PREPARATION FOR THE 32nd CONGREGATIONAL CHAPTER

REFLECTION GUIDE 2

The 32nd Congregational Chapter theme emerged from a journey with you.

Reflecting on your feedback, we, the Chapter Planning Committee have discerned together the voices of Contemplative and Apostolic sisters and Partners in Mission across the Congregation. We gathered our hopes, concerns, experiences of mission, longing for belonging and the call for justice in today's world.
In a spirit of contemplative listening, we heard both the words that were spoken and the deeper movement of the Spirit emerging among us.

Reflecting on our spiritual heritage, our mission and our shared wisdom, the invitation became clearer, that we are as a Congregation: ***"One Heart, Ablaze for Justice".***

Thank you all for your active participation in crafting the theme. We are grateful to Sr. Johanna Yong, who reflected on our insights, and designed a creative artwork for the logo.

This theme and logo are now offered for reflecting individually and collectively on our life and mission and: "What is God's call for us, into the future?"

"A true shepherd should be a burning and shining light, burning interiorly and shining exteriorly, a light to others in action."

(Adapted, St John Eudes)





"Let there be one heart among you."

(Adapted, St Mary Euphrasia)

Pause for Reflection

What is this theme awakening within me?

What am I grateful for?

Gratitude

It is with deep joy that we thank each one of you for your wholehearted participation in our first Reflection Paper, shared in May 2026. We are delighted to have received 53 responses from across the Congregation.

Listening to the Wisdom Emerging Among Us

We began this journey by listening not simply to gather responses, but to receive the wisdom entrusted to us by Sisters and Partners in Mission across the Congregation.

From many countries, cultures, generations and ministries came voices carrying hope and struggle, gratitude and longing, questions and dreams. As these voices came together, they revealed more than individual experiences. They became part of a larger unfolding story, a story of a Congregation that is once again awakening to God's creative presence, moving through our changing world.

We tried to listen beneath the words and experiences to discern **what we are hearing** and **who we are being called to become.**

We are happy to share with you a glimpse of what has emerged. May these reflections deepen our listening, widen our vision and open our hearts to the future that is being revealed.

What Are We Hearing?

We hear the cries rising from a world longing for wholeness: fractured relationships, loneliness, migration, trafficking of persons, violence, extreme poverty, ecological degradation and the silent suffering of those whose dignity is overlooked. We hear the Earth, our common home, calling us into a more compassionate relationship with all life.

Many shared about relationships that are becoming fragile. Technology, while opening new possibilities, threatens to draw us away from presence, attentive listening and genuine encounter.

Yet beneath these realities flows another current. We hear hope. We hear a longing to nurture relationships that heal, communities where everyone belongs and spaces where each person is welcomed and valued.

Again, a desire is expressed for silence, contemplation, interior freedom and deeper communion with God.

Amid constant change, many are seeking a way of living that is rooted to the Congregations' values and spirituality, as well as to be connected and attentive to the sacred that is woven through everyday life.

Perhaps these voices are urging us to notice what is changing around us, and to allow ourselves to grow with the insistent movement of God's Spirit.

Pause for Reflection

Where do I recognize these cries in our reality?
What signs of hope encourage me?

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."
("Letters", St. Catherine of Siena)

Who Are We Called to Become?

We have gathered the many responses into three living movements that speak of a renewed call towards transformation.

Becoming People Who Continue to Grow

There is a strong desire for lifelong formation for both Sisters and Partners in Mission. It is acknowledged that Formation is no longer belonging to one stage of life but is an ongoing journey of 'becoming'. Who we are called to BECOME, is to live and promote justice and compassion in the world.

The journey we are being called to, invites us to grow within and across the different generations and cultures that we find ourselves in, deepen our spirituality, engage wisely with the digital world and discover fresh ways of living our vocation and mission. Growth becomes less about having all the answers and more about remaining open to God's continuing work within us.

Becoming a People shaped by Justice

Justice must not be experienced as one ministry among many, but as a way of 'becoming' and 'being'. It calls us to let our critical mind being activated while embracing compassion and allowing it to shape our relationships, decisions, structures and daily choices.

Justice begins within and ripples outward, touching community, ministry, society and our relationship with the whole Earth community.

Becoming One People Who Live Mission Anew

Your many voices invite us to walk together, to embrace creativity without losing our roots, sustainability without losing compassion, collaboration instead of isolation and leadership that nurtures participation and co-responsibility.

The most urgent invitation is to let go of whatever no longer gives life so that new and innovative possibilities may reveal themselves to us.

Beneath all these movements lies one profound call:

To become one not only in our work, but in heart and spirit. The echoing of the Spirit spoken through all of you and our own reflections are without doubt, urging us to become…

One Heart, Ablaze for Justice

"The capacity for inclusive love that grows within cannot be contained and compels us toward transformative action in the world."

("Assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, 2016", Pat Farrell, OSF)

Pause for Reflection

What is God inviting us to become?

What do we need to learn or let go of?

Continuing the Conversation

We also heard the urgings to continue conversations already begun - questions that call us to go deeper in our understanding, renewal and commitment together and discern where God is leading us. Areas that still need our attention beckon us to join with others at tables and platforms of conversation which address trauma and experiences of past hurts, the call to conversion and radical transformation, as well as embracing the contemplative dimension within each person.

Possibilities for further listening, dialogue and communal discernment are offered below:

Deepening Discernment

Living Our Charism in Today's World

How do we embody our charism in our world that continues to experience increasing poverty, migration, human trafficking, climate change, conflict and increasing disasters?

Technology and Human Dignity

How can we become more aware of the implications of AI in our world and how can we use it creatively, to ensure authentic human connection and presence?

Consecrated Life Today

What is the call for us as Consecrated Women Religious at this time? What are we called to embrace, and what are we called to let go of?

Formation and Vocations

How do we nurture the creation of meaning-making at all levels of formation to prepare mission partners for intercultural living, spiritual leadership, partnership in mission and transformative missionary presence?

Mission for Social Transformation

How are we invited to move beyond a mindset of charity toward empowerment, dignity, rights based and justice?

Leadership and Co-Responsibility

What is being called forth from us in strengthening relational/spiritual leadership as we develop partnership and co-responsibility across our Congregation?

Communities of Belonging

How do our communities become places where trust, contemplation, safety and new life flourish? What needs to happen for us to nurture a genuine culture of care and safeguarding?

Spiritual Renewal

How do we deepen our relationship with God while making space for healing, joy and the renewal of our vocation/commitment? How do we become expressions of God's abundance?

Aging and Growth

How do we honor aging with tenderness while remaining open to the fresh life unfolding across our Congregation?

Sharing Resources Sustainably

How can we share the resources entrusted to us wisely and sustainably for the flourishing of mission?

"We sing our way from fear and hesitation to courage and fresh hope. We make the path forward together by walking it."

("Assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, 2017" , Christopher Pramuk)

Walking Forward Together

This journey of listening is only the beginning.
The wisdom emerging among us invites us into deeper attentiveness to God, to one another, to the Earth community and to the quiet possibilities already taking root among us.

As we continue preparing for our 32nd Congregational Chapter, our invitation is:

To remain attentive, to keep discerning, to keep walking together…

With One Heart, Ablaze for Justice

Pause for Reflection

Where do I sense God's creative Spirit bringing forth new life in our Congregation?

What gives me hope as I look toward our future together?

What step can I take today to help us become One Heart, Ablaze for Justice?

"We…commit ourselves to seeking God who beckons us from the future, abundant in grace, full of challenge, and rich in possibility."

As we prepare for our 32nd Congregational Chapter, let us unite in prayer, asking the Spirit to guide our discernment and ready our hearts for this significant moment in our Congregation.

Great Heart of God,
draw us into Your depths, where we can listen to You, to one another and to our wounded world.

As we journey towards our 32nd Congregational Chapter, awaken us, unsettle us, and set our hearts ablaze for justice.
Your Spirit urges us to go beyond what is familiar. Give us contemplative hearts, open minds and the courage to live life in abundance.
May every voice enrich our discernment and every encounter transform us into a global community that cares.

Great Heart of God, make us *one heart, ablaze for justice* faithful to mission and ready to respond - Amen.

Prayer for Our Journey ~ #1

As we prepare for our 32nd Congregational Chapter, let us unite in prayer, asking the Spirit to guide our discernment and ready our hearts for this significant moment in our Congregation.

Creator God,
in whose Great Heart we live.
Thank you for gathering us with our vulnerabilities:
our fragmentations, our disbeliefs and our fears.

Under your tender gaze we are becoming more of the human being that your Spirit is shaping and molding us to be.

Enable us to put on the Mind and Heart of Christ,
that ablaze with justice, we may live in Love: Love in abundance.

May this journey towards the 32nd Congregational Chapter be a transforming experience for us and for the world - Amen.

Prayer for Our Journey ~ #2

Process towards the 32nd Congregational Chapter

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd



May 2027
- Voices to deepen our reflection:

Theme: Awakening the Leader in each of us: one Heart for Mission

April 2027
- Voices to deepen our reflection:

Theme: Becoming one: the Courage to Listen, the Grace to Belong, the Call to Mission.
and
Beyond our Boundaries - Sharing Resources for the Good of the Whole.

March 2027
- Voices to deepen our reflection:

Theme: Transforming the world through Mission: Human Dignity, Justice and the Digital age.

November 2026
- Convoking the 32nd Congregational Chapter
- Reflection Guide on the Chapter Theme
- Voices to deepen our reflection:

Theme: One Heart, Ablaze for Justice: Renewing Our Commitment to Mission

December 2026
- Voices to deepen our reflection:

Theme: Incarnating a Heart of Justice

January 2027
- Voices to deepen our reflection:

Theme: Contemplation: Seeing with the Eyes of the Heart

February 2027
- Voices to deepen our reflection:

Theme: Ablaze with the Love of the Good Shepherd: a Heart for Humanity and the Earth

June 2027
- Congregational Assembly of the Contemplative Sisters

July – September 2027
- Conversation on reports from the Congregational Leadership Team and Congregational Offices
- Discernment for Leadership

October 2027
- Preparation Process for the Chapter Delegates

November 2027
32nd Congregational Chapter