



Embrace The Journey

DARE • TRUST • BEGIN

Chapter Modes of Participation

2022

Discernment Guide



SISTERS
OF THE PRESENTATION
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
DUBUQUE, IOWA

WWW.DBQPBVMS.ORG



Chapter Process

April–May 2022

Chapter Modes of Participation Discernment Process

May–June 2022

Ongoing Pre-Chapter Reflections

Initiate the Process of Leadership Discernment

July 14–17, 2022

Community Days

August–September 2022

Ongoing Pre-Chapter Reflections

Process of Leadership Discernment

October 7–12, 2022

Chapter of Affairs and Chapter of Elections

Dear Sisters and Associates,

The wisdom found in our documents remind us that **“the Chapter is a sign of the unity of the congregation in charity.** Its responsibility is to preserve the heritage of the community, the mind and plans of the foundress concerning the nature, end, spirit and character of the congregation, as well as its tradition. It is also the responsibility of the Chapter to promote appropriate renewal according to the heritage of the community, to elect the Congregational Leader and Council to address the major issues of the community, and to publish norms resulting from the deliberations of the Chapter.” *Witness to Love #113*

We are each invited to determine, through prayer and discernment, an appropriate mode of participation as we take into account our gifts and our skills. We begin by being warmed by the flames of appreciation and thanksgiving. We count our blessings. For what are you most grateful?

We honor the wisdom of body, mind and spirit and consider our overall stamina, energy level and ability to hear, concentrate and think critically. We affirm our inner disposition to seek the common good.

While addressing the actual work of the Chapter, we assess our strength to hold together both the community’s sacred heritage and its unfolding future. Mindful of these considerations, we prayerfully discern our options for modes of participation listed on page 4.

After personal discernment, we step more deeply into communal discernment. A canonical delegate must receive (35%) of the ballots cast in order to serve as a canonical delegate. For example, for 60 ballots cast, a sister would need to receive 21 votes in order to serve as a canonical delegate.

Canonical delegates must be present for each and every Chapter session.

If an emergency occurs that would prevent a delegate's attendance, she must contact Sister Rita Menart.

May our discernment be guided by the wisdom of Nano Nagle and the light from her lantern.

Sister Jessi Beck

Sister Marilou Irons

Sister Ann Jackson

Sister Rita Menart (Leadership)

Sister Corine Murray

Sister Joetta Venneman

Sister Mary Catherine Redmond, PBVM (Facilitator)

Timeline for Selection of Chapter Delegates

April 10, 2022

Each sister and associate begins a personal reflection process to consider one's capacity for participation in Chapter and to discern a preferred mode of participation.

Sister: Canonical Delegate or Supportive Participant

Associate: Supportive Participant

April 24, 2022

Mode of participation responses due to Sister Rita Menart.

Responses may be submitted by:

1. Returning the paper response form
- OR
2. Completing the online PDF form emailed through the community listserv to be sent on April 10, 2022.

April 28, 2022

Canonical delegate ballot and signature forms will be emailed to each sister. Sisters will need to print the emailed forms, vote, sign and mail them back via U.S. Postal Service.

May 5, 2022

Postmark date for sisters to submit canonical delegate ballots and signature forms to Sister Rita Menart.

May 15, 2022

Final list of canonical delegates sent to the community.

A sister must receive 35% of the vote of the ballots collected to serve as a canonical delegate.

Sisters and **Associates**: Considering the necessary capacities of each mode of participation, what do you believe are your strengths that will allow you to fully participate in Chapter? What would limit your ability to participate?

Sister: How might your strengths and your limitations impact other delegates in the work of the Chapter?

Associate: How might your strengths and your limitations impact others in the work of the Chapter?

Sister: In light of your reflection, which mode of participation, canonical delegate or supportive participant, honors the result of your discernment?

Associate: In light of your reflection and discernment, which of the possible responsibilities of a supportive participant do you feel called to engage?

Chapter Modes of Participation

Supportive Participants (sisters and associates) commit to **one or more** of the following:

- Praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- Participating to the best of one's ability in pre-Chapter gatherings and/or education modules
- Attending Chapter sessions and participating in conversation as one is able and as the process allows
- Implementing the vision, direction and decisions that emerge from the Chapter.

Canonical Delegates (sisters) responsibly commit to **all** of the following:

- Praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- Being present and actively participating in all Chapter gatherings and processes
- Studying all pre-Chapter materials
- Demonstrating the ability to listen, think critically, participate fully and to work for the common good
- Attending and participating in all Chapter sessions
- Participating in all voting processes during the Chapter
- Implementing the vision, direction and decisions that emerge from the Chapter.



For your reflection ...

Center your heart and ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Invite the spirits of Nano and any other significant persons in your life to be present to you.

Prayerfully review and consider the modes of participation and the responsibilities for each.

Begin your reflection using this prayer or a prayer of your choice.

*Trusted Guide, Holy Spirit, you are my Mentor,
my Inspiration, my Home of good choices and decisions.*

*You help me to search with confidence
as I find my way to inner peace.*

Please gather your wisdom around me.

*Guide me carefully as I make choices about how
to use my energies positively.*

Thank you for all you have given to me.

Reveal my path and direct me in choosing it.

Lead me to inner peace and oneness with you.

Adapted from Prayers to Sophia by Joyce Rupp

Sister: What will the responsibilities for each mode of participation call forth from you?

Associate: What will the various responsibilities of a supportive participant call forth from you?

Sister: What physical, emotional and intellectual capacities are needed for each mode of participation?

Associate: What physical, emotional and intellectual capacities are needed for you to participate in each of the responsibilities of being a supportive participant?