

December 2, 2024

Dear Sisters,



May this season of Advent be a time of blessed hope, peace and joy!

Gathered on November 22-23, 2024, in Bolivia, Brazil, Jamaica, and the U.S., in person or via Zoom, we engaged our minds and hearts across the Congregation to delve into conversations about the critical issue of leadership. In addressing the questions before us, we surfaced our thoughts and feelings about the current way members and leaders function, what changes might be possible, and how we can create more inclusive and life-giving member-leader relationships.

During the sessions, we combined the content of Ted's three video presentations, entitled "The Big Picture," "Transformative Partnerships," and "Discernment and Election Processes" with varied perspectives and suggestions voiced in our small groups. As groups deepened their exploration of new approaches, and shared their conclusions at open forums each day, a growing energy, enthusiasm, and affirmation for choosing a new paradigm was evident in each location and among Zoom participants. Several sisters expressed their appreciation for the depth of group conversations and the personal presence and engagement of each sister. Many also declared that they are eagerly anticipating the next Regional Gathering, scheduled for January 10-11, 2025, to further explore our call to personal and communal transformation.

Attached is a Summary/Synthesis of group responses submitted during these gatherings for your review and reflection. May we continue to pray for one another as we await the humble birth of Jesus in our hearts and communities.

Peace and all good,

Colleen Brady
Margaret Magee
Cindy Matthews
Dolores O'Brien
Aldenir Mota Ribeiro
Melissa Scholl
Marinêz Arantes da Silva
Judith Terrameo
Marlene Weidenborner

Liliane Araujo Costa
Kathy Maire
Gwen Melhado
Lilian Christina Pinheiro
Dayanne Rodrigues Santana
Bernadette Schuler
Jo Streva
Pat Tyre

Consultants: Ted and Beth Lipsmeyer Dunn