

**Acts of  
Congregational Chapter  
2007**

**The Sisters of St Joseph  
of Carondelet**

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## Introduction

During the Congregational Chapter of 2007, Sacred Mystery embraced us in unifying love and we experienced the Mystery of Transformation. The constant, silent, non-intrusive presence of St. Joseph reminded us of who we are and who we are called to become. The figure of St. Joseph (a large puppet that appeared at the congregational Chapter that was originally created by artists at the time of the 2001 sesquicentennial celebration for the St. Paul Province) was a warm and comforting presence among us from the opening to the closing ritual—sometimes moving, at other times in repose—a constant reminder of Joseph, our Patron. The times of Joseph were very different from ours; however, his example is relevant for all times. He reminds us of the openness and the attitudes we need to deepen communion expressed in our Constitution, the Consensus Statement and the Gospels. Joseph followed the inspiration of God made known to him in dreams even when the consequences caused him to reject the prevailing societal and religious norms of his time. We are called to be just as courageous in being faithful to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit expressed in the following Acts of Chapter.

# Fostering the Paradigm

## Assumptions

- In living Communion, we network and collaborate within the Congregation and with other religious and civic groups.
- We use our corporate resources to support the decision of Chapter 2007.

## Recommendations

Congregational chapter of 2007 recognizes that a shift of consciousness is occurring on the planet. In order to continue to live our CSJ charism of unifying love more fully and in a realistic way, we will implement the following recommendations to foster the emerging paradigm that honors the Sacred web of life and all its relationships.

The Congregational Chapter 2007 has experienced an urgent call to be and to act together in new ways as one Congregation; therefore, we call the CLT and CLG to:

- Initiate and advance conversations and activities among members, associates and partners in ministry across the Congregation. We do this in order to strengthening our experiences of Communion and to deepen self understanding, the expression of our mission and the structures of the evolving congregation.
- Initiate and advance conversations to:
  - ~ clarify and to promote common understanding and language about the distinctive nature of the diverse forms of living our CSJ charism of unifying love;
  - ~ affirm vowed life and invite others to it;
  - ~ encourage and be open to new forms of religious life, association and partnership in mission and to share new developments across the Congregation;
  - ~ develop a Congregational Crisis Management Plan to address critical issues and situations

## Recommendations (continued)

We call each other personally, communally and congregationally to:

- Engage in sharing of the heart.
- Engage in theological reflection and social analysis in community and with others.
- Educate ourselves regarding:
  - ~ diverse theologies of church;
  - ~ our Constitutions and our core CSJ documents;
  - ~ the relationship between cosmology, Trinitarian theology and our CSJ charism.
- Maximize the use of technology and media to:
  - ~ promote the mission of Jesus in ways that speak to the people of our time;
  - ~ facilitate communication at every level within the Congregation.

## Implementation and Accountability

- Congregational Leadership is responsible to initiate and advance the implementation of these recommendations of the 2007 Chapter. In doing so they will engage members, associates and partners as appropriate and possible.
- Congregational Leadership will provide for accountability reporting to the Congregation between Chapters and at the 2013 Chapter.

# Additional Chapter Decisions

## Actions

1. That the criteria to be used to determine acts of extraordinary administration of temporal goods/affairs for the provincial/vice provincial and Congregational units requiring approval from Rome be that published by the U.S. Conference of Bishops.
2. The Chapter gives the freedom to use translations in Japanese and Spanish that best express the concepts passed by the Chapter.
3. The Congregational Leadership Group will convene appropriate congregational gatherings/events in the years preceding the 2013 Congregational Chapter.

## Leadership

1. That the next Congregational Leadership Team be a team of five, all of whom are full-time. Further, that the term be six years non-renewable.
2. The Sisters elected to Congregational leadership in 2007 serve as members of the Congregational Leadership Team with equally shared leadership and authority in order to assure collegiality, a diversity of gifts, and a variety of viewpoints in planning and decision-making.
3. The 2007 Chapter chooses to make no changes in the Constitution and Complementary Document relative to the team model. Use of the working understanding and language developed by the 1993 Chapter will continue until the Congregational Chapter of 2013.

# Composition of the 2013 Congregational Chapter

The composition of the 2013 Congregational Chapter will consist of the following:

## Delegates with Voice and Vote

1. Ex officio Members
  - a. The Congregational Leadership Team
  - b. Three from each Province Leadership, selected from among those who hold positions of Province Leadership
  - c. Up to two from each Vice-province Leadership, selected from among those who hold positions of Vice-Province Leadership.
  
2. Elected Delegates
  - a. Nine from each province
  - b. Up to three from each vice-province

The Chapter gives the freedom to the vice provinces to implement these provisions in the light of their own reality.

## Participants with Voice

The Chapter of 2007 affirms the value of having voiced participants at the chapter. Eligibility for the role of voiced participants will be determined by the Congregational Leadership Group. The number of voiced participants will be determined in collaboration with the Congregational Leadership Group.

## Observers

The Congregational Leadership Group will establish guidelines for the role of observers at the 2013 Congregational Chapter.

Should the structure of the Provinces/Vice-Provinces be modified prior to the 2013 Chapter, the Congregational Leadership Group is empowered to make appropriate adjustments to these provisions>