

Accountability Report on 2013 Chapter Calls to Action

The Acts of Chapter Committee is a committee of the Province with the responsibility to keep discussion and actions around the Acts of Chapter moving in the province. The group that formed after the 2013 Chapter recognized that we also given the challenge to experiment. The committee formed in September 2013 and asked the departments, committees, and commissions in the province to consider how to integrate the appropriate Calls to Actions of the Chapter into their work. Groups contacted: Finance, Government Committee, Relationship and Associate Commission, Ministries Commission, Properties and Maintenance, justice Commission and its working groups, Board of Lifelong Development, Partners in Justice, Automobile Board, Giving Board.

Communion within the Earth Community

Beginning in 2014 held local gatherings to discuss this Call to Action.

Founded and manage Celeste's Dream Community Garden – 7,300 pounds produce harvested and 3,700 pounds donated to food shelves since 2005.

Co-founded and support the St. Kate's Community Garden by mentoring the student coordinator and participating in the garden

Co-founded St. Kate's/CSJ Food Shelf - 891 students served, 15,800 pounds food distributed since 2017.

Offered presentations on college food insecurity/food shelves/community gardens/sustainability and CSJ mission locally and nationally, including presentations at Harvard Divinity School, Union Theological Seminary, University of MN, Macalester College, etc.

Hosted annual CSJ Earth Day – a day of working on the land

Built compost bins for voluntary backyard composting

Submitted Biz Recycling grant to begin industrial compost and improved recycling on CSJ campus

Partnered with a catering company that matches our goals in this area - sustainable/local food, low waste.

Supported development of St. Kate's Pollinator Pathway, Pollinator Commons and Bee Hive projects

Supervised St. Kate's Community Work and Learning Community Leaders Interns with food shelf and garden leadership

Participated in the St. Kate's Food Insecurity Project (FIP) by leading monthly meetings, coordinating the food shelf at Carondelet Center, enhanced intersection with Community Gardens

Offered educational programming on various sustainability topics

Invited affiliated ministries to engage the calls to action from Acts 2013 for Communion with the Earth Community – particularly in reducing consumption and waste, non-toxic product use, banning bottled water use and food justice

Continued relationships with the Community Garden/Food Shelf and other organizations, i.e., St. Kate's course engagement, Community Work and Learning, bee hive project, and Food Justice Coalition, Sarah's Oasis, St. Joseph Worker, Appetite for Change (AFC), Gardening Matters, St. Thomas Pollinator Pathways, Macalester College, Encuentro, Dream of Wild Health, Brightside Produce, Benilde St. Margaret, Academy of Holy Angels, Cretin-Derham Hall, The Food Group, Second Harvest Heartland, Minnesota Association of Private Colleges Students Council (MAPCS), Campus Compact Midwest Region, and Campus Farmers Network Midwest Region

Facilitated collaboration among CSJ sponsored and affiliated schools and some of the organizations above for justice programming

Organized a Garden and Food Shelf Citizen Katie event for St. Kate's alumnae

Co-chaired Earth Partners working group and the Justice Commission and integrated Acts of Chapter 2013 in planning, goals, and programming

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Participated in the planning and promotion of three panel presentations on factory farming in Minnesota. These presentations created new collaborative partners, raised awareness of the related issues, drew over three hundred people and garnered media attention in local newspapers

Received National Catholic Sisters week grant to host "Seeds of Change" ecological projects on St. Kate's campus

Engaged Sisters of Earth and other organizations (e.g., Spirit of Sustainable Agriculture conference) in conversation on seeing how women's religious communities are and can be hubs of sustainable living

Banned plastic water bottles at our facilities

Created opportunities for institutional composting practices

Working toward waste-free events

Restored rain catchment areas on province grounds

Stood with the native community in protests against using their land for oil pipeline.

St. Joseph Worker Community lives simply—sharing resources, curbside composting, low waste.

Church as the People of God

Our spirituality center, Wisdom Ways, is 25 years old. Over 5000 people participate in its programs annually.

The Hedgerow Initiative has been teaching feminist theology and scripture study for 14 years.

Good Ground Press brings feminist scripture study and theology to parishes and small faith groups in the U.S. and Canada.

Sisters step forward to give homilies at Sunday Eucharist at Carondelet Village, to preside at sisters' funerals, to lead Vespers in Advent the Lent, to write inclusive-language liturgical music, to create and teach short theology and spirituality opportunities for each other and for the men and women who share Carondelet Village with us, to keep updated on feminist and cosmological theology through book clubs, faith sharing groups, and participating in a vast array of local opportunities.

A house church, primarily sisters and consociates, has been meeting on the second Sunday of each month for 30 years.

Held a sisters/consociates discussion of the Call to Action about church

Held a sisters/consociates session on the idea of *sensus fidelum*. Presenter: Rev. Michael Byron

Hosted a listening session on sexuality, marriage, and family for sisters/consociates and churches of our neighborhood as part of archdiocesan input to the Synod on Marriage and the Family in Rome.

Joined with Wisdom Ways and the Earth Partners working group of the province Justice Commission to sponsor a 4-part series on *Laudato Si*. This was open to the wider community in our area.

Hosted Deb Rose-Malovec from Future Church who was an observer at the Synod and who reported on the conversation there.

Welcomed the neighborhood and St. Catherine students to a Peace Prayer on the 11th of each month. Students participate in planning and presiding.

Met with the Twin Cities Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (CCCR) to explore avenues of collaboration.

Living the CSJ Charism

We have intentionally widened the circles of our relationships, welcoming individuals and groups who resonate with our charism and are committed to the mission to ensure the viability of our ministries and our ability to respond to the needs of the times into the future.

We have partnered with and mentored lay women and men to assume leadership roles at nearly every level of province life, while ensuring that vowed members continue to serve where appropriate.

In 2014 the Acts of Chapter Committee planned and sponsored conversation among sisters and consociates about Living the CSJ Charism.

AOC presented the Acts of Chapter for 20 St. Catherine University faculty and staff.

Met with members of the Loreto community to learn how they handle the umbrella idea of membership.

Sponsored consociate Mari Ann Graham as she presented her research on ethical decision making to sisters/consociates. Repeated the program by request for residents of Carondelet Village.

Involvement with high school students around the Sisters of Peace play and classroom conversation about peace and nonviolence

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Active in JPIC gatherings, both in the Congregation and the Federation.

Relationship and Association Commission is creating a web/social media series featuring short interviews with people from the different forms of association. Also hosting “Circles Rising” to celebrate the current Circle of Friends and stimulate growth of other circles.

St. Joseph Worker program fosters living the charism in young women during a service year.

Supported the discernment of vowed sister membership and other various forms of association. Continue to build and support relationships with women discerning vowed membership, Agregée and other forms

Collaborated with Vocation Directors of other local Religious Communities to offer experiences where women can learn about religious life, communities, and discernment e.g. Visiting Women’s Religious Communities events and prayer and discernment retreats. Also, collaborated on writing a letter and meeting with Archbishop Hebda about concerns about Archdiocesan vocation ministry

Supported women discerning religious life and CSJ Community by meeting with them regularly, inviting them to CSJ activities and events, and hosting a Discerner’s Dinner

Within Carondelet Congregation continue to conscientiously collaborate with vocation ministers to realize our shared commitments and goals

Collaborated with Justice and Communication offices to broaden reach of monthly St. Paul Province, Community, Spirituality, Justice e-newsletter and other social media platforms

Collaborated with Consociate Services, Justice, and St. Joseph Workers in programs that introduce people to the CSJ Way—Community, Spirituality, and Justice by offering information sessions (e.g. CSJ Way, Stirring the Fire Retreat) and other programs and opportunities for engagement

Collaborated with Consociate Services, St. Joseph Worker Community, and Justice Office to strengthen relationships and build network among St. Joseph Worker Community and other young adults who’ve engaged with CSJ Community

Participated in Agregée gatherings and its evolution locally and congregationally. Also explored various other new forms of membership and association through committee work and personal engagement

Developed, supported and implemented for youth (e.g. St. Kate’s Encuentro program, Loyola Academy in Chicago Twin Cities immersion; Youth, Theology, and Ministry (YTM), classroom visits and justice week experiences at CSJ sponsored and affiliated high schools, and other groups)

Collaborated and organized experiences for St. Catherine University (and other colleges and universities) students, faculty, and staff to learn about and engage with CSJ Community (e.g. St. Kate’s New Student Picnic and CSJ Engagement Tour, core curriculum and classroom visits, Center for Spirituality and Justice programming, Community Work and Learning placement sites with CSJ ministries and programs, CSJ Student Alliance, Food Justice Coalition, volunteering with CSJ ministries, etc.)

Provided spiritual mentoring and guidance to college/university students and young professionals

Participated in Federation task group about expanding membership in the Federation

Partnering with New Eyes

We believe partnering with new eyes happens when we join with others in working for systemic change that will enable all of us to live in right relationships. Some examples:

Developed and continue sponsoring employee workshops on Mission twice a year, to foster working connections among members of CSJ province departments and ministries.

Sponsored a “Come Together” gathering for all members of the Minneapolis-St. Paul civic and church community who were seeking healing after the police shooting of Philando Castillo. Bonnie Steele, consociate, helped begin this movement.

Stand with our immigrant and refuge brothers and sisters at the ICOM Immigration Vigils.

Work with the JPIC congregational team to craft response and publish statements, 6 of which were signed by CLT in the name of the Congregation. Signed eleven other statements in solidarity with groups with whom we work or whom we support.

Yearly attendance at the Joint Religious Leadership Council days at the State capitol, which includes conversations with elected officials and candidates.

Work to get out the vote in conjunction with the elections cycle.

Sponsor Breaking the Impasse with St. Catherine University. This yearly event draws up to 500 community members and students.

Learn from partners in mission how to support trans/non-binary people.

St. Joseph Worker placement sites give direct service to those on the margins.

St. Joseph Worker program hosts students from other Catholic colleges who come to learn about justice, advocacy, and community.

Participate in interfaith tour of sacred lands of the Dakota people and learn their stories.

Claiming Our Oneness: Relationship and Structures for Mission

Since Vatican II we have learned and grown from experimentation and adaptation. We see ourselves as mission-driven women doing all we can to be the living presences of the Great Love of God, serving our neighbors in need in every way we can.

To accomplish this means being generous with the gift of our *charism*, drawing together friends and neighbors who have a commitment to the charism and who wish to honor their own expression of spirituality-in-action. We have realized that “We” are becoming a rich and thriving community—a Great Design—as we are drawn into relationships with Consociates, Friends of Joseph, St. Joseph

Workers, Partners in Ministry and Partners in Mission and, soon, Agregees. This swarm of relationships is based on the model from which our original foundation emerged.

We have organized ourselves in order to realize the fruits of our relationships. Our core structures promote a continuing vitalization of these relationships and a means to continuously learn, evaluate and address what we care about.

We have developed three assemblies: Sisters, Consociate, and Community. And three Commissions: Ministry, Association and Relationship, and Justice. There is a committee structure for both the Sister Assembly and the Consociate Assembly. The Community Assembly is new to us. It gathers people who share our passion for justice and spirituality and who wish to continue the mission of Jesus in the world today. The intent of the Community Assembly is:

- develop and strengthen relationships among person who intentionally live the CSJ mission;
- understand and support the unique ways individuals and groups are living the mission;
- engage in significant dialog around the Acts of Chapter;
- educate ourselves about emerging needs and resources;
- take actions for justice and ministry with our local communities and the larger world.

We are working hard to anticipate and adapt to the realities within and around us. Adaptation is the driving force of evolution. This is what will assure the vitality of the charism in St. Paul in the long and fruitful future.

Our Ministry Commission is analyzing the ministries landscape, looking through the lens of: human trafficking; education for immigrants; homelessness; immigration and refugees, criminal justice and restorative justice; LGBTQ; healthcare for the uninsured; spirituality

The Acts of Chapter Committee convened meetings to discuss the models of governance the Congregation has been exploring.

St. Joseph Workers gather with other SJWs for relationship building and a common experience.

Creating a model for St. Joseph Workers alumnae to join consociate program.