. The Chapter affirmed the removal of the listing in the section on property but did not indicate a strong leaning for or against the inclusion of the justice listing. The Delegates agreed that the Writing Committee would consider all the table responses and make a decision about the inclusion of a list in the justice statement.

Returning to the morning’s conversation about the Directional Statement, the Delegates weighed the benefits of incorporating the radical hospitality theme into the existing Directional Statement against using the preamble of the draft document as the basis for a new Directional Statement. Following intense conversation, the Delegates indicated a preference to develop the draft preamble into a Directional Statement, with the caveat that it be revised in light of the current discussion. One table group offered a working draft of the preamble that received strong support from the Delegates; members of that group will prepare a draft Directional Statement for Chapter consideration.

The days’ session closed with prayer at 5:00 PM. All gathered in chapel at 7:00 PM for Sunday anticipated Liturgy.
The day began at 9:05 AM with a reflection on a reading from Colossians. On this final day of 2017, all joined in asking for God’s guidance during the day’s proceedings and the grace of loving relationships.

**Directional Statement**

During the evening, sisters from Table 13 formed a writing group to prepare a draft Directional Statement. The sisters briefly dialogued at the tables and made minor adjustments to the statement. The following statement was brought to the floor for a vote:

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Rooted in the Gospel, inspired by Nano Nagle, and united to Presentation Sisters and Associates around the world through the International Presentation Association, we, the Sisters of the Presentation of Dubuque, Iowa, are called to live our charism of Radical Hospitality in kinship with Earth and all people.
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The Chapter unanimously voted to approve the above Directional Statement.

**Chapter Commitments**

The Writing Committee offered a third draft of the Commitments for consideration of the Chapter. Through a show of hands, the Delegates indicated that they wanted the Commitments to stand with the Directional Statement as official mandates of the Chapter. The Delegates briefly engaged in small group discussion and then suggested minor edits to the statements. The following Commitments were brought to the floor for a vote:

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We promise to live Radical Hospitality in all relationships, especially with people made poor, through our commitment to contemplation, service, advocacy, dialogue, communication, and education.

We promise to practice non-violence of mind and heart, speech and action as we address injustice directly and systemically.

We promise to form partnerships and utilize resources for the purpose of mission.

We promise to implement governance practices that foster dialogue and communication in decision-making.
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The Chapter unanimously voted to approve the above Commitments.

With this vote, the Delegates completed the Chapter of Affairs.

**Discernment for Nomination**

The Delegates began the work of discernment for election of leadership. Sister Catherine briefly offered some thoughts on the sacredness of this time in the life of a congregation. She reminded the sisters of the role and responsibility of those called to the ministry of leadership as well as the significant role each delegate plays in this defining moment in the congregation’s history.

The Delegates moved among a variety of small groups, sharing expectations of Congregational Leaders and critical skills/capacities needed in order to respond to those expectations.

The Chapter moved to the naming of Nominees for Leadership. Each table received a paper on which to write names of sisters to be considered for Congregational Leader. Each Delegate around the table offered one name of a sister she wished to nominate for Congregational Leader; once a sister’s name was given, it need not be repeated. If a delegate did not have a new name to add to the list when her turn came, she could simply pass. Once each Delegate at the table had spoken, the process repeated a second time around the table.

Each table group also had a paper on which to write names to be considered for Councilor. The Delegates followed the same process as above but added an additional time around the table for the naming of a nominee for Councilor.

Once both papers had been completed, they were collected from all the tables. The names of the sisters nominated for Congregational Leader were prayerfully read aloud to the Chapter. This was followed by the prayerful reading of the names of the sisters nominated for Councilor. The following sisters were nominated for leadership:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONGREGATIONAL LEADER</th>
<th>COUNCILOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Diana Blong</td>
<td>• Sharon Kelchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Marilyn Breen</td>
<td>• Annette Kestel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Julianne Brockamp</td>
<td>• Julie Marsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lynn Fangman</td>
<td>• Rita Menart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gina Foletta</td>
<td>• Joy Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Richelle Friedman</td>
<td>• Carla Popes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Carmen Hernandez</td>
<td>• Jennifer Rausch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Elena Hoye</td>
<td>• Mary Lou Specha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ann Jackson</td>
<td>• Joella Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Julie Marsh</td>
<td>• Carmen Hernandez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Rita Menart</td>
<td>• Mary Lou Specha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Joy Peterson</td>
<td>• Joetta Venneman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mary Lou Specha</td>
<td>• Julia Wingert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Joetta Venneman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Those nominated met with Sister Catherine following the nomination session. They received instructions to prepare for the next day’s session in which they will speak to the Chapter about their discernment. The remaining Delegates continued their discernment in a spirit of prayer and reflection as they entered into retreat in preparation for elections.

All gathered in chapel at 4:30 PM for Taize prayer.

All were invited to gather for a 7:30 PM New Year’s celebration.
The day began with prayer at 9:00 AM., in which the Delegates reflected on Radical Hospitality made evident in the world through non-violence. All stood together and read the Pledge of Non-violence for Presentation People.

**Nominee Response**

Each Nominee spoke to the Chapter, sharing the fruits of her discernment. The Chapter members received the decision of each Nominee with openness and appreciation. When all had shared, the Chapter blessed them in song. The following sisters remained in discernment for leadership:

![Nominees](image)

**Table Conversation**

In preparation for the election of leadership, the names of the Nominees were placed face-down on the tables. The Delegates at each table selected a name and engaged in table conversation, guided by the following questions:

1. What is my experience of this sister and her gifts for leadership or what I heard from those who know her? What is a concern?
2. What will she bring to our moving forward as a Congregation?
3. What might she need from the team? From the rest of the Congregation?

The Nominees were seated at the tables. As a Nominee’s name was selected at her table, she excused herself to a designated space until the table conversation was completed, at which time, the Nominee returned to her table.

The Delegates changed table groups and entered into the next phase of the discernment process in which they surfaced questions for the Nominees. Each table prepared one general question for all Nominees and, if they so chose, prepared questions for specific Nominees. Sister Catherine collected the general questions and grouped them according to themes to be presented to the Nominees when the Chapter reconvened in the afternoon.
**Nominee Question and Answer**

In the afternoon, Sister Catherine facilitated the Nominee sharing of the questions formatted during the morning session. The Nominees began by addressing the dominant themes found in the general questions, each choosing the question around which she found the most energy.

Next, the groups returned to the questions for specific Nominees prepared during the morning discussion and invited Nominees to their tables to respond to the questions. The Nominees moved about the room as table groups requested their presence.

**Possible Team Configurations**

The Delegates participated in an exercise in which they created various random Leadership Team configurations. With each variation, they envisioned the potential of the team configuration, noting the gifts of the Nominees and the ways in which the members might complement each other.

**Chapter Leaning**

Sister Catherine asked each Delegate to consider to whom she was leaning as Congregational Leader and to whom as a Councilor at this time. Each shared her leanings at table, with her reason and one concern; there was no group discussion. The Delegates then changed table groups two times, allowing each to hear from a greater number of Delegates and garner a better sense of the Chapter leaning.

At the end of exercise, the Delegates returned to their original table groups. They reflected on what they had heard within the various table sharings and identified the strongest leanings heard among the sisters. Each shared what she heard as the strongest leaning of the Chapter.

The days’ session closed with prayer at 4:15 PM. All were encouraged to remain in the atmosphere of discernment as the Chapter draws closer to elections.
The day began at 9:00 AM, with prayer in chapel. All assembled to invoke the Holy Spirit and recognize the presence of God among them as they gathered to elect new Congregational Leadership.

**Announcements**

An official ListServ and announcement will be sent at the conclusion of elections. All are asked to respect and reverence the needs of those who will be elected by not communicating any election results for a minimum of two hours following the election, allowing the newly-elected time to notify any they may wish before news goes public.

Following prayer and announcements, the Delegates blessed all non-Delegates, who then departed chapel, leaving the Canonical Delegates to the work of the elections. Once elections are complete, all will be welcomed back to greet the newly-elected Congregational Leadership.

**Elections**

Sister Catherine provided a brief overview of the day. She explained the process to be used for the election. *She also informed the Delegates that Sister Rita Cameron had chosen to remove her name from the list of Nominees.*

The Delegates, sitting in small groups, paused to consider how they come to this moment of election, where the Spirit is leading them, and the emotions that are uppermost in their hearts. After a brief moment of sharing, Sister Diana called Sister Julianne forward to sign the Oath of the Presiding Officer, officially opening Chapter of Elections. Sister Julianne conducted the roll call of Delegates. There were 63 Delegates present. She noted that the Tellers and Secretaries had been approved at the opening of the Chapter of Affairs.

Sister Julianne reminded the Delegates of the requirements of election in *Witness to Love*, #124 – election requires an absolute majority. She also noted that electors have the privilege of nominating from the floor; no Delegate offered additional nominations at this time.

*Witness to Love*, #125, states that the number of votes is confidential to the Delegates and Presiding Officer; Sister Julianne asked all to respect the confidentiality of the votes.

**Congregational Leader**

The Delegates indicated readiness to proceed with the balloting; the Tellers distributed the ballots. There were 63 ballots cast. An absolute majority (32) is required for election.

*Sr. Carmen Hernandez received the required number of votes and was elected as Congregational Leader.*

Sr. Carmen accepted the position of Congregational Leader. All present affirmed her election and sang in blessing.
**Election of Congregational Councilors**
Sister Catherine reminded the Delegates that the first to be elected after the Congregational Leader serves in the capacity of the Assistant to the Congregational Leader. The Delegates indicated readiness to move immediately to the election without additional conversation.

**Election of the Assistant to the Congregational Leader**
The Assistant to the Congregational Leader is the First Councilor to be elected. There were 63 ballots cast. An absolute majority (32) is required for election. No Sister received the required number of votes. The Delegates cast a second ballot.

There were 63 ballots cast. An absolute majority (32) is required for election.

| Sr. Rita Menart received the required number of votes and was elected as the Assistant to the Congregational Leader. |

Sr. Rita accepted the position of the Assistant to the Congregational Leader. All present affirmed her election and sang in blessing.

**Election of Second Congregational Councilor**
The Delegates considered the two members of the newly-elected Leadership Team, and briefly dialogued about the skills needed to complete the team. The Delegates indicated readiness to proceed with the balloting for the election of the second Congregational Councilor. The Delegates cast 63 ballots. An absolute majority (32) is required for election.

No Sister received the required number of votes on the first or second ballot. On the third ballot the required number of votes was reached.

| Sr. Joy Peterson received the required number of votes and was elected as Councilor. |

Sr. Joy Peterson accepted the position of Congregational Councilor. All present affirmed her election and sang in blessing.

**Election of Third Congregational Councilor**
The Delegates indicated readiness to proceed with the balloting for the election of the third Congregational Councilor. The Delegates cast 63 ballots. An absolute majority (32) is required for election.

No Sister received the required number of votes on the first or second ballot. On the third ballot the required number of votes was reached.

| Sr. Marilyn Breen received the required number of votes and was elected as Councilor. |

Sr. Marilyn accepted the position of Congregational Councilor. All present affirmed her election and sang in blessing.

Sister Julianne formally announced the new Congregational Leadership Team for 2018-2023:
Sister Carmen Hernandez ....Congregational Leader  
Sister Rita Menart ...............Assistant to the Congregational Leader  
Sister Joy Peterson ..............Councilor  
Sister Marilyn Breen ..........Councilor

The Acts of Elections were formally signed by the newly-elected Leadership Team, Sister Julianne, Presiding Officer, the Secretaries, and the Tellers.

All moved to the gathering space to greet and congratulate the newly-elected Leadership Team.

Wrap-Up
Following dinner, all gathered in Presentation Center to wrap up the final matters of Chapter.

The Delegates unanimously entrusted the review of the January 1-2, 2018, minutes to Sisters Joellen and Mary Hermann.

The Delegates unanimously approved the minutes of December 28-31, 2017.

An electronic evaluation will be sent to the participants within the coming week. All are encouraged to complete the evaluation and return it by the due date.

Sister Catherine asked the sisters to reflect on their experience of Chapter. Time was given for sharing at table, followed by the opportunity for any who wished to share with the large group.

The Delegates recalled their days of Chapter with a viewing of a reflective multimedia presentation of the song, God Is Here, by David Haas.

On behalf of the Chapter, Sister Marilyn expressed thanks to individuals and groups who served the congregation in preparation of and during the Chapter.

Closing Ritual
The Chapter moved to chapel for the closing ritual, during which Sister Julianne officially closed the Chapter at 1:55 PM.