

Chapter 2020 - Highlights

Sisters of Charity - Halifax

Highlights of Chapter Day One

Monday, October 12, 2020

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Monday Night Reporters:

Sister Pat Brix, Vancouver, BC

Sister Maryann Lopiccolo, Brooklyn, NY

Welcome to Chapter: We were warmly welcomed to Chapter by Sister Gertie Jocksch, member of the Planning Committee and formally by Sister Joan O'Keefe, Congregational Leader. S. Joan reminds of the challenges we face and the braveness required of each one as we offer our presence and strengthening of the call. She concluded her comments wishing all a "Happy (Canadian) Thanksgiving" and "Happy Chapter." Interspersed throughout the opening session was familiar music, the Taize chants of Ubi Caritas and Veni Sancti Spiritus.

And so we began as Sister Joan led us through the formalities required in the chapter process: that we were lawfully assembled (virtually), our General Chapter Committee was appointed from the Chapter Planning Committee and the appointment of the Chapter secretary.

In keeping with requirements, attendance was taken by S. Danielle Jacob (Chapter Secretary), Minutes are to be posted to be approved on Friday. Among the Chapter committees was a group identified by S. Joan O'Keefe as listeners, reflectors, and writers (Sisters Anne Harvey, Marybeth Moore and Judith Park). They will work on the Chapter Statement.

Following the singing of *So Great A Love*, we were introduced to our two facilitators: Sister Margo Ritchie, SSJ and Sister Pat Kozak, CSJ. Sister Danielle Jacob, CSFN (from our previous Chapter) will perform the role of secretary.

A pre-recorded reflective conversation among three Chapter Planning Committee members (Sisters Gertie Jocksch, Mary Beth Moore and Bernice Vetter) opened up our first formal session. Delegates were then invited to join their Chapter Table groups and tackle Question #1 of the day: "How do we want Spirit to work in us personally and as a congregation over the next six years." At the end of the discussion, several table groups were invited to present their responses/outcome of the discussion. A one hour break followed.

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Our after-break session led us into further Table conversations to address the next question: “How are you personally being more deeply rooted in Charity and in the call of our charism?” Following our conversations, we watched a video by Charles Eisenstein, philosopher, on systemic change – Moving Toward Inter-being. This resonated with the Pope’s new encyclical in which he says, “We are one flesh”, and the body of Christ. We were directed to a quiet reflection after viewing.

And, a final, but not forgotten note – Happy Birthday, S. Melda Comeau!

Good night from Vancouver and Brooklyn!