



June 27, 2025

Dear Sisters:

Here we go! Our final preparations for Chapter are underway. Sisters and support staff have been working hard to finish the preparations. We are so appreciative of the work you have done in the recent Small Group and Cluster gatherings. We are asking for just a bit more preparation. There are two attachments to this letter that we are asking you to review and reflect upon prior to Chapter:

1. *Where two or more are gathered*
2. *Goals for Chapter*

Where two or more are gathered is an article on discernment and elections. It describes the natural propensity toward “politicking” as the elections draw near, and it offers distinctions between politics and discernment. Please read, ponder and, if possible, discuss this with at least one other person. We do not need your feedback. This is simply an effort to raise your consciousness and aid in your discernment and election during Chapter.

As you will see on the attached Goals for Chapter, we have not included your work on “Completion.” You might recall that Completion was one of the critical issues identified at the Congregational Assembly last summer. During that gathering, we had two inputs and conversations about Completion. This was an eye-opening conversation for many sisters, and it stirred a great deal of interest and new insights. We followed that up with additional input, Small Group, and Cluster gatherings. From this work, we recognized completion not as the end of our Congregation, but as tasks to be done to make room for New Life. We identified the tasks of completion for each country and across the Congregation. We believe that the critical issues identified as one of the Chapter goals are more than enough for us to consider during Chapter. We also believe that our work on Completion needs to be further developed following Chapter because it is so essential for our life in the coming years.

We have received a great deal of feedback from the Small Groups and Cluster gatherings. The final date to have this feedback sent to the CPC is July 3, 2025. Once this feedback is received in its entirety, we will forward you the *Synthesis of the results from Small Group and Cluster Gatherings*. Please

review this synthesis and bring your notes (questions, reactions, insights, etc.) to Chapter. Additionally, the specific responses from each Small Group/Cluster will be posted on the portal if you would like to study them. We will unpack all this material more fully at Chapter. The more prepared you are with this material, the more likely we will gain the needed clarity regarding the emerging model for our leadership and governance.

You will receive a comprehensive schedule for Chapter upon arrival (or just prior to Chapter for those on Zoom). Here are some important scheduling issues to keep in mind (times listed here are EDT):

- **Prior to Chapter**

- The CPC will meet July 23, 24, and 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Facilitators, scribes, resource persons, and translators will meet July 25 from 1:30 to 4:30
- Those involved with the election “procedures” will meet July 25 at 11:00 a.m.
- Discerners will meet July 30 at 1:30 p.m.

- **Chapter Schedule**

- The Retreat with Sr. Meg Guider is considered part of Chapter and will be held July 26, 9:30 – 4:45. A memorial service will be part of the Retreat. Sunday vigil Mass will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m.
- Following the Retreat Day, the formal Chapter sessions will begin Sunday July 27 at 9:30 and end on August 3 at 12:30 p.m.
- Please be in your seats each day by 9:15 a.m. or on Zoom no later than 9:00 a.m.
- Most days will end at 4:45 p.m. However, you have an afternoon off on July 30
 - except for the Discerners who meet at 1:30
- Mass will take place at 8:00 a.m. each day except for 5:00 p.m. Mass on both July 25 and August 2.
- The Mass celebrating the Feast of Portiuncula, along with the celebration and installation of the new Leadership Team, will take place at 5:00 p.m. following the election on Saturday, August 2.

We look forward to being with you at Chapter!

Your CPC,

Chapter Planning Committee

Aldenir Mota Ribeiro, OSF

Clare Bertero, OSF

Dayanne Santana, OSF

Dolores O’ Brien, OSF

Marlene Weidenborner, OSF

Consultants

Beth Lipsmeyer Dunn, Ph.D.

Ted Dunn, Ph.D.