



March 22, 2019

Dear Sisters, Associates, Consociates, `Ohana, and Familia de San José,

We prioritized contemplation at the Congregational Leadership Group meeting earlier this month, with plenty of time built in for contemplative quiet, meaningful sharing, and deepening prayer, which the St. Louis province leadership team prepared each day. This mirrored the rhythm of your vice/province chapters, as well as the spirit we hope to have at the upcoming Congregational Chapter in July. In fact, we used processes and discussed topics that would prepare us for both, and we were blessed to be joined by the same facilitators: Cathy Bertrand, SSND and Joanne Hanrahan, SSND.

All of this helped provide us with a deeper understanding of the vice/province chapters that are happening this month and next around the congregation. We practiced engaging in conversations while attentive to our assumptions and keeping to the topic at hand. We focused on processes for the four movements (Big Picture conversations, congregational leadership selections, governance across the congregation, and Order of the House) and reflected on how we experienced them.

Here are some highlights of the business we discussed during the meeting:

- The CLT shared their reflections after holding listening sessions in all four provinces (two CLT members will be traveling to Peru for a listening session in April). They found the conversations to be largely positive, welcoming, and engaging. CLG members also had time to share their impressions.
- The annual presentation of the congregational budget was enriched by “live reports” from point people for projects that are enhanced by congregational funds including the mission office, consolidated archives, Kakehashi, congregational novitiate, and ministry at the U.S.-Mexico border.
- As you know, we discussed the congregational leadership selections process, and agreed to allow additional endorsements at the vice/province chapters.

As the meeting drew to a close, we blessed the outgoing St. Louis province leadership team.

We especially want to thank the Los Angeles province community and leadership team for their warm hospitality.

When we gather next in October in Albany, the Congregational Chapter will be complete, and we will have much to discuss. As we all prepare, we ask you, Sisters and ACOF, to please continue praying [our chapter prayer](#) asking God’s Spirit to continue to call us together for the life of the world.

Your Sisters,
Congregational Leadership Group