

# Western Regional Meeting Notes

## Saskatoon – October 8 – 11, 2010

### I. “Table Talk and Travel” (impressions, newness, challenging points)

#### 1. Jerusalem

- This is a strong statement and solid. Whole document is very concrete.
- We are struck by the privilege and personal call. Some things have been said for a long time, with some nuanced differences.
- Greater sense of ownership of the whole body of the congregation. Is an even deeper commitment.
- We endorse the emphasis on becoming more involved in the local Arabic speaking Christian community. Is exciting to think of this becoming real.
- We rejoice in the new expression of Sionian family involvement in Ein Karem. It is a risk, much unknown.
- The mutuality of our learning with all who experience Jerusalem.
- Challenge – We have to be better informed: the peoples, the history, and not get caught in the cheap and simplistic media portrayals, in order to understand and better explain in our own milieu.
- “Magic in the name”: Jerusalem is life giving for all of us. We affirm holding this treasure and pray for the peace of Jerusalem. We have to believe that something can be better.

#### 2. Vocations and Formation

- Broad sense of call found in Jeremiah is here. It is also flexible – formation covers all our life long.
- Mixed feelings – “been here before” and also challenge, possibilities, sense of life, co-operation with others eg, Contemplatives, and Religieux de Sion.
- International Novitiate – past experience, good to bring a sense of unity. However, difficulties now, don’t allow for ease of movement.
- Restate our charism for today’s world.

#### 3. Associates/Friends

##### Newness

- Financial support from leadership
- Inter-regional gatherings – important to affirm the support and make sure they happen.
- Recognize the charism is alive in people – we receive from them.

##### Challenges

- How do Associates share when we don’t have common ministries?
- Need resources available for common formation
- Clarifying what belonging is for an Associate.
- Geography is a big challenge in our reality.

#### 4. Stewardship of Creation

- First strong expression of the relationship of what is happening to the earth and to people. We are called to hear groaning... to speak out, to groan as well. First expression of Congregation on this. Affirm existence of document.
- Women and children most vulnerable. No specific mention; they come in relation to what we are doing to the earth. Lacks expression of “relationship”/entering into the suffering.
- Important to claim our action in projects of life.
- Challenge: to keep connected the reading of the “3 books” and our call to speak out against injustices and celebrate solid relationships.
- It feels backwards: “earth → people” rather than “people → earth”. Call to justice seems a corollary to ecology, rather than seeing ecology as a pressing justice issue, that everyone can work with.
- Roots us in God’s vision of the whole of creation.
- Happy to see UNANIMA participation affirmed, yet UNANIMA is unknown.
- Uranium mining is Sask. Has a link to the Middle East.
- Affirm the sanctity and sacredness of creation.

#### 5. Community Life

- The essentials form the basis of the Project of Life. We see the revitalization of the importance of the Project of Life and living out of it.
- For each community it will be necessary to examine the essentials and plan for them in their Project of Life.
- Desire to connect with others beyond our own local community/area e.g.: study days, regionals, new methods via new technologies.
- We see a challenge in asking ourselves how to live out the statement “Living community is a prophetic counter witness to the individualism in the modern world.”

#### 6. Charism

- Does not reflect the threefold dimension of our charism: Const. #13
- Does not recognize the universal suffering on our world and our call to respond to this as Sion – e.g.: refugees. Missed an expression of our “being with the people”.
- New is to have the Israeli/Palestinian conflict mentioned. Struggle to hold both peoples in heart, challenge to be sign of love for both.
- New is to have the Associates/Friends in the charism document.
- Call to read Nostra Aetate – challenge to read whole. Our work not being over. Charism is “contagious”.
- Call to new countries. Thrilled, however have no criteria; left up to process?
- Challenge to live it out – listed biblical spirituality.
- Challenge and disappointment of document: how do we articulate what we are living? Broader context does not come in here.
- Question – bullet #2 – “first” a dangerous word for us.
- Are we in denial with respect to numbers of personnel available?

**7. Reconfiguration**

- This gives us a large sense of the Congregation with new life, especially in light of sharing resources.
- There is a sense of our being called to live a simpler life, in our province, in pooling our resources.
- Called also to “walk with each one without knowing” the place to which we are going; to trust the process, the things that are important.
- It will be and is a time of living with extra work and anxiety:
  - To get ready for the right movement for us.
  - To recognize that there will be a certain amount of anxiety in the year coming to “our structure”, even annoyance.
- To live with hope and collaboration: it will turn out and we’ll choose it together.
- It is a call also to patience.
- It has been done before!

**“Task and Timelines”**

**Next 15 months:**

October 2010 (now) Regionals	January 9 -12, 2011 L and P Presentation	July 2011 Canada-USA “Chapter”	January 20, 2012 ?
PLT ..... ?			
..... Process to Plan Reconfiguration .....		A	
..... Search options, refine them .....		P	
		P by New	
		R C Structure	
		O L Begins “ad	
		V T experimentum”	
		A until July 2016	
		L	

**Next 6 years:**

2010- Jan 20, 2012	2013	2015	2016
Province process to propose own “reconfiguration”. Approved to begin January 20, 2012.	Congregational Assembly Information Gathered of experiences	Congregational Assembly to prepare Chapter 2016	General Chapter

## **II. Comments/ideas/continuation of work**

**(in view of Chapter process coming and General Chapter 2010 Document)**

### **Further Contributions** (added comments re: General Chapter document)

- A Study of the stewardship of Creation would give us depth from which to respond as it is based on Covenant.
- The Project of Life has a renewed role.
- Ownership of all documents happens with good information and exchange: eg. Ein Karem Project; UNANIMA
- Idea of Study Days help us to broaden who we invite in to study/be with us. (Ratisbonne Days do , too.)
- Using technology seems to have been a help at the Chapter and is a help to us now.

### **Implications** (for our lives arising from the General Chapter Document)

- Study of Creation/Scripture/Charism
- The call is constant at local or Area level... time is needed to respond. Choice will/may need to be made.
- Seriously look at Project of Life as a vehicle, calling us to respond.
- Discernment is needed for support of area and in relation to whole.
- In order for there to be ownership... implications are that we need information; communication essential for support.
- Importance of a common language for international formation.
- We look to “leadership team” of “province’ to encourage/help us develop Associates/Friends.
- Invite past contacts to join us... means a time/energy commitment on our part.

### **Continuing Work** (in process towards Chapter July 2011 and January 20, 2012)

- Have lay people be at the Chapter; it is good for us to have Friends; and an outside voice.
- Keep the 3 or 4 days before Chapter as quiet reflective days.
- Once Projects of Life are completed, post them on the members’ area.
- Be ready to be called on, to participate in process towards reconfiguration before Chapter in July 2011.
- Be careful and not try to jump to solutions.
- Have retreat day in the process of the year to help us get to deeper meaning and values we want to live in and through reconfiguration.
- In our preparation for Chapter July 2011, let it be focussed on reconfiguration. Can’t pay our attention to everything.
- An image comes to mind of this time, and time of Chapter July 2011 – reconfiguration is like the skeleton and the other documents of the General Chapter Document are the flesh.

### III. Evaluation of Regional Days

- Process was good. Changing and variety of groups worked in was good.
- Variety of inputers was good.
- Small groups were helpful for hearing. May need microphone next time.
- Good participation.
- Chapter came alive (i.e. in photos.) The experience of Chapter was given us.
- Good space and staff.
- It was a learning experience: new materials.
- Having had two regionals, i.e. worked in the two smaller groups in the province was helpful. Able to have significant ways of connecting.
- Exhilarating to connect and share community with sisters, without election or having to make decisions.
- Relief at getting what got done. Was relaxing! “Relatively” painless to go through the documents, and to do so in a group.
- Good to know that reconfiguration emphasis is for mission. That L and P information and ideas turned into transformation for many.
- Good to be in Saskatoon where we haven’t been for a while.