

# *Congregation of Our Lady of Sion Canada-US Province*

## **Provincial Leadership Team Minutes**

**Toronto, Ontario**

**Present** – Jackie Chenard, Mary Babic, April 17-20, 2010

Our meeting began with prayer and a check-in/faith sharing time.

### **CHAPTER MANDATE 2008**

**Anchored in God's heart and bursting with passion for our Charism, we commit ourselves to:**

- **Strengthen our local areas and faithfully live out our projects of life.**
- **Celebrate and nurture our deepening relationships with our friends and associates.**
- **Honour and support one another in the process of discernment affirmed at this Chapter.**

### **DIRECTIONS**

- We will nourish the spiritual life of the Province through the study of our Biblical, Foundational, Jewish and Church sources.
- We will be united with the whole Congregation on the journey of transformation/reconfiguration.
- We value our networking relationships and we will reach out and explore other relationships for the sake of the mission.
- We will live out the last chapters of our life in Sion as fully as possible.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Local areas and regions invite more friends and associates to study days, meetings and workshops.
- Each area be more mindful about sending items for the newsletter.
- Information of the hopes and plans of sisters in their later years be gathered and analyzed in order to put appropriate actions and future plans in place.
- A networking/communication system for sisters in various retirement facilities be established.

## **I. Mandate**

Jackie and Mary attended the following conferences since the last team meeting in February: the LCWR Conference for New Leadership in Chicago, March 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>, the National Vocation Conference in Toronto March 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, and the Southdown-St. Luke conference on Critical Personnel Issues on April 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, in Markham, Ontario.

1. We spent a good portion of Saturday reflecting on some of the materials presented to us in each of the conferences, especially in relation the importance and priority of what LCWR calls the symbol making/meaning-making task of leadership. As a way of sharing some of the ideas, questions, and challenges with you regarding religious life and mission, we will, from time to time, include in our minutes a section called "Things To Ponder".
2. At the Toronto Vocation Conference, some of the results from the 2009 CARA (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) study on "Recent Vocations to Religious Life" were presented along with the experience and insights of National Association of Vocation and Formation Directors (NAVFD) in Canada. We have included some of the main points from these oral presentations as an attachment to our minutes, as another source of background information and input into the province's work and reflection around vocations.

The full report can be found via the Internet by entering "NRVC -CARA Report on Recent Vocations to Religious Life" into Google and following the link that appears.

## **II. Province**

### **1. Regional days**

- Day on Communal Discernment  
We met with Joan Atkinson, who will be leading a day on communal discernment on the first day of our regional days. We were able to have a good exchange with her as to some of the possibilities for that day.
- Joyce Sinnett and Pauline Greenizan have agreed to be the coordinating team for the Regional Days in the East.  
Thank you to both of them.

- The Saskatoon area will coordinate the Regional Days in the West. Thanks to them for their contribution.

## **2. Provincial Chapter 2011**

- **Chapter Dates**

The 2011 Provincial Chapter, which will be at Mono Mills, will begin the evening of July 7<sup>th</sup> and finish at noon of July 13<sup>th</sup>.

The retreat days that precede the chapter will begin the evening of July 4<sup>th</sup> and finish at noon of July 7<sup>th</sup>. Further information regarding this retreat will be given at a later date.

- **Chapter Planning Committee**

Thank you to Bernadette O'Reilly, Marge Zdunich, and Sylvia Obrigewitsch for agreeing to be on the 2011 Chapter Planning Committee. They will begin to engage the Province at some point after the General Chapter.

## **3. Visits to the Province**

- Jackie gave an update of her visits to Winnipeg and some of Toronto
- Mary gave an update on her visit to the Phyllis, Celia, and Sylvia in the Eastern Seaboard area, as well as the area conference call with Audrey Doetzel and Claire Pace that was held during the visit (Kathleen Rusnak was not able to be there)

## **4. Planning for Ageing**

- Kathleen McAuley has been doing research on helping us to become more informed on various options, criteria, and processes in planning for our ageing needs. We went over and discussed what she has done so far to prepare short summaries of the material for each one's use.

### **III. Personnel**

#### **1. Lucy Thorson**

Lucy will be attending the 2010 ICCJ conference in Istanbul, Turkey from June 20-23. This year's conference, entitled "So that you may know one another" will be trilateral. On each day, a keynote speaker from one of the three religions, Christianity, Islam, and Judaism will give an address.

#### **2. Audrey Doetzel**

Audrey will finish her commitment at Boston College in June. At some point in August, she will move to Kansas City where she will do some writing on various themes directed toward the college/high school level as well as the parish/synagogue adult learning level. She has also begun to check out with various Catholic Universities in Kansas City the possibility of doing some teaching in relation to her writing.

We wish her well on this new endeavour. We will inform you of her new address at a later date.

#### **3. Sylvia Obrigewitsch**

For personal reasons, Sylvia has moved. Our prayers and blessings, along with the affirmation of Celia, are with her as she continues participating in the Eastern Seaboard area life and her ministry in the parish of Our Lady of Refuge.

Her new address is 1119 Foster Avenue,  
Apt #3C,  
Brooklyn, NY,  
11230

Her phone number is (347) 789-6154.

### **IV. Teams/Committees/Collaboration**

#### **1. Vocation Reflection Group**

The vocation reflection group of Audrey Doetzel, Celia Deustch, and Phyllis Kapucinski completed their work and sent us recommendations coming out of their own and the Province's reflections. We will reflect further on these recommendations at our May meeting and decide on what will be the priorities for the coming year.

At the same time, we have made the decision to start with one of their recommendations from the province reflections to have a year of prayer for vocations, starting this Pentecost. You will receive materials for this in the mail by Pentecost.

Thank you to the reflection group and to all of you who responded to the questions they sent to the Province.

## **V. Finances**

### **1. Donations**

- Canadian Centre for Ecumenism - \$200
- Canadian Council for Refugees- \$100
- Marillac Place - \$100

Marillac Place located in Kitchener, Ontario provides housing, training, education, and support services for pregnant and parenting single young women between the ages of 16-25 with their children up to the age of 12 months.

- CCODP- \$300

### **2. Local Donation Fund**

The Eastern Seaboard area applied for the local donation fund. \$350 approved.

### **3. Cornelius Rijk Grant**

Jocelyn Monette , Lucy Thorson, Marge Zdunich, Margie McGrath, and Pauline Greenizan applied for the Cornelius Rijk Grant in order to have Madame Madeleine Comte's book Sauvetages et baptemes: Les religieuses de Notre Dame de Sion face a la persecution des Juifs en France (1940-1944) translated into English.

The General Leadership Team approved the costs of the translation of the book at 6,000 Euros and its publication, design and graphics, the cost of which will be determined at the time of the completion of the translation. An electronic file of the completed work will be prepared

at that time. Each Province that wishes to print and distribute copies of the book for its own use and purposes will be responsible for the costs of doing so, using the electronic file.

#### **4. Marge Zdunich**

Request for a net book.  
\$450. Approved.

#### **5. Investment Committee**

Mary and Jackie attended a meeting of the Investment Committee on April 20, 2010. Further details regarding the meeting will be available for the May minutes.

### **VI. Other**

**May meeting: May 17-20, 2010 in Toronto**