

# Regional Meeting Virtual Gathering May 20, 2021

## Minutes

**Members present:** Sisters Rene Backe, CSA, Wanda Billion, MSC, Maria Carlos Valdez, E.I.N., Sharon Casey, OP, Mary Frances Coleman, RSM, Rosina Conrotto, PBVM, Anthony Mary Diago, RSM, Ellen Hess, VDMF, Gloria Loya, PBVM, Kathleen Warren, OSF, Joan Patten, AO

The meeting was called to order by Kathy at 10:35 am. The question for reflection during this novena for Pentecost was, “What gift of the Holy Spirit are you most desiring at this time?” After shared reflections, Kathy invited us to prayer.

The minutes from the April 21, 2021 meeting were reviewed and with the correction of the spelling of Sister Anthony Marie’s family name, the minutes were accepted as presented.

The following topics were discussed:

### **Sister Sharon Euart:**

Kathy reported that she had received the handout of the presentation Sister Sharon had given at the national assembly of Vicars for Religious. Kathy sent the handout to all members of our region.

We then surfaced questions to be posed to Sister Sharon when she presents to us during our September annual meeting:

- As many members move into the future, what do the following terms mean canonically and theologically: transformation, completion, transition, fulfillment? Are we no longer “religious” if there is no canonical status as diocesan or pontifical right?
- What is meant by fulfillment? Is it the same as completion, diminishment, transformation, transitional?
- What is the role of Associates once a congregation has reached completion?
- What is the current role of Associates as congregations face diminishment? Is there a place for them on Councils for Religious?
- When should congregations begin to plan for transition?
- What are some of the options for an elderly religious who wants to leave her congregation but not leave religious life?
- What do you perceive as “something new and fulfilling” emerging in religious life?
- Speak about grieving processes as congregations come to completion.
- Speak about commissaries and the role of advisors.

- If a community is a province and becomes too small for leadership etc, can it become a region of the larger community and what is the process? How does the governance change?

**NOTE:** If other questions surface, please sent them to Kathy by September 1, 2021.

When Kathy shares these questions she will remind Sister Sharon that since members of our region were present at the national assembly it would not be necessary for her to review any of the materials she had given there.

**Webinar:** Kathy spoke of a webinar she had seen of an interview with an Archbishop reflecting on the 1979 document on Mutual Relations and how the Ordinary of a diocese/archdiocese works with Vicars and with congregational leaders. This webinar can be found on the CMSM website: CMSM.org. Once on the site scroll to latest news and connect with the YouTube link for the interview with the Archbishop of Atlanta Gregory John Hartmayer, OFM Conv.

**Schedule for the September 28-30, 2021 Regional Meeting:** The following adaptations were made:

- Tuesday, September 28: opening and evening prayer.
- Wednesday, September 29: We will begin the day with Mass and will have morning and evening prayer.
- Any materials that need to be printed should be sent to Joan for copying.
- Election of officers: After discussion it was determined that the positions of Secretary and Treasurer could be held by one person.
  - Kathy noted that minutes from past meetings are to be sent to the National Office. Archives will be held at Notre Dame.
- Theme for the regional meeting: After discussion the following theme was chosen for our gathering: *We have been called to this hour.* The text for this theme is: *“If Christ deemed us worthy to live in these times, at **this** hour – the only hour we have – we cannot let ourselves be overcome by fear, nor allow this time to pass without living it fully with joyful fidelity. God will give us strength to make every moment, every **situation**, an opportunity for communion with God and with our brothers & sisters.”* Pope Francis, Sept. 24, 2018
- Cost for room and board at the meeting; dues:
  - Room and board at Pro Sanctity: \$110 -- Annual Dues: \$25.00

## TASKS

### Everyone:

- Send Kathy additional questions to be sent to Sister Sharon by September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Before September 1<sup>st</sup>, notify Joan if you will be attending in person or via ZOOM.

**Kathy:**

- Send questions to Sister Sharon Euart reminding her not to review materials presented at the national assembly

**Gloria:**

- Prepare opening and evening prayer for Tuesday, September 28, 2021.

**Rene:**

- Prepare morning and evening prayer for Wednesday, September 29, 2021.

**Joan:**

- Print all materials needed for the annual meeting.
- Check out restaurants in the area and send titles/descriptions to members for their selection.
- If necessary, obtain a presider for Mass on Thursday, September 30, 2021. The time of Mass will be determined by departure times of participants.
- Check with Rhonda Gruenewald about her availability for the evening of September 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Rosina:**

- Send everyone Sandra Schneider's article.
- Purchase snacks for the social gatherings.

**ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THEME:**

- "Our Life is Mission / Nuestra Vida es Misión"
- "Behold I make all things new"
- "Do you not see it? I am doing something new"
- "While we wait"
- "This is the new norm: starting all over again"
- Added thoughts to the chosen theme: *We have been called to this hour*—we are living now with these particular needs and during this particular time.
- Something based on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vita Consecrata.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosina Conrotto, PBVM  
Secretary