

Chapter 2020 - Highlights

Sisters of Charity - Halifax

Highlights of Chapter Day Two

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Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Tuesday Night Reporters:

Sister Lorraine d'Entremont, Terence Bay, NS

Sister Margie Gillis, Cape Breton, NS

Joan Dawber, Chapter Committee member, welcomed all to the day and extended birthday greetings to both Sister Maureen Beale and herself (Joan Dawber)!

The second day of chapter was without the formal pieces of the first day, so there was ample time for small group conversation, hearing from the groups, and listening for the collective pulse.

Margo Ritchie, Facilitator, oriented delegates to the process for the day. She noted two trends she had observed in Monday's conversations: an emphasis on contemplative seeing, being and dialogue, an overall moving toward depth, and a language of urgency: risk, holy abandonment, trust, naming the elephants in the room and other expressions of urgency. She said today was the moment to get into the 'guts' of the Chapter, that is, the work of the next six years.

The questions proposed for group reflection were: as you consider your emerging future, what hard choices might you be facing in the next six years? What is demanding your attention and care? We had approximately fifty minutes of table discussion, after which all seventeen table reports were shared with the whole group.

There was a lot of energy in the feedback including a felt sense of synchronicity and resonance between and among the seventeen (17) groups. One of the points of resonance from several groups in response to the question regarding hard choices we will be faced with in the next 6 years was the need to address, own and plan for the completion of the congregation and all the details that will entail. Details such as property, a plan for Wellesley, and finance were among the pieces mentioned. Along with this hard choice of completion was the desire, the insistence, that mission and the needs of the world at this time be of equal focus. "We wish to live 'til we die" was stated by one group. Completion and mission are BOTH-AND.

The desire to deepen and strengthen relationships among us in contemplative dialogue was another of the highlights from the groups. Yet another desire was to share our elder wisdom and the strength of our charism, to bring love and light to the pressing needs around us.

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Session 2 began with Facilitator Pat Kozak who introduced the Writers/Listeners who have been tasked to write a Chapter Statement. Sisters Judy Park, Mary Beth Moore and Anne Harvey attentively listened to group summaries and then reflected back to us what they had heard from the Assembly. It was agreed by the assembled delegates that the Listeners/Writers were very much “on track”. With that the three Listeners/Writers are currently writing a statement to be presented to the Assembly.

Session 2 ended with a moving memorial presentation - pictures of our beloved sisters who have passed on since our 2017 Assembly when last we paused to remember those who have gone before us. It was tender, loving, reverent and breath-taking! We know on whose shoulders we stand as we continue into the future!