
"Listen carefully, if this birth has truly taken place with you, then no creature can any longer hinder you. To grasp God in all things – that is the song of your new birth." ~ Meister Eckhart

Dear Sisters:

Congratulations on completing yet another step in your discernment process. Please review the following information and if you have any questions contact either of us (Beth or Ted). If you find yourself having second thoughts regarding your participation in discernment, that is normal and to be expected. Please stay in the present and continue your work of discernment, sorting through what is of God and what is not. We trust you will find your way with the support of your sisters, spiritual directors, and others.

GOAL I WE WILL REFLECT UPON, CLARIFY, AND FURTHER DEVELOP THE EVOLVING APPROACHES TO LEADERSHIP/GOVERNANCE BY:

- Building upon the March Regional Gatherings
- Reflecting upon the purpose, role and competencies needed for emerging structures of leadership/governance
- Asking whose gifts might best meet these desired roles
- Probing the deeper invitation: Identifying the shifts in patterns and values you are trying to embrace in this new paradigm.

GOAL II WE WILL DISCERN HOW EACH SISTER MIGHT BEST SERVE THE CONGREGATION IN A NEW APPROACH TO LEADERSHIP/GOVERNANCE BY:

- Striving to approach discernment with greater trust, interior freedom, and detachment from the outcome
- Reflecting upon, and assimilating, your experiences and feedback you received during the March Regional Gatherings, as well as other feedback given to you
- Exploring understandings, contributions, and interpersonal compatibilities for "teaming" (e.g., expectations; preferred styles, struggles, etc.)
- Reflecting upon your personal readiness to partner as leaders in shaping the future of the congregation.
- Articulating discerned "leanings" regarding your willingness to be available to serve in leadership.

Date and Times

We start at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 15 and end at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 18.

Please make travel arrangements that do not impinge upon these start/end times.

We would hope that we could, once again, have a Saturday evening Vigil Mass for Sunday. We are asking Jo to coordinate the meal and travel logistics with the Center and with all of you as you have so generously done for us in the past. Let us now if you need help. Please remember that Marlene and Dolores can be of assistance. Liz also assured us that she is willing to help us during the discernment weekend

Location

We will meet at the ST. ELIZABETH CONVENT, in Tampa, Florida. We believe it would be helpful for all of you to plan to reside at the Convent during these days.

What to bring

- ☒ An open mind, open heart, and open will
- ☒ Your initial "Invitations" and feedback you received in the March Regional Gathering
- ☒ Relevant materials from both prior steps with the emerging model of leadership/governance, including Sunday's feedback (posted)
- ☒ Personal notes and reflections regarding your discernment
- ☒ A symbol, image, or some touchstone that speaks to where you are *now* in your discernment

How to prepare

We ask that you pray and reflect with all the information you have received. Write down any questions, concerns, reservations and areas of enthusiasm and resistance that you hold in your heart. Pray for, and with, your "prayer partners" and all those who, like you, are remaining in this part of the process. Remember that all sisters and many others are praying with, and for, you during this most sacred time. Continue conversations with sisters and others with whom you need to talk to deepen your discernment.

Blessing in your continued discernment.

Ted Dunn, Ph.D. and Beth Lipsmeyer, Ph.D.