

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## SISTER CLEISE

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

I was glad to have participated, especially in being able to share my thoughts and dreams. I see that we still have a lot of work to do to reach our goals. I am young and I want to be the change, I believe that I will change and will reach the goals that we all want. I'm going back to Brazil with my heart full of hope.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

It's hard for me to speak with other sisters about my feelings, but on all the occasions that I had to speak at the table, I tried to say what I really felt and thought and I felt lighter doing that.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

I wish that you remember that we are Franciscan brothers and sisters of Allegany and that we have the same goals. You can always count on my prayers and I trust we can keep our eyes fixed on Christ.

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## SISTER DAYANNE

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please explain.**

My meeting with the brothers and sisters from other countries, the opportunity to speak out about what I think and getting closer and more united with my group.

### **2. What struggles did you face during this gathering? What did you do to resolve these difficulties?**

My struggle arose when I perceived that domination is real in several countries. And to deal with that requires to have my voice heard. I became aware that I need to be the protagonist of those things I believe in.

### **3. What additional feedback would you like to offer the Chapter Planning Committee as they begin planning for Regional Assemblies, Discernment Processes, and the Chapter?**

That the group keep creating space for difficult conversations that are needed for us to set aside superficial conversations and enter into deeper more meaningful subjects.

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## SISTER EDIR

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please explain.**

Everything was very meaningful to me, especially the discussion about completion of the Congregation in the United States.

### **2. What struggles did you face during this gathering? What did you do to resolve these difficulties?**

My most difficult struggle here was to try to understand better our reality as a Congregation.

### **3. What additional feedback would you like to offer the Chapter Planning Committee as they begin planning for Regional Assemblies, Discernment Processes, and the Chapter?**

That we have deep moments of prayer, that we let ourselves be guided by the Holy Spirit of God and that we observe the acts of God in the Sacred Scriptures and that we trust more in the grace of God. Do not underestimate God's ability to surprise us. “The mission is God's!”

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## SISTER ELOÊNIA

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please explain.**

Meeting my brothers and sisters, fraternity.

Learn about the origins of the Congregation

Reflect on important points of discernment, for example, deepening God's call within ourselves

The opportunity to have a voice

Thinking together about the topics of the chapter of 2025

Looking to the future with hope.

### **2. What struggles did you face during this gathering? What did you do to resolve these difficulties?**

I struggles with the perspective of the future. I tried to accept the process of completion as a way to prepare for our transformed future. I reflected upon my reality at this moment.

What would have helped even more would have been to give voice to all of this from my inner self to all of you, to give voice to all of my feelings.

### **3. What additional feedback would you like to offer the Chapter Planning Committee as they begin planning for Regional Assemblies, Discernment Processes, and the Chapter?**

Speak out about deepening our understanding rather than amplifying it.

Appreciate the interior life, along with the external life, of each sister.

Deepen our Fraternal Life (with its mysteries) and our ministries.

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## SISTER GEANE

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please explain.**

The sincere conversations we shared at the tables were very useful. However, the most important time for me were the conversations we had with the younger sisters, facilitated by Beth and Ted. They were deep and necessary. I felt extremely touched by the suffering of each sister and that motivated me to try to be better every day within the reality I'm facing.

### **2. What struggles did you face during this gathering? What did you do to resolve these difficulties?**

Despite the difficulties with translation, I had the courage to be myself, and to be sincere when sharing at the tables. My struggle is still about speaking of myself. I am trying to get over this situation every day.

### **3. What additional feedback would you like to offer the Chapter Planning Committee as they begin planning for Regional Assemblies, Discernment Processes, and the Chapter?**

Looking at the example of Ted and Beth, what caught my attention was the question that all are welcome. So, let's not forget that we all have something to contribute, each one with their own gifts.

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## SISTER GOIA

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please explain.**

Meeting my brothers and sisters that I had not seen for many years.  
The opportunity to talk about subjects, like our differences, more deeply and respectfully  
Being able to review our experiences and abilities learned during our CARE training  
The allotment of time was important because everyone could participate without being stressed by time.  
Beth and Ted’s coordination left us very comfortable

### **2. What struggles did you face during this gathering? What did you do to resolve these difficulties?**

I struggled within myself about whether I should have restated my opinion that I had given several times before. In the end, I confronted myself and managed to express my thoughts without fear and with tranquility.

### **3. What additional feedback would you like to offer the Chapter Planning Committee as they begin planning for Regional Assemblies, Discernment Processes, and the Chapter?**

At this moment, I have nothing to add.

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## SISTER IOSITA

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please explain.**

Sharing at the tables.

Learning more about my brothers and sisters.

Appreciating the different thoughts on the same subject

### **2. What struggles did you face during this gathering? What did you do to resolve these difficulties?**

(No answer)

### **3. What additional feedback would you like to offer the Chapter Planning Committee as they begin planning for Regional Assemblies, Discernment Processes, and the Chapter?**

That the topics be of interest to all sisters

That the call to be part of one or more levels of the leadership team be effective

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## SISTER MARIA ISABEL (email)

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please explain.**

I really enjoyed sharing with the sisters in Brazil the dreams, thoughts and plans of hope for the future of the Congregation.

### **2. What struggles did you face during this gathering? What did you do to resolve these difficulties?**

Difficulty with the insistence of some American sisters in highlighting the idea of completion.

### **3. What additional feedback would you like to offer the Chapter Planning Committee as they begin planning for Regional Assemblies, Discernment Processes, and the Chapter?**

Look very carefully at the reality of each region of the Congregation to make proposals that will be voted on for the future.



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## SISTER JAIANE

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please explain.**

Learning that it is not only the Brazilians that face challenges in pastoral care and local communities, and that my American sisters still believe, trust in and have hope for a better future.

Getting to know more about each sister, learn about their history and experiences in the Congregation, as well as their experience in religious life. This reinforced my desire to continue to deepen my life of contemplation and prayer every day and let God speak to me.

### **2. What struggles did you face during this gathering? What did you do to resolve these difficulties?**

For me, the hardest part was to understand the topics discussed. Sometimes, because I'm new to the Congregation, I felt lost, but as we progressed day by day I started to understand better and began to participate more actively in the discussions.

### **3. What additional feedback would you like to offer the Chapter Planning Committee as they begin planning for Regional Assemblies, Discernment Processes, and the Chapter?**

(No answer)

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## SISTER LENINHA

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please explain.**

Deepen my faith through prayers with my sisters  
Conversations and important dialogs and meetings with my sisters  
Coming back to the Motherhouse inspired my life.  
The deep sharing at our table formed a sacred and trusting space  
The warm welcome by our older sisters

### **2. What struggles did you face during this gathering? What did you do to resolve these difficulties?**

1 – With the question of inclusion, I reflected, I prayed, I “tried” to hear the voice of God  
2 – Accepting the idea of completion, with hope. I listened, shared and was deeply touched by our reality  
3 – Speaking at the right moment, without the feeling of being restricted by my own self and without feeling judged

### **3. What additional feedback would you like to offer the Chapter Planning Committee as they begin planning for Regional Assemblies, Discernment Processes, and the Chapter?**

Strive to be open to the NEW that is arising  
The changes we face, the desire and the dream to be better will end only when we are in the arms of the Father.  
We are all sisters, independent of color, race, beliefs, age, or geographic origin  
And in all of us, beats a heart full of life and hope!  
I’m open to change.

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## SISTER LILIAN

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please explain.**

The opportunity to know my sisters better and also the realities of the different regions of the Congregation

The opportunity to speak about my own experience and expectations and dreams of the future of the Congregation and be accepted and appreciated

To get a better understanding of what completion is and the need and significance of speaking and thinking about it

The ability the facilitators had to adapt, facing the group needs that were developing throughout the meeting

### **2. What struggles did you face during this gathering? What did you do to resolve these difficulties?**

The language problem is still a hindrance, but technology helped a lot, as well as the presence of the translators.

### **3. What additional feedback would you like to offer the Chapter Planning Committee as they begin planning for Regional Assemblies, Discernment Processes, and the Chapter?**

The development of a safe and welcoming environment for the chapter, assuring that the sisters may live out and express their pain and grief facing the many changes that they will have to experience.

The team responsible for the elaboration of the content and procedures at chapter (the Container) needs to have more members so as not to overload anyone.

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## SISTER LILIANE

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please explain.**

The involvement of all the sisters was very significant, especially that of the younger sisters

I realize that change is extremely necessary and change will come only if it comes from within each one of us.

### **2. What struggles did you face during this gathering? What did you do to resolve these difficulties?**

I struggled with my own desires. I arrived with the desire to leave the congregation and I'm leaving the encounter with the desire to stay.

I came to understand and recognize that I need to proceed with the process of internal change and growth.

### **3. What additional feedback would you like to offer the Chapter Planning Committee as they begin planning for Regional Assemblies, Discernment Processes, and the Chapter?**

Continue to deepen our conversations and work on the interpersonal interactions within local communities and regions

Provide moments of deep spirituality and discernment within our communities

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## SISTER MARINEZ (email)

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please explain.**

The opportunity to participate, reflect and work on my mentality in terms of modifying the rigidity of certain cognitive postures. The challenge posed to the Sisters of Brazil helped us take a step towards leaving behind victimhood and starting to be the protagonists of our own lives, our own history.

### **2. What struggles did you face during this gathering? What did you do to resolve these difficulties?**

My struggle was related to my remaining isolated, participating via Zoom, due to suspicion, but not confirmation, of COVID. I felt like it was a waste of time to come to the US. And when I was allowed to leave, some people looked at me as if I were a leper. So, I decided to stay more withdrawn, so as not to provoke panic in anyone.

### **3. What additional feedback would you like to offer the Chapter Planning Committee as they begin planning for Regional Assemblies, Discernment Processes, and the Chapter?**

Give serious consideration to diversity in teams, try to develop the ability of reading between the lines. Read the congregational framework based on each reality we are living and working in, without losing sight of the whole.

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## SISTER ONEIDA

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please explain.**

The encounter of our different realities, for instance, as seen in the reading of the letters. At that moment, I perceived that we live in different moments according to who we are, the place where we live and how old we are.

### **2. What struggles did you face during this gathering? What did you do to resolve these difficulties?**

I struggled with the desire to choose LIFE. The difficulties with language and culture were faced with courage and love.

### **3. What additional feedback would you like to offer the Chapter Planning Committee as they begin planning for Regional Assemblies, Discernment Processes, and the Chapter?**

That we not lose the spirit of unity. We need to think and feel we are all only one Congregation, with unity and mutuality. All should participate in the decision-making process, with consideration given to the different regions and geographic situations

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## SISTER ROSIMEIRE

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please explain.**

The conference room was well organized and the team was very creative with the small details

The material offered and clear explanations given

The translators that helped us with our communication.

Thank you!

### **2. What struggles did you face during this gathering? What did you do to resolve these difficulties?**

I had to work hard to accept criticism from Beth (a psychologist) who has problems, in my opinion, to accept what is different.

### **3. What additional feedback would you like to offer the Chapter Planning Committee as they begin planning for Regional Assemblies, Discernment Processes, and the Chapter?**

very positive experience

I wish that all of you be blessed as you carry out your tasks and have a great work experience and that God's wisdom and love enlightens you as you perform your work

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## SISTER JOYCE RAMAGE (portal)

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please explain.**

Most helpful to me were the Leadership sharings and the overall use of CARE skills throughout. The sharing from Brasil and Jamaica regarding domination was very helpful to me for my self reflection.

### **2. What struggles did you face during this gathering? What did you do to resolve these difficulties?**

My personal current challenge was to be present and sharing on Zoom while having long Covid fatigue during the whole time. I am grateful for the times that I was able to participate. Thank you the for help on Zoom.

### **3. What additional feedback would you like to offer the Chapter Planning Committee as they begin planning for Regional Assemblies, Discernment Processes, and the Chapter?**

I do support having associates and partners with us as we see the importance of their sharing, while discerning times which might need to shared with members only.



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## **SISTER BERNADETTE SCHULER (portal)**

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please explain.**

The flow of the materials as well as the adjustments made when needed. I experienced depthful sharing in my virtual breakout room group. I especially was inspired by the reading of our letters with hopes and dreams. We are looking to LIVE!!

### **2. What struggles did you face during this gathering? What did you do to resolve these difficulties?**

I struggled with having Covid and trying to keep focused when I was so tired. I would not have wanted to miss any of it!!!

### **3. What additional feedback would you like to offer the Chapter Planning Committee as they begin planning for Regional Assemblies, Discernment Processes, and the Chapter?**

We need to consider more reflective time and also not shortening the breaks for lunch. The Chapter presentation was hopeful and offers potential for further deep sharing. A new model of leadership needs to be developed before being asked to

say yes to leadership nomination.

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## Grace Matos

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The distribution of tables, having material in both English and Portuguese. I would not, however, make paper copies of slides in English... they are in English. (save the world's nature)

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I struggle with scheduling of transportation. Beth asked to whomever wanted to come at noon on Friday, to write the name on a list. Another manager came to me to explain it was too hard to get transportation. She wasn't gonna do it. I offered to rent a car.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Today, despite the meeting being 9:30, we were told the buss would pick us up at 7:35, some time as before. We waited... there was no bus then. We were told to just wait 1 more hour. Question: any 'dominance' bias on that?!

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## Melissa Scholl

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The table sharing especially regarding leadership and vocation. There was a sharing that was diverse and expanded understandings of realities, opportunities and participation beyond membership.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I struggle with the vocation prospects that are so very regional that demand the human resources so needed or unavailable. When looking at the reality of community/mission in Brazil especially, the struggle of dream and direct enabling vocations vs letting go of some ministries to enable communities' healthy life-giving comments to grow. The honest transparent look at vocations - call to life - Fr. life out of which mission grows and ministry results not the reverse. Workers (vocations) for ministry - truth that fewer vocation will force decrease in missions is unavoidable. Life and nurturing are essential then comes ministry.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Time for rest and play together - planned & spontaneous

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## Beth McGinnis

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

That Ted and Beth kept us on focus - a huge job! Dietary did wonderful service with snacks and meals. That there were no evening meetings

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

To be seated for long periods of time and struggling to be present and listen attentively. I have a hearing problem and found it very difficult to hear what was being said at my table. The background noise and echo was also a problem.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

We are all praying for the Holy Spirit will be guiding you all in your deliberations - and you are listening with minds and hearts.

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## J Miriam Natale

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The table reflections and discussion of the table members. To hear each other's diverse comments added to enriching my thought process - leadership, vocation, completion. I appreciated the comments in the open forum moments. The handout on completion was excellent in terms of defining and refining what completion is.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I do not know or would describe this as a struggle -- there is no unanimity re: the three areas of concern: vocation, leadership, completion... so we shall journey on and keep in the struggle listening to each other.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Please continue to engage the skills we have learned in CARE training, especially mutuality. The "Leadership Responses" concerned me when at least two sisters stated that they felt marginalized or that they were not being heard. If they are not hearing and responding to one another, what then....???

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## Gloria Oehl

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

table conversation and feedback

material given and explanation/clarification

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

1) time and energy - ability to hear sometimes

2) asked for clarification and took extra caffeine / time for prayer

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

suggest that we be very clear on inclusion of Associates and Partners in Ministry - for us AND them. Thank you for the roadmap!

question - chapter Decisions/Voting - in person only?

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## Catherine Moran

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

I found this congregational Gathering most helpful and meaningful to me. It was most informative in helping us to ready for Chapter 2025

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I did not have any struggle during the Gathering

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

I have to continue to think about feedback but will pray about it and send to the Planning Committee. Thank you and God bless you!

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## Pamela Gellineau

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The table sharing. Pat Tyre was an excellent facilitator. Even though I was very tired I chose to not miss any part of the Gathering. I found the table sharing to be invaluable.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I found the time constraint very difficult.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

This Gathering of our sisters was a wonderful idea and deeply appreciated. It was the first time in eight years that so many of us had the opportunity to be together.



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## Maragaret Mary Kimmins

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The transparency that helped us see our reality. The experience of the different countries regarding the membership. The Spirit of each country. That each of us is a Franciscan Sister of Allegany - our common heart. Sharing our letter with each other - very moving. I am grateful that serious issues arose in the assembly.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I did NOT struggle with the process. However, I struggled with not having the time to process what I heard. However, this assembly will continue in my heart and head when I have time.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Please give us blocks of time, 4 if possible, to consider what we heard. I am grateful for the Spirit of the Assembly and the sharing from each member of leadership. The video was a help for all the whole process.

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## **Maria Perreira do Santos**

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

Sharing at the table, very positive without being too focused on the past

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

For me, I had no problems or difficulties with CARE and I already felt more or less prepared for this meeting!

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

For me everything was well prepared and I am eagerly preparing for our chapter

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## Janet Sullivan

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The openness, the acceptance, the overall attitudes, the patience the experience of so many with particular thanks to Beth and Ted.

I also have a sense that we are in good space though much more work remains to be done.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

Sometimes the distraction related to translation at the table. Also, RAMBLING or not staying with the main point of discussion. Otherwise, the process, the exchange, the overall were very much OK with me. Addressing it? I asked that the translator not speak at the same time as the main speaker. With someone who didn't stick to the point, I just suffered it. This is a chance to practice patience.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

I will be praying for you.

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## Ann Martin Robonie

### 1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.

The sharing and in both languages - the depth we have been going

### 2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?

nothing

### 3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?

continue with the suggestions given - very good

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## Pat Shirley

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The mixed tables. ALL are able to communicate and share as sisters of ONE community. The sharing was depthful and inclusive. Breaking open the reality of Brazil & their struggles in their reality as were that of Jamaica and Bolivia.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

The struggle with physical limitations. The struggle with timings in the sessions. The desire to have more conversations with more people.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Thank you for the commitment of time, skills, and discernment in moving us into the future. I see great hope for the future in this process even if my own personal horizon may be short.

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## Gwen Melhado

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

openness for each sister to speak in large groups and table conversations

we began to address or speak to the issues that are at stake for the congregation.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

Though I understand the Jamaican situation, I struggled with not hearing more of their voice. I encouraged one member to do or take a 'more speaking role'.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Ask for any additional assistance from sisters who are not on the CPC on a timely basis.

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## Mary Lou Lafferty

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

First of all, I "enjoyed" the Gathering and experienced a warm, friendly atmosphere (tension free for me). I was grateful for the process used to unfold the 3 key topics. This helped ALL of us identify what we need to "do" as we move forward.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I didn't struggle with the content, rather the absence of free time. There was minimal time to enjoy and visit with sisters we rarely see... some for 8 years! Free afternoon would be great!

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Keep the lines of communication open so that we are kept in the loop rather than hearing mixed messages via the "Allegany grapevine". Thanks!

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Catherine Kane

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

Chance to meet and hear from sisters we seldom encounter. Prep for Chapter 2025

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I did have struggle with one sister who did not seem to understand different roles in a small group. Ted gave me good advice and it was nicely resolved.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

I do not favor having Associates in Chapter. From the ones that I have observed here, I believe they are not on the same wavelength as we are. They enjoy coming here, meeting with women with similar spiritual aspirations. They do not share our background or experience, and should not share in deciding on our lives and future.



# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Carol Kenyon

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

Getting to know and communicate lovingly and with understanding the sisters at our table who I previously didn't know well.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

keeping pace with all that was happening... my brain seems a little slower in comprehending and remembering details.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

I want to express gratitude for all in the Chapter Planning Committee for all they have done and will continue to do for us.

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Janet Sullivan

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

I deeply appreciated the review of CARE skills and the questions about questions. The dimensions of the topic of completion, the broadening of the concept made it more palatable for me. I sense that in discussion, conversations for the most part are taking place without an 'agenda' motivation. Highlighting differences between US & Brazil was clarifying. Overall I sense a big jump forward in our process.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Chris Tenn

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

I appreciate that the sharing was SOMEWHAT helpful and enough sisters had the courage to speak freely. I'm encouraged by the younger sisters being so engaged in the process. There is hope for the future in Brazil. I wish USA and Jamaica would believe in the future with more hope and trust. It was rewarding to experience high level of engagement.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I struggle with long periods of sitting. Thanks for the breaks! I'm not sure communal discernment is understood!

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

I am grateful for those involves in the planning because investment of time and energy is key. You have my prayers.

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Clare Bertero

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

Attention to flexibility

attention to current realities in the lives of the sisters

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

need for further info/direction regarding "Guiding Principles"  
video was excellent [?]  
our cluster is KEY to the overall effort

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Kathia Kennedy

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The inclusion and the hope that will move us towards the future

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I felt pressure for the limited amount of time to absorb so much information

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Time to reflect, personal prayer time, to develop an interior strength that will impel us to continue to walk together.

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Pat Tyre

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

Communal dialogue - CARE skills  
letter experiences  
debriefings  
depth of sharing  
safety at the table  
availability of laptops helped  
helpful: accomodations. Hotel, good food.  
flexibility (adapt to needs, funeral, discussion)

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

questions/surrender  
clarity from the forum - I asked

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

focus on our CARE skills as we did  
different communication re: travel & bus  
need to establish point persons: for onsite translation, transportation, health care (develop a plan)

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Mary Croghan

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

Having sisters from Brazil at my table. Their sharing helped me to expand my vision. The need for time for translation I felt was both a barrier at times and also a good use of our time.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I struggled with my tiredness & physical limits. To address this I didn't attend prayer on Friday morning so that I could rest.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

I would like to request that there be times for rest built into the schedule. I realize this is difficult, however I also know it is beneficial.

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Kathie Uhler

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The table arrangement was the best ever. It facilitated sharing in the small groups and acoustics!

Allowing time for grieving.

Ted's paper

The personal letter & sharing

Tables with 2-2 English- Portuguese

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I was not in sync with the three "key issues"

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

The Leadership sharings seemed to be mostly about lack of mutuality or personality problems and not so useful to me as if their focus was more about the effectiveness of the work of this arrangement. A lot of time was devoted to this I believe would have been better used for the big picture of the purpose of the Gathering.



# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Sharon O'Neil

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

Being and sharing at a small table with five, rather than the long tables where the opportunity to share was limited.

It was also helpful and a pleasure to have a Brazilian sister with us.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

The terms that were somewhat new, for example Context and Container. I reviewed the information in "Graced Crossroads"

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Use the format mentioned in #1, that is work in a small and varied group of participants.

Thank you for providing snacks and coffee, etc.

Thank you, Ted and Beth for your dedicated to our Congregation.

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Margaret Magee

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

Table conversations and being at a mixed language table.

Breaking into Regions and having others at table that I hadn't had the opportunity to share with.

Liturgies, especially Joe's bilingual, adds to the respect for our various languages. The simplicity of the liturgies & having friars preach.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

Not always having time to address matters that arise in open forums. I spoke with individuals to continue a conversation or set up time to continue.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Continue getting input and feedback from sisters  
Clarify participation of Associates and Partners in Mission  
if Zoom is used for Assemblies or hybrid, more time may be needed for inclusion and participation of those on Zoom.

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Avril Chin Fatt

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

I appreciate the clarity of the Gathering process. Went better than I had anticipated. Could see the CARE skills in practice in dealing with the issues, and having differing views and perspectives voiced in a respectful and harmonious manner.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

The IT glitches. I would suggest we hire a professional company to do this for Chapter.

Regret that we were not able to address the leadership issue as we did with completion and vocations.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

The pacing of activities has to be eased. Many of us found 6+ hours rather intensive. Though CARE is supposed to help with communication, I believe much more is needed so that all sisters are kept in the 'loop'. Many thanks for the experience of this week!

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Teresita DeSouza

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

Thank you for organizing this Gathering. It was both meaningful and helpful to get to know the sisters with whom I shared at the table. I think that despite the fact of our aging there is obviously a thought process in our sisters that is clear, meaningful, and serves us a Congregation into the future. The level of trust was quite evident.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

The "time table" was tight.

I was happy for the extra time on Friday and Saturday mornings.

I also ensured that I walked outdoors. I am an outdoor/nature person.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

The roadmap to General Chapter is clear, well thought out and connects with what we have been doing in CARE - definitely a sense of journeying, with the hope that "We will get there". I would like to support the need to find ways to invite our Associates and partners to the parts of Chapter appropriate for their presence. This has been one of our "steps in the journey forward"... their participation in our life and mission. Thank you. God Bless you.

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Rosemary Higgins

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

I experienced renewed commitment to our unity. Sharing of the letters was a highlight because it was so personal and showed our common charism.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

As a whole I was comfortable with the process. The sisters in the table group were honest, supportive and open. Bill was a good interpreter.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Some discussion can only be made by "members". We are the ones who live the live. I appreciate the wisdom of non members.

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Pat Klemm

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The discussions regarding completion and vocations with the Brazilian sisters. I felt some growth in mutual understanding. Our table sharing was valuable. All country members brought insights.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I minded the length of the meetings each day. The brain gets "fried" with so much talk, talk, talk. Even the "prayers" were overly wordy. I missed having periods of contemplative silence, the "prayers" did not feel like prayers but a re-run of Franciscan history.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

I prefer things like songs and prayers to be in both languages. I can attempt to sing along if I have the Portuguese words along with their translations! I appreciated our table conversations. I would recommend that the process group listen to Maria Cimperman's description of the process used at the Synod - it was very strong involving table participation.

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Miriam Nogales Vargas

### 1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.

The entire process was good

### 2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?

Everything was good. However, we still can so much better. Transportation was a little disorganized.

### 3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?

The entire program was good and looks like it's going to help us to move smoothly.

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Barbara Bartkowiak

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

I appreciated the Brazilian sharing. The opening prayers were well done and inspiring.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I struggle with all the words that are not part of my vocabulary or thinking. I did approach some sisters for understanding.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

We have 170 Associates listed in Brazil / Directory and 104 (?) from US & Jamaica. So since there are 274 (?) + or - Associates we need to include them more. I feel they are our future.



# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Elaine Cote

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The content and conversations were very enlightening and life giving!

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

It's just hard to vision our future in our present reality. However, this process is helping me to be more open to see the future in a brighter way with new visions! Could use a little STAND UP BREAK between breaks!

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

I do not feel Associates or Partners in Mission should participate fully in our 2025 Chapter - some issues YES but all NO. There will be family business that will pertain to us ONLY. Thank you!

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Lois Christopher

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

I appreciated all the info provided, all the time of preparation, etc...

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

However, in providing the above TOO much was discussed, TOO long each day - hours less better

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

I recommend that our Chapter should include a HALF HOUR break for PRAYER (private) - not at the start or end of day but at an IMPORTANT TIME so all will be sitting and quiet in the space we spend for the meetings (no break time).

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Liz Schumacher

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

Seeing all the sisters

Hearing the Brazilians singing

Having a "cafe" in the Conference Room

Enjoying the sharing at the assigned table

Hearing that there are many areas of consensus

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

Schedule of meetings, no real time for reflection or a time to just take a break long enough to shift from "doing" meeting things.

Time away from meetings is "meeting time," it helps with the processing.

I just tried to make the best of it.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Plan break intervals other than (coffee + restroom), the breaks we did have.  
Have lunch break go 2 hours.

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Pat Reid

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The morning prayer and Franciscan flavor. The translation into portuguese, english, spanish. The attentiveness to the needs of the group - (?), clarification

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

That the process is ours directed by the Spirit (Holy) with the help of Beth and Ted. It's not a done deal!

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Encourage honesty and transparency esp in the Regional Gathering and remember confrontation is positive/growth.

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Helen Roberts

### 1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.

"video" - clear - concise - NOT overwhelming

appreciation of all planners

### 2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?

TIME - to process all (full day) input

Length of day

Used "loving confrontation" skill to redirect gossip

Took personal time to re-energize

Talked with members of leadership

### 3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?

REGIONAL GATHERINGS (especially January 2025)  
Question? Zoom? (Travel from Massachusetts difficult)

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Cathy Cahill

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

Table conversations, seeing us use CARE skills. Leadership input - describing their experience honestly & humility

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

So many words, so much talking - felt an "overload". Midday breaks seemed rushed. I left my evenings free for rest.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Weave in some periods of silence/quiet/reflection

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Patricia Sheeran

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

Unraveling the feelings of the sisters from Brazil related to the concept of "domination". Reading our letters to a group which I hope will be summarized in some way.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

Wading through the language challenges. It was difficult to have to listen to another language and then the translation. It was better when the translator summarized what had been shared. It also saved time and we didn't have to listen to the sharing in 2 languages.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

I found trying to pay attention to two languages very difficult. It was much easier when we shared in our own language and then it was summarized for the other language group. The Zoom language translator did not seem to work or make a difference as nothing changed. It would be great if we could see the English translation as the other person shared in a different language. More small breakout group sharing would also be helpful with a summary to the larger group.

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Trinita Solnek

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The open dialogue facilitated by Ted & Beth. The attention to the different cultures. Being able to stay at the Motherhouse. The friendliness and helpfulness of the staff - in all areas.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

Not eating too much in my effort to stay awake in the afternoons. :-)

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

That a member of the planning committee be present at all Jamaica meetings. I support the participation of the Associates and Partners in Mission in our chapter in all aspects.



# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Nancy Chiarello

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

I found it most helpful in dialoging about what is in our hearts, not our heads. I felt a sense of hope for an "unknown future" but a desire for new life. I found myself more informed about the different concerns of Bolivia and Jamaica. Hearing the voices of my sisters in Brazil.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I struggled with the word "closure". I spoke with the sisters at my table to help me understand that closure was not termination but an ending of what was in order for new life to begin.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

To think outside the "box" of Rule/Constitution or Canon Law

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Joan Burke

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

being able to get to know the Brazilians and be exposed to their thinking - also the openness with which the sisters spoke.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Judith Terrameo

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

- 1) I appreciated the process of engaging in small group discussion at the tables as it was not as overwhelming for me as doing large group sharing. We had a very good honest and open discussion in our group.
- 2) I appreciated the conversation around domination in US with Brazil and within Brazil among older/younger sisters

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

My greatest struggle during the gathering was the length of the days. I know it was necessary so that we could cover everything. I slept in one morning and it gave me energy to continue.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

We had a lot of conversation about our future and the need to intentionally engage with partners in ministry, as well as associates. I believe their involvement is critical to our future mission.

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Odette Haddad

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

That we are finally fleshing out concerns that have been before us for years - and we listened to each other!

Check in and Check Out at tables

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

Feeling rushed at the end. I realize we had topics that surfaced that required unplanned time.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

- 1) Address inclusion of Associates and Partners in Mission
- 2) I have difficulty not including them in ALL of Chapter as they will eventually be carrying on our mission and charism - this will probably happen in Jamaica sooner than the rest of the Congregation.
- 3) Thanks for an excellent and directional gathering!

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Mary Ellen Tucker

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

It was helpful to remain at the same table for the daily sessions. A level of trust was formed and sharing/feedback made easier.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I didn't have any particular struggle other than some sessions being too long without a break. A few minutes to stretch in place would be helpful.

I also struggled with putting the feedback in the portals. I seemed to have problems with the tablets/computers. My solution was to use my own laptop! One even printed backwards - Steve couldn't figure it out either!

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

My suggestion in the future - have a better way of reporting through the portals. Not the most skilled but willing! The format of the gathering was good - continue with it if possible.

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Janette Regan

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

It was the most wonderful meeting for me because I was able to communicate with the sisters from Brazil

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

I thought the membership of Chapter Planning looked very much like US domination. I understand they can't change it now but I hope there will be more equality in the future.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

No feedback, just obrigada, gracias, thank you very much for all you're doing for the congregation. Please excuse my writing but my hand shakes.

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Marlene Weidenborner

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

- a) Assembly of the "Whole" - or approaching it. Exposure to our interculturality - in words but especially in thoughts!
- b) Clarification of how divergent our thoughts are, even within a Region, on the issues! Lots of work to do.
- c) Being together! Sorrow for those who became ill.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

- a) Organization, adherence to the schedule
- b) Translation. Why did we have headsets?
- c) length of day
- d) New ideas w/ no time for processing w/in self. Some people need time.
- e) Response to the tragedies

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

- a) need to work out role of Associates and Partners in Mission
- b) REALISTIC schedule
- c) role of the Chapter Planning Comm AND its schedule
- d) develop BEST use of pre-chapter assemblies so we are better prepared when we get to Chapter
- e) develop some structure to assist elected leadership

# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Margaret Foley

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

Meaningful meeting sisters from Brazil for the first time. Having meaningful conversations with my sisters throughout the congregation. I appreciated the opportunity to voice my heart and listen to my sisters' hearts. I did not feel rushed in conversations.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

In the beginning, the length of the meeting day and continual focus because of deep conversation caused my brain to be sore. I developed an action plan to stay healthy in mind, body, and spirit so I could remain well and stay in the conversation, and keep my voice at the table.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Circle leadership was a focus by the congregation that was discussed in clusters several years ago. Could this be a possibility to be discussed in the future of the congregation?



# FEEDBACK

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*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”  
James Baldwin*

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## Dolores O'Brien

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

Prayer time- reflections helped me focus

Opportunities to share with eachother

Reading our letters revealed what was on our hearts, not our heads

Being together always makes me happy

I felt very comfortable with the members of my table

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

Schedule was too tight for me. Because of the # of us, it took longer to settle.

First gathering was much too confusing. I let go of my feelings of frustration and hoped for the best, and it did get better.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

I would have liked to be able to see responses on the portal.

# FEEDBACK

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James Baldwin*

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## Kathleen Stagnaro

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The time to share at the tables - very powerful and these times gave us a way to bond with each other and better understanding of how alike we are - my table had 2 Brazilians - I learned much about their views and their struggles and joys.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

The schedule was way too tight - I know we had a lot to cover but there was also time taken up due to Zoom difficulties. Some tasks could be done before the meeting time, ex. giving out papers. How I coped with this - grin and bare it!! :-)

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Be mindful of the sisters needing longer breaks, don't PACK too much in and not have time for adequate dialogue and discernment on these crucial issues. Build in time for communal SILENT prayer in the middle of the schedule - at least 20 minutes - all together. The Holy Spirit needs us to LISTEN, not for us to do all the talking. One of the saints (St. Francis de Sales? I think) said - praying alone is like lighting a twig - praying together is like a bonfire.

# FEEDBACK

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## Toni Pelligrino

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The table sharing was most valuable; I was personally inspired and influenced by what was shared in each session. It was a joy and a blessing to become more acquainted with our sisters from Brazil, Bolivia, and Jamaica.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

The length of the sessions; sitting at a table for hours was a struggle. Couldn't the sessions be trimmed a little to allow some "breathing room"; possibly a few more short breaks?

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

To include the varied levels of participation. In the past, I felt valued as a prayer partner, as a contributing support. Thank you.

# FEEDBACK

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*James Baldwin*

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## Kathy Maire

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

Conversation from the Brazilians regarding internal struggles re: leadership/vocations. Ted's explanation around completion and emphasis on completion as an ongoing process.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

My personal struggle is with individual's conviction that their understanding about vocations) was God's will. I LISTENED.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

I saw the many struggle we had with conversations around 3 critical issues. I do not believe associates/partners adding their voice at Chapter would be helpful. I believe their input before Chapter would be the most effective way to include them.

My own personal plea is to look at our personal participation in cluster/work groups. Distance is prohibitive. Up to 5 hours of travel for meetings. Disappointment that Cong. Leadership did not adequately address difficulties of working as a team. Only Jo made reference to struggle with interaction. Little real progress in addressing 3 critical issues.

# FEEDBACK

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## Ann Wachter

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

I am grateful for the insights into Brazil's situation. It has helped me to realize more we truly are more ONE than I thought. I really need to hear much more from them.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

Mainly weariness. During the breaks and some meals I went back to the Ritiro for space and quiet.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

My prayer and gratitude and if I have feedback that I promise I will share it with them and a willingness to help if I am physically able or perhaps with background things.

# FEEDBACK

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James Baldwin*

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## Maria Miranda

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

Inclusion and hope that moves us towards the future

(Google translated from Spanish. ELW)

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

Pressure from the lack of time to assimilate so much information

(Google translated from Spanish. ELW)

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

Spaces for reflection, personal prayer for an inner strength that drives us to continue walking together

(Google translated from Spanish. ELW)

# FEEDBACK

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James Baldwin*

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## Jo Streva

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The table discussions were not rushed - which gave everyone a chance to be heard and responses given. The time for sharing personal feelings around recent losses for everyone present was a graced time of true community.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

The long evening meetings for committee members - esp with so many personal issues discussed rather than table groups. My level of patience was stretched but tried to understand how the individuals' hurt/pain helped us to see broader congregational needs to be addressed.

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

As we plan, to be aware of number of hours that are reasonable for participants' engagement - include stand-up breaks or some body movements to wake up in late afternoon sessions.

# FEEDBACK

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## Elvira Donaldson

### **1. What was meaningful and/or helpful to you during this Congregational Gathering? Please elaborate.**

The opportunity to be present is much better than Zoom or distance.

### **2. With what did you struggle during this gathering? What did you do to address your struggle or difficulty?**

- a) The sound system for translation had bad interference
- b) Time and space to absorb what we received from translation

### **3. What additional feedback do you want to offer the Chapter planning committee as they begin planning for Regional Gatherings, Discernment processes, and Chapter?**

I would like to have ahead the homilies translated in writing. The spiritual component important for discernment.



# COMMENTS ON YOUR ROLE

## SISTER DAYANNE

## FACILITATOR

It was important for me to be with a more experienced facilitator. We could continue to do that for the next meetings.

Yes, I would like to be a facilitator again

## SISTER ELOÊNIA

## FACILITATOR

Opportunity to promote the participation and voicing of opinions so all could participate  
The meetings on the regional level helped with the discussion of specific subjects related to those regions

The openness to change and the opportunity to speak about that

The prayers helped us to look within ourselves and start new conversations

The work at the table was rather calm, within possibilities available

Meetings at the end of each day, with facilitators and translators, was positive

Yes, I would like to be a facilitator again

## SISTER GOIA

## FACILITATOR

Through the week, I became more patient and paid more attention to my role as a facilitator.

Yes, I would like to be a facilitator again.

## GRACE

## TRANSLATOR

I'm thankful for the opportunity

I learned to switch my mind faster from one language to another

Getting the speaker to pause for translation will. always be a work in progress

Yes, I would like to continue as a translator

## SISTER LILIAN

## FACILITATOR

Being open to changes in the daily agenda, according to the needs that arose, was helpful to deal with important subjects. It was important to have the opportunity for all to participate actively in the discussion of all the topics proposed

Having regional meeting facilitates the urgent discussions of that country

The time allowed for conversation at the tables, especially with the need for translation sometimes did not allow for deeper conversations.

Yes, I would like to be a facilitator again.

## SISTER ONEIDA

## FACIITATOR

I believe that the facilitators helped the members of the group to share and collaborate equally

I learned that I need to be more attentive to each one of the members so that all will participate.

Yes, I would like to be a facilitator again.