

Draft Cluster Response from – Mary Croghan, Margaret Foley & Liz S.

Group Facilitator: Mary Croghan

Scribe: Liz S.

Q: What are the most important completion tasks that are ours to do as a country? Be specific.

Answer: Develop a plan for our assets, meaning our properties; buildings and finances. Include points (steps) for activation of the plan along with processes for identifying and dealing with the psychological and emotional impact upon sisters resulting from losses and changes.

Q: If we were to accomplish these tasks, what is the New Life we hope could emerge as a result?

Answer: We would have unburdened ourselves from the lack of planning. That is, we would be no longer burdened by the anxiety, uncertainty and probable chaos stemming from our failure to plan. This opens us to New Life – in other words – we gain freedom. This freedom is the freedom to choose how to respond to the need of the times in relation with God's people and God's creation (to paraphrase Mother Teresa O'Neill's directive). It is like putting in place an estate plan. When we take care of preparing our last will & testament, health care proxy and living will, we are freed up for other things. It can serve to widen our spiritual lens and for example, see a ministry in some fashion in order to respond to the growing awareness of spirituality among the laity.

Q: What is the soulwork you need to do, personally and as a country to succeed in these efforts?

Personally: Margaret F.: It is choosing to be a doer.

Personally: Mary C.: To realize I can not do it alone.

Personally: Liz S.: To continually remember to put all of this in God's hands, to be open and willing to adopt ideas from others.

As a country: To all work together with respect and come together as a team. To be more open to our members from other countries. We should not become isolationists. To work to a solution that provides the most sense for our community as a whole.

FACILITATOR: Colleen Brady

SCRIBES: Gwen Melhado, Jo Streva

PARTICIPANTS: Colleen Brady, Joan Carberry, Mary McNally, Alba Luz Mejia Solis, Gwen Melhado, Dolores O'Brien, Pat Shirley, Kathleen Stagnaro, Jo Streva, Marlene Weidenborner.

CLUSTER COMMENTS PRIOR TO DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS: Many of us have shifted our perspectives about "completion" as a process of ongoing planning for future life beyond ourselves. We are presently comfortable living with dignity, while gradually moving toward visioning a future, so new life can arise. Education is needed in our aging process to orient us for current realities and to address questions such as: What are the expectations we have of each other? Are they realistic? If we cannot step up to the expectations, who is going to do it?

What are the most important completion tasks that are ours to do as a country? Be specific.

1. Secure the ongoing needs of all FSA sisters, including healthcare and necessary education in the aging process.
2. Employ needed expertise to develop legal safeguards for FSA finances and properties that will ensure just and equitable stewardship of our assets in line with our FSA vision and values.
3. Continue to address all issues relative to properties and sponsored ministries.

If we were to accomplish these tasks, what is the New Life we hope could emerge as a result?

Sisters will experience more connection to decision-making and desire to achieve together common goals for our future. More opportunities for collaboration will surface with our partners in mission, and other Franciscan-hearted laity. Those who will carry on our legacy will shape the new.

What is the soul work you need to do, personally and as a country, to succeed in these efforts?

Transform personal attitudes and mindsets to embrace detachment and surrender with courage and trust. Deepen our community relationships by caring presence with one

another. Spread the gift of Franciscan spirituality by our witness as gospel women of hope. Empower and engage more laity through networks of Franciscan initiatives and programs.

Facilitator First Name:

Patricia

Facilitator Last Name:

Tyre

Scribe Name:

Avril Chin Fatt

Group Members:

Cathy Cahill, Avril Chin Fatt, Pat Tyre, Maria Pereira dos Santos, Margaret Foley, Miriam Vargas

Question 1:

We would like to see conversations, already started, continue with the aim of arriving at action plans - short term, medium and long term - bringing these to a well thought out completion. For example, with regard to the Perry Ave property in Tampa, a committee is in place to look at various ways the property may be used and possibilities for the time when we no longer have control of said property. Could a foundation or trust be established to ensure continuance of its mission, if such is the final decision?

With regard to Canticle Farm - what is its present status? We hear rumors but nothing factual. Could information be shared re this ministry?

A merging has taken place with the assets of the St Elizabeth Mission Society and the Renodin Foundation. In due time, the biannual distribution of said assets could be handled by a committee of volunteers and the administrative side by the Congregational treasury staff, thus eliminating the need for a separate office and staff.

As such decisions will cause a sense of loss among sisters a process has to be put in place for sisters to grieve such loss and come to let go of what has been and what has been precious to them. This could enable the positive side of moving on.

We need to reflectively seek the counsel and assistance of able and knowledgeable professional lay people to walk with us throughout this period.

As sisters, we ourselves have to begin or continue the conversation of the benefits or drawbacks of aging in place versus going to Allegany.

Hasty reactive decisions should not be made.

Question 2:

Letting go of the above issues would free us to focus on who we really say we are - Allegany Franciscan women vowed to live and give witness to the Gospel life. We would have a shared purpose and wisdom in dialoguing with others in meeting the needs of the times. Developing a deeper relationship with each other, with others and with God is a great gift to be received and shared. It would also help us if spiritual input (e.g. talks/retreats on Franciscan Spirituality) is provided by the Congregation.

Question 3:

This is a time to re-energize, nurture and live our Franciscan spirituality and have it make an impact on the many issues of our time e.g. being peacemakers in a society of division, in a turbulent and violent world; being relational; witnessing to the fact that despite our diversity and differences we can find common ground. It is important to integrate our spirituality with the CARE skills learnt so as to be effective in our relationships. Relationality is an important aspect.

Facilitator: Odette Haddad

Scribe: Susan Sarkissian

Group Members: Trinita Solnek, Teresita DeSouza, Celia Cools-Lartigue, Helen Rose Yee Sang, Lorraine Chen, Grace Yap, Marita Francis Lee, Colleen Chen, Odette Haddad

The Franciscan Sisters of Allegany (FSA) in Jamaica have engaged in a series of discussions to prepare for the upcoming General Chapter in July-August 2025. In response to the Chapter Planning Committee's request, we have reflected on the three key questions.

1. Completion Task: We identified several critical tasks to address as a country:

- **Strategic Planning:** Accelerate the implementation of the strategic plan to ensure timely achievement of objectives.
- **Property Management:** Develop a comprehensive approach for the divestiture or management of properties, including decisions regarding the convent and other assets. These decisions will be made by FSAL and FSA Inc.
- **Legacy and Succession Planning:** Train and empower laity to take over sponsorships and ministries, ensuring the continuity of FSA's mission and values.
- **Care for Aging Members:** Establish plans to support us as we age, including healthcare, living arrangements, and spiritual needs. This includes the possibility of moving the infirmary to the first floor.
- **Crossroads:** We also recognize that we are at the "Crossroads" stage in our Lifecycle, needing to decide whether to continue our current path, or embrace transformation for the future.

2. Envisioned New Life: By accomplishing these tasks, we hope to foster:

- **Revitalization:** A renewed sense of purpose and energy within the community, embracing transformative decisions that may be radical in nature.
- **Sustained Mission Impact:** Continuation and promotion of ministries that benefit the marginalized.
- **Legacy Preservation:** Assurance that the values and mission of FSA are upheld and carried forward by future leaders and collaborators who are competent and qualified. FSA will have direct oversight of these partners as we are able.
- **New Life:** We envision a New Life that builds on our current phase, recognizing that we are at the critical juncture of "Crossroads" and must make deliberate choices to move forward with integrity and faith.

3. Soulwork for Success: To succeed in these efforts, both individually and communally, we have identified that we are on the "Pathway of Fruition" and have chosen to continue on the "Path of Transformation". To support this path, we recognize the need for:

- **Deep Interior Work:** Integrate strategic planning with personal and communal spiritual growth, focusing on who we are becoming rather than solely on our actions.
- **Embracing Transformation:** Cultivate the ability to let go, surrender, and embrace new possibilities, acknowledging that this may involve grieving and allowing space for new growth.
- **Community Nourishment:** Find ways to nourish one another and strengthen community bonds, balancing personal needs with those of the community.
- **Spiritual Practices:** Engage in regular prayer, reflection, and participation in the sacraments to foster spiritual resilience and openness to change.

These reflections demonstrate our commitment to thoughtful preparation for the upcoming Chapter, with a focus on a strategic action, spiritual depth, and community vitality.

Facilitator First name:

Barbara Donna Chris

Facilitator Last name:

Bartkowiak Kane Tenn

Scribe Name:

Barbara Bartkowiak

Group Members:

Barbara Bartkowiak, Donna Kane, Pamela Gelenue, Ann Robiney Chris Tenn 5

Question 1:

Completeion: We have begun the process of downsizing however we do need to look more into e.g. the motherhouse mothball area, property owned on the west by St. Bonaventure Parish (Former baseball field).

Vocations: 1) Proactively we need to implement the cares program to draw vocations. We want to invite the Bonaventure students/professors to visit individual sisters, to help with technology or assist in motherhouse activities. We can invite women to spend a day or time to "Come and See". We can contact the chairperson of the Women's spirituality group to have a day of reflection here.

2) On the other hand if we have interested women what community can they stay with? Where could formation candidates live in community? Maybe young people can be sent to Brazil or Bolivia to experience our community charism.

Leadership; We do want a new paradigm of leaders and members working together with partners in ministry and associates to create a new vision for the future. We would like our associates to be in parity and actually be involved in decisions. We propose the option of associates to live with us for a short time or longer as a paradigm shift. In the past we considered merging with other Franciscan Sisters of the 3rd Order Regular. In the past it did not happen but maybe now smaller groups could merge presenting new leaders, new gifts, new vocations and a new mission.

Question 2:

These suggestions if followed can bring NEW LIFE and transformation.

Question 3:

We need to form Wisdom Circles, Visioning Groups and Group Teams involving leadership, members, partners in ministry, and associates.

We are to continue transformation consciousness through prayer, meditation, and contemplation.

Facilitator First Name:

Rose

Facilitator Last Name:

Berndardt

Scribe Name:

Gloria Oehl

Group Members:

Rose Bernharddt, Dana Hollis, James Peter Goggin, Gloria Oehl, Janet Sullivan

Question 1:

Our completion tasks are to continue to work with Associates and partners in ministry, provision for care of the sick and dying and upkeep of vacation houses.

Question 2:

Our FSA mission will continue, embracing change with a positive mindset. We would find the subsequent collective resurrection for the common good, mission-centered and embrace change in real time adaptability.

Question 3:

We will continue to embrace change and "be not afraid" (Mt. 14:27); responding to the needs (God's call to action). We will continue to dream, re-image and create a new world. We will have an attitude and be ready to risk failure "I have done what was mine to do".

Minores Cluster: Toni Pelligrino, J.Miriam Natale, Michele Dolyk, Elaine Cote, Joyce Ramage, Catherine Kane, Janette Regan, Lucy Cardet

Scribe: Lucy Cardet

Nov. 1, 2024

Facilitator: 1)Toni 2) Janette 3) Joyce (* 3 meetings)

Response to CPC Letter (9-11-24) & Materials: Step 2

1. Having reflected upon, and identified, the **lifecycle “stage”** in which we find ourselves as a country/ USA, our consensus is that we are at a **“crossroads”** with choices to be made. It calls for coming to terms with current realities and discerning real options.

2. Having reflected upon, and identified, the **path** that we are traveling on as a country and as a Congregation, we discussed both fruition and transformation. Having done so, our consensus is that we are continuing to be on **a journey of personal and communal transformation.**

3. The most important **completion tasks** that are ours to do as a country/USA are:
 - a) **To continue to:**
 - ... plan for aging members and buildings,
 - ... transfer sponsorship,
 - ... divest management & ownership of ministries, properties, healthcare & facilities,
 - ... turnover administration to non-members.These are already being explored and addressed by FSA leadership (e.g. engagement & preparation of laity for boards and ministries).
We also discussed canonical & non-canonical leadership as future options.
 - b) To **take time for communal prayer and discernment together.** This could include formation of groups to meet for contemplative prayer and sharing as we seek the guidance of the Spirit and insights on current needs of the people.
 - c) To **promote diversity and interculturality** among FSA and with others. It is a challenge of our times to consider and treat others as equal and **with inclusivity.**
 - d) To **share Franciscan spirituality** with others. We discussed ways that we could engage with others that also promote Franciscan spirit (e.g. Secular Franciscan groups)

- e) To **be willing to “let go” of familiar** locales and way of life in order to foster community life or local needs (perhaps in small groups elsewhere and within the motherhouse).
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- 4. If we were to accomplish these tasks, the **New Life** that we hope could emerge as a result is:
 - a) **Continuation of the work of FSA** but in all different facets of work & of who we are.
 - b) We’d become **brothers and sisters to all people. Intercultural** in all aspects of our lives and interaction with others.
 - c) Greater **openness** to one another & **new ways of responding** to needs of people.
 - d) Formation of **transformational visionary groups** that pray and share together This would also lead to a deeper communal living and being able to ***dream*** again.
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- 5. To succeed in these efforts, we need to do this soul work, personally and communally; we need:
 - a) to **focus on the Spirit** and together review the needs of the people (and our own).
 - b) **to listen to each person** and **discern**, personally and with others. This includes reaching out to others who may have a different outlook to our own.

Cluster Group: Kathie Uhler, Margaret Magee, Cindy Matthews, Helen Roberts, Clare Bertero, and Judithe Terrameo.

1. What are you thinking and feeling regarding the tasks of completion that are your specific tasks to do sooner, rather than later?

We would like to see the Congregation establish a Board of Trustees/legacy group to continue our mission and charism beyond our current members. This would include a foundation to oversee the finances and properties of the Congregation, as well as continued work with the Franciscan Central Archives to ensure the safety of our charism and the good works of the sisters. We also recommend that we hire a CFO and a COO take on financial and administrative duties, allowing for canonical leadership to plan for aging sisters and their care and the spiritual well-being of the Congregation.

We see the possibility of a form of mixed community lifestyle so that FSA would continue as a TOR group.

2. what are you thinking and feeling regarding allocating human and material resources toward seeking vocations?

We are willing to accept vocations with a definite age limit, and good formation, as well as good theological and spiritual training. We are also open to the possibility of temporary commitment — fostering a lay group/organization of men and women, married and single living together. We would like to allocate a budget and invite lay and religious men and women who are interested in developing a faith formation process for Franciscan life and charism, inclusive of all vocations, married, single and vowed.

3. What are you thinking and feeling regarding who is willing and able to serve in Congregational leadership? Are you willing and able to serve in leadership? What in your approach to leadership needs to change so that you will adapt to your current and future realities in the Congregation?

Our cluster group agreed that there is a need for a new model for leadership. There is a need to look outside of the box. This is an important first step before identifying potential leaders. As we move forward, we need to look at our congregational needs — considering diversity, inclusivity, specific need of talents, skills, availability, and interculturality. This may help us to identify leaders from both sisters and lay partners. Critical to the discussion is: who is available? What will be our resources? Viability? It is also important that we look at community life, our spiritual life, care of our sisters and involving more laity to be involved.

Hiring a CFO and a COO was discussed to bring professional expertise to the table. It was also noted that we may need a Constitutional change to better reflect our evolving needs as a Congregation.

We agreed that we need to be aware of different geographical areas and their distinct leadership styles (US, Bolivia, Jamaica, Brazil, and Mozambique) as we move forward.

Cluster Members: Mary Augustini, Anne Casserly, Nancy Chiarello, Margaret Kimmins, Pat Klemm, Kathy Maire(facilitator), Kate Moran, Bernadette Schuler (Scribe)

We agreed upon the most important completion tasks that are ours to do.

We believe we need to continue exploring the transfer of sponsorship especially with Canticle Farm, Franciscan Center, St. Elizabeth Mission Society, and the Renodin Foundation. We believe a foundation should be established to include the Renodin Foundation and St. Elizabeth Mission Society to assure a legacy for the future in carrying on our Franciscan charism.

We would like to see a deepening of our mission with encouragement and resources from leadership; leading to involvement and advocacy in societal and ecclesial arenas with an understanding and acceptance of the implications of that involvement.

We believe New Life will arise when we focus on our Franciscan Gospel life, our Spirituality and our relationships. We agreed we need to explore leadership styles and structures that will facilitate the care of our sisters and a focus on mission. We see the need to participate in the broader community where we live and to have greater involvement in a circular leadership. New enthusiasm and joy would result from mission and being who we are called to be.

As a cluster, our Soul Work would include exploring the dominance discussion begun at the Gathering. We want to connect more with sisters from Brazil, Bolivia, Jamaica and Mozambique to learn more about their cultures. We would explore what motivates them in mission and us with them.

We saw the need for a grieving process to acknowledge our experiences of loss. We could also have a process to celebrate and acknowledge the legacy we are already leaving in all the missions/ministries we have taken on at God's call past and present.

We agreed we need more time in prayer together with time for contemplative silence and deep sharing as a community.

Finally, our Soul Work could include exploring where and how we can bring our presence and Franciscan Spirituality into our present situations, individually, as groups of sisters and as a Congregation.

Facilitator: Ann Wachter

Scribe: Carole Ann Hoppe

Group Members: Lois Christopher, Carole Ann Hoppe, Carol Kenyon, Beth McGinnis, Sharon O'Neil, Chris J Treichel, Ann Wachter

We, as a cluster, choose the path of transformation. We are Franciscans now and Franciscan must be our future. To change the narrative is difficult; however, part of our Allegany Franciscan charism is to be at home with all people. This calls us to be open to evolving forms of membership.

Our Associates are very much a part of our future and together our wisdom has much to offer the world. If we sincerely believe this, there needs to be a “study group” of Sisters and Associates to begin dialogue for future incorporation. It is vital that the Associates be present at the Chapter of 2025.

We need to remember that we are Allegany Franciscans because God called us. In light of this, we need to trust that God may be calling us to be open to new forms of membership. Our cluster suggests that we revisit the “Proposal for an Alternative Form of Membership in the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany,” presented by Jane Kopas and Joan Hoolihan in 1997. Our cluster suggests that we be open to inquiries, to new vocations; however, we suggest that we not be recruiting.

As we discussed leadership, we felt it is important to quote from page 7 of Ted Dunn’s article, “Three Pathways: Implications for Your Critical Issues.” “... invite leaders, members, associates and other partners in mission to participate in dynamic parity with one another, all of them orbiting around an emerging vision.” This will take much courage and trust to let go of the familiar and be open to the transformative journey of the Allegany Franciscans. We are willing to do that.

Facilitator First name:

Mary Ellen Tucker

Facilitator Last name:

Nancy Christopher

Scribe Name:

Mary Lou Lafferty

Group Members:

Joan Burke, Nancy Christopher, Roseanne Duffy, Rosemary Higgins, Mary Lou Lafferty, Melissa Scholl, Gladys Sharkey, Mary Ellen, Tucker

Question 1:

Establish Foundation(s), like AFM's structure, to perpetuate our Mission and Charism through charitable giving. Inclusive, but not limited, would be St. Elizabeth Mission Society and Renodin Foundation. Foundations would be overseen by CEO, COO, CFO and additional staff, as needed.

Review resources that are presently ours...entire Perry Ave. property, Canticle Farm, what will be unused section of St. Bonaventure Cemetery etc and make decisions regarding their future viability for Mission versus our clinging to the past.

Retain St. E's in Tampa as a central location for a variety of uses associated with FSA.

Ongoing inclusion and utilization of the gifts and talents of our Associates, Lay Partners and others.

Question 2:

Deepening of our communal life...Discern what is ours to do now and in the future to continue to live our Franciscan call to a Gospel way of life...involvement in our world, our Church, Mother Earth etc. utilizing platforms such as Laudato Si, the Synod, Catholic Climate Conference etc.

All this would be inclusive in a new form of Leadership where others are involved beyond "the elected".

Retain our concept of "one Congregation" with understanding the legalities of each country. Name the Sisters'/Congregation's fears, hopes and dreams and keep open communication and decision making so that all are included in creating our future.

Question 3:

Further explore the “dominance” discussion begun at the Gathering and make closure whether it’s between countries, within a country or total Congregation, and make a peaceful closure through a reconciliation service at the beginning of Chapter.

Acknowledge and grieve our losses...Sisters, Ministries, Friends etc and celebrate all the lives that have been touched through our FSA Mission and Charism.

Continue to spread our Franciscan Spirituality by being more inclusive with our Associates, FSA Partners and others with Franciscan minds and hearts.

Facilitator First name:

Sr. Lillian Cristina

Facilitator Last name:

Pinheiro

Scribe Name:

Sr. Aparecida Guimarães

Group Members:

Sr Lillian, Sr Cleise, Sr Mariana, Sr Socorro Rabelo, Sr Valdeci, Sr Aparecida

Question 1:

- Make partnerships with other congregations that are in the same situation;
- Partnerships with lay people;
- Start an experience of associating more with the Sisters of Mary Immaculate or others Religious congregations - that would be a start to transformation.
- We need to be more open to joining other groups of women religious. We are very closed.
- We have to work on our closure not only to other groups of women religious, but also in relation to laypeople and associates.
- Renewed leadership, don't keep re-electing the same sisters, this doesn't help the process of transformation
- We're very hierarchical, we leave everything to the leadership.
- Deepening and cultivating our Franciscan spirituality, meditation, community prayer, seeking spiritual guidance, how important it is to be strong within ourselves. Over time we lose these values.
- Our priority shouldn't be vocation promotion, but cultivating spirituality and faith in ourselves.
- Another priority should be to heal our personal and interpersonal relationships, relationships with ourselves, with our history and with the people who have hurt us and whom we have hurt throughout our lives.
- Do healing and forgiveness work just as CARE drives us to do.

Question 2:

→ Regarding leadership: stop rotating the same people in leadership, and put people in place who are capable of helping the sisters enter into this process of transformation looking to the future.

Leadership with this vision of transformation, of the future.

→ Leadership means participating together, helping to make decisions. Being an active part of this decision-making and participation.

→ A renewed leadership that helps in this process of transformation and change, as well as an Initial Formation Team of young, well-prepared Sisters.

→ Leadership that is encouraging and that circulates among all the sisters a work of knowledge, of self-knowledge, of collective decisions - that this be practiced and set as a goal, because we are in a very difficult time in which decisions are made without the participation of the sisters, it is also a way for the leadership to feel supported by the participation of all in the decisions made.

→ If we manage to do all this work, these tasks, we'll be able to dream together, be excited, engaged in this process of change.

→ Completing a stage is not finishing, but opening the door to a new stage.

→ We'll have restored relationships, people will feel good about being with us.

→ A new way will emerge, new criteria for living in communities, a new way of being Minister, treasurer, columnist, etc.

Question 3:

→ Invest in personal, community and congregational conversion;

→ A new way of doing things emerges.

→ Learning to work in groups.

→ United and collective leadership.

→ Open yourself up to what's new and different.

→ Let go of the places you've lived;

→ Really commit to personal and community change to better serve in places unknown.

→ Prepare to face the challenges.

→ You need to go through the process of letting things die in order to make something new sprout, believing in the new, in the different that is possible and letting it expand.

→ Work, dialog and listen to the people involved.

→ Commit personally, collectively, in the community, in the place where we live, to finding solutions that will help us to serve better.

→ Associate with another religious group, valuing and respecting what has already been built by the religious group. See what we can learn from them and what we can teach them.

→ If there is a collective closure it is because there is an individual closure, so the work of the soul must be this openness and welcoming of the other, both personal and communal.

→ Preparing for a new phase of religious life and seeking the means to continue, the values of other groups in general.

Facilitator First name:

Liliane

Facilitator Last name:

Araújo

Scribe Name:

Neides

Group Members:

Cleusa, Liliane, Maria Ângela, Neides, Patrícia Reid, Solange.

Question 1:

We need to conclude (close) some missions and prioritize others in decentralized communities, investing in projects especially with young people, women and the vulnerable.

- Some projects need to be revitalized, for example, the BROTHER AND MOTHER EARTH PROJECT and ASSOCIATES: investing and specifying their roles and participation in our missionary apostolates.
- Conclude the way of running the Franciscan Peace and Good formation center in Anápolis and do something new.
- Invest in the formation of the sisters, preparing them to be formators.
- Investing in the Centro Educacional São Francisco de Assis de Palmas and in the Sisters, through academic formation to take on this educational mission, which is our only work. Through the Pastoral Care of Education we reach out to students, parents, staff, the whole community, etc?
- Conclude the ADMINISTRATIVE responsibilities of the REGIONAL MINISTER, handing over these tasks to other capable, honest and efficient people, with the aim of the REGIONAL MINISTER being available to attend to and guide the Sisters who seek her out or are in the missions.
- Conclude the authoritarian small group that undermines fraternity; this issue must be resolved and there needs to be conversion for change to happen.

Create a Vocations Office with a Sister in charge of feeding social networks to spread the Congregation's charism.

Question 2:

We're hoping for a new spirit and new vigor to attract new vocations.

- Courage for personal and community conversion that will help us to live fraternity more fully.
- Improve our communication and dialog in local communities.
- The Sister Councillors will be more willing to accept the division of labor and take on the task as a team.
- Pastoral work will not be a priority for the councilors, but rather face-to-face council meetings. They may be available for the Brazil region.

Question 3:

Return to the path of spirituality, because it is what keeps us on the mission.

- Intimacy with God, through personal and community prayer.
- Collaborate with GOD'S GRACE, give and receive forgiveness.
- Participate in ASSEMBLIES, RETIRES and put our gifts at the service of the Region and the Local community.

Facilitator First name:

Marinêz

Facilitator Last name:

Arantes da Silva

Scribe Name:

Eloenia Soares da Mota

Group Members:

Ediht, Abadia, Stella, Isa, Magarida

Question 1:

- Discern and ask ourselves the question: What does the Church really ask of us today, as Franciscan Sisters of Allegany?
- Prioritize some activities and missions and close down those that are not within our reach or that the people can manage without our presence. (Survey the reality of all the missions to be presented and together make the appropriate decisions)
- Balancing "prayer and work", as well as the distribution of the Sisters in the Missions.
- Investing as market opportunities present themselves. Closing activities or reorganizing them so that they meet our charism and are more sustainable from a human and financial point of view. (Recanto Franciscano - Caldas Novas, Chácara Mãe Admirável, Centro Paz e Bem, Apartamentos).
- Reviewing and evaluating our fraternal life and our witness to life as Franciscan religious, and living our spirituality.
- To seek a better balance between services and ministries, not just inwardly, to open ourselves up to be with the people.
- Re-evaluate the financial dimension in fraternities - live more equally.

Question 2:

- We will have a life that is more coherent with what we set out to live;
- All causes will be taken up together, with the greater good in mind;
- Jesus continues to call young people to consecrated religious life. A transformation in the way we live could attract more young people to the mission.
- The desire and will to follow Jesus Christ, obedient, poor and crucified, are fundamental points, as St. Francis of Assisi did. For us too, it can be an attraction for young people to remain in the congregation and to live our charism more fully.
- We will improve our spirituality and fraternal experience.
- We will be better able to live the synodality that the Church proposes;
- The mission will become more meaningful to us;
- We will take care of our financial assets in a more Franciscan and responsible way.

Question 3:

- Transform the way we think;
- Be willing to truly live what our charism proposes;
- Be positive;
- Fight pessimism, fear and complacency;
- Believe in each other more;
- Letting go of what holds us back and prevents us from taking meaningful steps in accordance with the Kingdom's calls.

Facilitator First name:

Maria Isabel

Facilitator Last name:

Pereira

Scribe Name:

Maria Helena dos Santos

Group Members:

Ana Bernadete, Teresinha(Thê), Guiomar, Maria da Paz, Valdete

Question 1:

- * Continue the process of regional planning: evaluate the journey of the communities (mission and ministries) before making decisions;
- * Living as a region: synodality; openness to the participation of all the sisters in matters and decisions that affect them all;
- * to talk about, guide and share the possibilities and realities of the ministries that exist in the community where the sister will be living in her new mission;
- * listen to Sister (all), we are part of life and life in and of the Congregation;
- * change requires: prayer, spirituality, participation and conversation;
- * We Sisters need to be motivated, encouraged to read good books, to create spaces to socialize and exercise Franciscan spirituality;
- * Determine together the mission and ministries assumed as a Region

Question 2:

- * We hope to have a better rapport, renewing hope, creating space for a fraternal, transparent, sincere experience of communion;
- * Finding meaning in what I'm doing today, having an open, honest, transparent conversation with the leadership. Going on a mission with clear objectives, deciding together;
- * If there is no conversion, the fruits will not come: from ecclesial commitment; prophetism; being on the existential peripheries;
- * affectionate, loving, welcoming presence, shared leadership from all the leaders;
- * being an ecclesial religious, living the Gospel and always asking: why am I here? What feeds my hope?
- * going beyond living together, living: empathy; Franciscan spirituality.

Question 3:

- * Understanding, accepting the situation I'm in, recognizing my limits and gifts;
- * Continuing to believe that I can change, freeing myself from my imprisonment, listening, listening to God and to the other person;

- * I have a life, I have thoughts, I need to take the initiative to change - (for change to happen, it only depends on me), not to depend on or wait for the constituted leadership;
- * Getting out of ourselves: evangelizing, reflecting, listening, taking an interest, caring for the life of the sister;
- * Personal and community conversion;
- * Openness to processes and changes.

Facilitator First name:

Dayanne

Facilitator Last name:

Santana

Scribe Name:

Geane Araujo

Group Members:

Edir dos Santos/ Jerônima/ Ana Cristina/ Paula Maria/ Dayanne Santana/ Geane Araujo

Question 1:

Conclusion tasks analyzed by our group are: Financial issues, the way money is shared in the communities. There are sisters who want to stay in missions where they can receive a salary (because they will be able to contribute), the triangulation in relationships which makes fraternal life difficult, being realistic with the number of ministries and putting the number of sisters on the scale and how difficult it is to transfer because of relationships. Review our structure. The leadership is too busy with infrastructure, with the goods, it feels worn out and ends up neglecting relationships, the members and the spiritual part. Letting go of attachments to ideas.

Question 2:

The new life we hope for is that we will have a lighter fraternal life, more ease in transfers, more authentic sisters, stronger, more human, more understanding and become more true to each other. This movement will bring forth new fruit through our witness of personal and community life.

Question 3:

Personal soul work - Exercising more in opening our hearts to the new and to God every day, exercising self-knowledge, recognizing our weaknesses and the weaknesses of others, deepening our Franciscan spirituality. Being present, being transparent and being open to active listening. Region- To forgive each other, to never stop working on relationships, to be yourself in front of the leadership, to recognize physical limits and to welcome the proposals that come from the leadership.

Facilitator First name:

Goianira

Facilitator Last name:

Silva

Scribe Name:

Maria José

Group Members:

Iolanda Maria/ Socorro Rosal/ Jaiane Cerqueira/ Oneida das Graças/ Maria José / Goianira Silva

Question 1:

Reflecting on our current situation optimistically and realistically to discover how we can overcome the curve is necessary: letting go of things from the past; our ideas, our certainties, ministries and missions. Welcoming our limitations with joy and optimism. Welcome lay people to work with us as partners. Seek partnerships with other congregations or similar groups.

Consolidating ministries and getting involved in leadership formation. Investing in incoming vocations. Planning for ageing. Treat the conclusion as a time of change in structure. Training for leadership, making special use of regional assemblies; strengthening the Brazil Region, i.e. taking care of finances, vocations and the sisters. Finances: Partnerships in the finance team with constant reports. Vocations: a sister who is released and receives what is necessary for the work. Fraternal visitation and regional assemblies to share life and mission. Leaving missions that we can clearly see cannot continue. For example: Macajuba - Bahia, there is no contribution from the parish and a small number of sisters.

Question 2:

More lightness in our structures. Greater cooperation with other congregations so that the kingdom of God can be spread far and wide. Harmony in the fraternities. Greater organization. Greater financial equality between sisters and fraternities. New vigor and hope.

Renewed willingness of sisters to serve in all positions and missions, especially in leadership. Sisters available for other missions with the possibility of new fruit.

Question 3:

Personal and community conversion: getting out of the personal "I" and into the congregational "we". Being open, having courage, a desire to see the new happen. Having affection, that is, creating bonds with everything, not just with people, but above all with all of creation. Working with things and events in the best possible way. Respect, knowing how to see and pay attention to everything that comes our way. Organizing and prioritizing agendas and advisors in advance and using technological means. Seeking out and believing in partnerships. Each sister recognizing her own limits and understanding that the mind may be fine, but the body can't cope. Work on opening ourselves up to a new reality.

Facilitator First name:

Sr. Aldenir

Facilitator Last name:

Mota Ribeiro

Scribe Name:

Sr. Rosimeire Dias Noletto

Group Members:

Eurípedes Irías - Iosita Freitas - Maria Antônia Mota Ribeiro - Rita Cecília Coelho - Terezinha Oliveira

Question 1:

- Knowing what God wants from us, being attentive to His calls
- Read and take note of the content read, welcoming suggestions and requests from the Franciscan process of participation by all.

To combat the obstacles that hinder fraternal life, promote the habit of reading Franciscan documents and documents of the Congregation in order to make fraternal life a priority.

- Engaging with each other's problems, trying to be fraternal, participatory, empathetic, available and prayerful. Practicing listening, believing in the other, and living synodality.

In order for there to be a healthy community life, it is necessary to eliminate the excess of external work, thus making time available for healthy relationships, empathy, seeking to deepen listening, prayer and the experience of synodality.

- Decentralize the civil work - AFIA, from the religious IFA's, made possible by the process of splitting the two institutions, reducing the burden on the Regional Leadership so that the Minister can accompany the life of the Sisters in the missions.
- When she arrives in a diocese, the Sister presents her gifts and possibilities so that they can be adjusted to community life and action, looking for the way forward by continuing the previous work.
- Change through proactive planning.
- Celebrate life more often when the time is right.
- Recognize your own pain, in order to heal yourself with the power of prayer.
- Discover a sense of security and belonging to the community in order to eliminate rumors and use social networks as a tool for responsible work and communication.

- Assets of the Region: set up a Regional Commission with competent and experienced advisors to make the best use of spaces and buildings, in view of the Common Good and the Kingdom of God.

Question 2:

Sisters aware of their call to Consecrated Religious Life, committed to the calls of the Church and the Congregation, more serene in pastoral service, with less stress and confident that the result is from God. Witness to religious life in every sense, starting with attitudes as women of the Church, in observance of the documents of the Congregation which, when fulfilled, make the vows more faithful.

The New Life that is expected as a result is the ability to plan and complete the tasks necessary for the new to flourish. The type of leadership at this crossroads is fundamental to the development and growth of the person in the formation community. We hope to seek the path of fruition that knows how to plan well with creativity and wisdom so that the members feel safe and supported.

Following the path of the Gospel in transformation, it is important to create a new paradigm for living fraternal life and carrying out the mission. Create structures, mentalities and practices with Franciscan Christian values.

To this end, we hope that creative, sincere, zealous Leaders will emerge from this, capable of animating the group, committed to a world vision, capable of harmonizing conflicts and guiding means of transformation. Members participating in co-creation, with a new vision and great COURAGE to create space for the NEW that is waiting to be born.

Question 3:

Always seek conversion in Christ and in St. Francis; get to know the human religious reality; live with the poor and create strategies that lead Brazil to value its people, without losing its Christian Franciscan identity; free yourself from fear, insecurity about the future, believing that God's call is a free blessing; get to know Religious Life, the history and life of the Church, the witness of many Franciscan women who put themselves at the service of the Kingdom. To believe in this special moment of grace; not to resist seeking spiritual direction; to welcome God's care for us.

If all the Sisters embrace the path of transformation, the Region will move forward in the process of changing structures, a transformative vision starting from Initial Formation and, certainly, the fruits will be abundant in numbers and commitment to the Congregation, to the Church and to themselves... In this way we will sing the joy of being women of the Church, happily at the service of God's people.

REFLECTIONS: SISTERS IN BOLIVIA

1. What are the most important tasks that we must carry out as a country? Be concrete.

In the light of the Gospel and our Franciscan spirituality, we recognize that our presence in Bolivia **is coming to an end and** aware of this reality, we are considering **the closure of the mission in Bolivia.**

In this sense, we are in the process of preparing the laity, giving them greater responsibility in our pastoral ministry. The Congregation never had its own works in Bolivia; that is, we did not have institutions sustained by the Congregation.

2. If we were to perform these tasks, what is the New Life that we expect to emerge as a result?

With the hope that encourages us we would like to explore **the option of moving to Allegany** and from our skills continue to contribute to new forms of pastoral ministry, such as teaching Spanish to children who wish to learn or other needs.

3. What is the soul work that must be done, personally and as a country, to succeed in these efforts?

Trust in Divine Mercy and prepare ourselves to take on the new with an open mind and heart.

One aspect that facilitates this transition is that we have no institutions other than the house where we live.

This transition process is painful, but time and patience are our support.

Peace and good!