

Final Reflection: Synthesis of Results

What might our country wish to share with sisters in other countries for them to more fully understand and appreciate our reality? What might we wish to know of sisters in the other countries?

Synthesis: Brazil

Five Key Points Sisters in the Brazil want sisters in other countries to know

1. The Brazilian sisters feel a stronger bond with each other and with sisters from other countries after participating in the CARE process.
2. They recognize the influence of Brazilian culture on their ministries and religious life, and the impact of the congregation's demanding structure on their mission.
3. Despite language challenges, they believe in the possibility of working together towards common goals and the future of the congregation.
4. They highlight the positive impact of recent workshops on interpersonal relationships, which have fostered meaningful conversations and healing.
5. The presence of sisters from the USA facilitating their regional meetings has been greatly appreciated and has helped bring sisters from different countries closer together.

Three Key Things Sisters in the Brazil Want to Know About Sisters in Other Countries

1. **Leadership and Common Home:** There is curiosity about the perspectives on leadership and the vision for a shared global mission.
2. **Regional Leadership in the US:** There is interest in understanding the experience of US sisters who do not have regional leadership.
3. **Collaboration with the Laity in Jamaica:** There is a desire to learn about the methods and experiences of working with the laity in Jamaica, particularly how they prepare and partner with the laity in mission work

Synthesis: United States

Five Key Points Sisters in the United States want sisters in other countries to know.

1. **We are equals:** Despite the perception of superiority, U.S. sisters see themselves as equals within the Congregation and respect the diverse experiences of sisters globally.
2. **Aging and diminishment:** The U.S. sisters face significant challenges related to aging and diminishing numbers. One of implications of this reality is that sisters in the U.S. talk more about “completion” than other countries.
3. **Language Barriers:** Language barriers exist, making it difficult for U.S. sisters to engage fully with sisters from other countries.
4. **Finances:** Financial management in the U.S. involves communal sharing of income, with modest personal and household funds distributed uniformly among sisters.
5. **Sharing and Support:** Many of the sisters in the United States live singly. Given this reality, sisters remain dedicated to sharing their resources and supporting the Congregation’s mission.

Three Key Things Sisters in the United States Want to Know About Sisters in Other Countries

1. **Ministries, Joys, and Challenges:** Sisters in the U.S. are interested in learning about the various ministries their counterparts in other countries are engaged in, as well as their experiences, joys, and challenges.
2. **Future Readiness and Planning:** They want to understand how the younger sisters in countries like Brazil and Jamaica are preparing for the future, especially in terms of leadership and self-sufficiency when the U.S. sisters are no longer present.
3. **Cross-Cultural Impact and Updates:** There is a desire for more information about the cultural values, traditions, and historical context of sisters in other countries, as well as updates on significant issues like financial planning and the impact of local government policies on religious life.

Synthesis: Jamaica

Five Key Points Sisters in the Jamaica want sisters in other countries to know about them

1. **Collaborative Leadership:** The Jamaican community has a unique, collaborative leadership structure called the Jamaica Coordinating Team (JCT), which includes both laypeople and sisters working together.
2. **Lay Involvement:** Jamaica has established the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany Limited (FSAL) to ensure lay involvement in their mission and legacy, aiming for laypeople to manage the congregation's future operations.
3. **Integration with Lay and Other Religious Communities:** The sisters in Jamaica have a history of living closely with laypeople and other religious communities, fostering mutual sharing and support.
4. **Violence and Refuge:** Despite the struggles with violence in Jamaica, the sisters provide an oasis of peace and spiritual refuge for the community, offering prayers and support to those in need.
5. **Spiritual Oasis:** The community is seen as a spiritual oasis with people continually engaging the sisters for prayers and mass intentions, highlighting their role as people of prayer (e.g., utilization of the space at Immaculate).

Three Key Things Sisters in the Jamaica Want to Know About Sisters in Other Countries

1. How do sisters in Brazil and Bolivia carry out their Franciscan ministries, especially with limited resources and challenges?
2. What are the stages of completion for the sisters in the US, Bolivia, and Brazil?
3. How are the sisters in Bolivia coping with the prospect of transitioning from their home, culture, and country to the United States?

Synthesis: Bolivia

Sisters in the Bolivia want sisters in other countries to know about them

Bolivia is a small and welcoming country. The cultures that exist within it influence the political, social and religious life of the country. An important aspect is respect for the elderly and the family values. Families are separated only when the children get married. A characteristic of our people is the use of diminutive language to express their affection. Above and beyond cultural religious influences, we are happy to serve our people in the spirit of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany.