2019 Congregational Chapter is in the books!

We hope you enjoyed following along with the daily update emails from the Congregational Chapter and/or with the livestreaming. If you missed anything, here are the ways to catch up.

Find all of the emails, videos, and Chapter documents on the Chapter webpage.

Read Jenny Beatrice’s wonderful article about the Chapter on the St. Louis blog.

See all the photos from Chapter on SmugMug.

Reflect using a Chapter Coloring Book by Ansgar Holmberg, CSJ, which is available for download on the Chapter webpage.

The full Acts of Chapter document will be published this fall and distributed to the congregation as soon as possible. In the meantime, you can download the Statement of Future Direction (or Spanish).

Sister releases new book

Those in religious life face an uncertain and changing future. In her new book Beyond the Crossroads, Amy Hereford, CSJ draws attention to emerging currents, particularly among the smaller cohorts of younger religious, to reflect on the ongoing meaning of vows, formation, community, and mission, amidst rapid changes in the church and society.
The book will be released in August. Get 30% off your purchase with the pre-publication discount until September 13.

“Sacred Is the Call” Agrégée Conversation: Third Annual Retreat

In June, women interested in exploring the agrégée relationship met for their third annual retreat in St. Paul. From left: Barbara McIlquham (SP), Mary Craven (A), Nancy Koltko (A), Megan Bender (SP), Mary Kaye Medinger (SP), Louise Hiniker (SP), Alexandra Guliano (SL), Lois Mineau (SP), Mary Louise Menikheim (SP), Jennifer Tacheny (SP).

Present in spirit: Mary Beckfeld (SP), Gayle Buschle (A), Kileen Stone (A).

As you may recall, earlier this year, the CLT affirmed the ongoing reflection and exploration of agrégées within our congregation.

Reflection on the weekend by Consociate Mary Kaye Medinger

Ten individuals from three provinces who feel called to live into relationship within the Carondelet congregation as agrégées met for our third annual retreat from June 21-23, 2019 at the St. Paul Provincial House. Three others joined us in spirit. The total group includes four individuals from the Albany province, one from the St. Louis province, and eight from the St. Paul province. The two previous retreats were facilitated by Sisters, and the 2019 retreat was facilitated by members of the group ourselves. At the invitation of the group, Jean Wincek, CSJ attended to share observations and reflections along the way. Susan Hames CSJ, a member of the St. Paul Province Leadership Team, also attended part of the weekend on behalf of the hosting province.

The days of reflection reminded us of the purpose of our coming together in our own words: “Just as six unique and most diverse women who felt called to serve came together in LePuy, we respond today in our individual calls of the Spirit to serve. It is an experiential time of a spacious grassroots call to community as Agrégées.” The times of prayer, reflection, song, storytelling, laughter, meals shared and memories made deepened the bonding begun in past years.

Our closing session on Sunday morning began with Jean sharing observations and reflections on our time together, our insights, and possible next steps. We ended with a shared conviction that the gift is here, the need is here, the dream is here, the time is here as we move forward step by step. Stay tuned!
Calls for Justice
The Chapter body affirmed a congregational statement calling for civil and respectful discourse in politics.

The congregation signed on to a letter from Church World Service’s Immigration and Refugee Program calling the Trump administration to commit to resettling 95,000 refugees in 2020.

The U.S. Federation released a statement calling for an end to gun violence.

The congregation signed on to an interfaith statement from the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) opposing the Trump administration’s latest asylum ban.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:
August 13-17: LCWR National Assembly
September 1: Labor Day; Congregational Offices closed

A reflection from Barbara Dreher, CSJ
Though inconspicuous to anyone who walks into my office, ten words next to my computer greet me every day: Life is too short not to do something that matters. For those of us who attended, watched, and/or read about our 2019 Congregational Chapter, I believe these words capture the Chapter theme: Called together for the life of the world.

Surrounded by our sister/ACOF saints and impelled by the cry of the dear neighbor to go deeper, to journey farther, and to respond boldly and creatively, we didn’t stick to the old rules: play it safe; stay in your comfort zone; keep your head down; don’t fly too close to the sun. Rather, we named what matters, and strived (sometimes struggling) to imagine and live inside a new truth: it’s better to stumble than be safe; trust one another; live/decide in the spirit of the beatitudes; fly close to the Son; dare to be prophetic; don’t wait, be and do it now.

Spoiler alert: Naming and claiming all this was “easy.” The hard/life-stretching part is living our words. Practicing more than preaching Gospel values and attitudes calls us to transformational change. We must show others in a concrete way that love redeems hate and forgiveness makes way for unifying love. By authentically living our vows in ways that witness and speak to today’s realities, we will be beacons of hope.

Yes, life is too short not to do something that matters—together. Onward!
Rest In Peace

Catherine M. Crispo, CSJ
September 21, 1924 - July 12, 2019

Charleen Marie Bloom, CSJ
December 6, 1935 - July 16, 2019

Stephen Elizabeth Daley, CSJ
November 11, 1936 - July 17, 2019

Marcia Allen, CSJ
May 3, 1919 - July 18, 2019

Rose Regina Smith, CSJ
May 1, 1928 - July 20, 2019

Ellen Joseph Russell, CSJ
February 4, 1922 - July 24, 2019

Leo Ann Bub, CSJ
February 16, 1927 - July 31, 2019

Adrienne Clare Pereira, CSJ
July 24, 1931 - August 4, 2019

Monica Murphy, CSJ
April 8, 1942 - August 5, 2019

Happy Birthday

August 13
Laura Bufano
Lana Chang
Shirley Deutsch
Kathleen Vail

August 14
Claire Latham

August 15
Helen Virginia Buzan
Ranah Thomas Phelan
Mary Salvaterra

August 16
Donna Marie Bradle

August 17
Therese Sherlock

August 18
Mary Elizabeth Guyette
Marilyn Hayes
Constance Heun
Mary Elena Lopez
Shirley Ann Maloney
Susan Oeffling
Mary Catherine Rayo
Helen Ryan
Joan Sauro

August 19
Mary Ruth Beale
Elizabeth Cruger
Mary Louise Delaney
Margaret Louise Duffy
Jo Ann Geary

August 20
Jane Comerford

August 21
Deanine Medina
Linda Snow
Marian Walstrom

August 22
Margaret Mary Edic
Diane Hunker
August 23
Theresa Harpin
Irene O’Neill

August 24
Paula Jude Egan
Joan Galli
Elaine Stephan

August 25
Mary Lois Goldner

August 26
Janet Duffy
Rosemary Flanigan

August 28
Nancy Gregg
Mary McGlone
Nancy Marie Schmidt
Francis Xavier Shimotsuma
Miriam D. Ukeritis

August 29
Marie Dolores Bland
Ingrid Honore-Lallande
Jane Hurley
Jane McDonald

August 30
Barbara Fleury

August 31
Mary Ann Mulligan

September 2
Mary Raphael Barry
Suzanne Jabro
Theresa Fournier

September 3
Frances Baker
Danielle Bonetti
Helene Daniel Courtney
Irma Odabashian
Richard Joseph Sagadin

September 4
Kathryn Kitslaar

September 5
Roberta Houlihan
Althea Johns
Anne McMullen
Jeanne Rene Mercier

September 6
Marianne Baehr
Jane Ellen Kelly
Johanne McCarthy
Carmella Ann Pfohl
Carolyn Schanz
Teresa Shea

September 7
Ann Charles Everett
Suzanne Herder
Maria Dolores Munoz
Carole Ann Walton

September 8
Jeanne Marie Gocha
Francis Rita Voivedich

September 9
Renee Adamany
Veronica Jones
Rosa Orellana
Mary Anne Rodgers
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<td>July 26</td>
<td>Anna Mary Anesi, Mary Ann Figlino, Kathleen Maier, Margaret Ann Vonderahe</td>
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<td>Rosanne Fox, Anne Horrigan, Mary Clare Spaeth</td>
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