

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

**Provincial Leadership Team Meeting  
Toronto**

**September 18-21, 2010**

Present: Jackie Chenard, Mary Babic, Isabel Lewis, Margaret Hughes

**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.**

## ***CHAPTER MANDATE 2008***

### **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.

## Prayer and Faith Sharing

### **I. Mandate**

#### **1. General Chapter**

Jackie and Mary shared with Isabel and Margaret various aspects of chapter deliberations and decisions that will affect province life and future over the next 18 months.

### **II. Province**

#### **1. Chapter Planning Committee**

Given Marge Zdunich's election to the Congregational Leadership, we discussed whether it would be necessary to name another person to replace her on the Chapter Planning Committee (for July 2011). As General Chapter delegates, including PLT members, will have an on-going role coordinating province work on Reconfiguration before and during the Provincial Chapter, we decided to keep the Committee membership as it currently stands with two members Bernadette O'Reilly and Sylvia Obrigewitsch.

We see the main focus of their work to be the other General Chapter Documents which cover the topics of: Associates/Friends, Community Life, Jerusalem, Stewardship of Creation, Vocations and Formation, and Charism.

It will be important to work out the tasks of the two groups as to avoid duplication and overlapping.

#### **2. January 2011 Assembly**

The General Chapter delegates will meet after the western regional meeting to further plan this assembly.

#### **3. Visits**

Jackie and Mary will visit Anne Doll, Anne Miko, and Lorraine Badwani when they are in Saskatoon for the regional days.

#### **4. Joan Atkinson, CSJ**

As a result of the planning meeting of the delegates on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, the day on communal discernment with Joan Atkinson that was to begin the regional days was cancelled to allot more time to General Chapter documents.

She remains open to working with us at another time.

### **III. Teams/Committees/Collaboration**

#### **1. R & E**

We met with the R&E Team, which is undergoing a process of reorganization. Marge Zdunich will be taking up her duties on the congregational leadership and Maria Vigna is not able to continue with the R&E responsibility at this time. We discussed their recommendation with a proposed plan of action for this year that includes the development of an R&E tab on our provincial website. More information will follow as it develops.

Thank to Marge and Maria for their work up to this point and to Mary Ellen for continuing on.

### **IV. Finances**

#### **1. Recreation fund**

Maria Vigna \$500 approved.

#### **2. Recreation fund**

Bernadette O'Reiley \$500 approved.

**3.** Requests for family support were approved.

#### **4. Donations**

We were asked for a contribution towards an event featuring Fr. Patrick Debois by the Christian Jewish Dialogue of Toronto. We approved a \$500.00 donation for the event.

Fr. Desbois is director of the Episcopal Committee for Relations with Judaism in France, and is the president of Yahad-In Unum. He is the grandson of a French deportee to the Rawa Ruska camp, which is located today in the Ukraine. Since 2001, he has led the undertaking of identifying and locating undiscovered mass graves of Jews killed during the Holocaust in Eastern Europe. He has made a lifelong commitment to confronting anti-Semitism and furthering Catholic-Jewish understanding.

## **5. Local Donation Fund**

This is a reminder for the second time of the year that applications to the local donation fund are received. In a letter to the Province dated September 14, 2009, we stated:

*Our financial Handbook states that "In general, the Provincial Council grants donations to nation and world-wide groups, while local communities give donations to local groups." In relation to this statement, we have decided that for the 2010 Provincial budget, we will divide and add into the donation line the following two parts:*

1. *national and international fund*
2. *local donation fund*

*While the leadership team will continue to make donations on the national and international level, areas/clusters (not individual sisters) may apply for donations for local needs of up to \$350 once in a calendar year. These applications are to be sent in for February 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*In the spirit of our Provincial mandate's emphasis on strengthening areas/clusters, we would also encourage areas/clusters to look at how they might pool some of the \$200 alms/ donation money that each sister receives in a way that might help maximize donations for local needs. Naturally, we appreciate that this might not be a possibility due to your circumstances and desires so we are offering it only as a suggestion.*

If you wish to access these funds, please send us an application form that you will find attached at the end of these minutes to us by November 15, 2010.

## **V. Other**

### **1. Appreciation for Alice**

The funeral home in Edmonton, Connelly-McKinley did not charge us for Alice's funeral. In recognition of the contribution of religious and

priests in the diocese, they prepare their funeral without charging a fee. A thank you card will be sent to them on behalf of the Province.

At Terry's suggestion, due to the special place that the Philippines had in Alice's heart a donation of \$100 was sent to our sisters.

## **2. Next team meetings:**

October 23-24 Toronto

November 26-30 Toronto

## LOCAL DONATION FUND APPLICATION FORM

The category of the Provincial budget has now been divided into two categories.

National/International and local. Each cluster/area is able to apply in the Local Donation Fund for up to \$350.00 once in a calendar year in order to respond to some of the needs of the local area. Applications for this fund will be reviewed in February and November.

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AMOUNT REQUESTED:

Specific purpose for funds.