

Grey Nun Associate Responses (Submitted in April 2007)

GENERAL COMMENTS FROM THE CPC:

From the feedback we received through conversations as well as written words, we realize there was considerable confusion regarding the March mailing to the Associates. The Chapter Planning Committee (CPC) heard the following:

- A number of email recipients reported they did not receive the mailing even after several attempts.
- Some of those who received the mailing reported that they had not received the response summaries either from the Grey Nuns or from the Associates.
- Some respondents reported that the summaries they received indicated that the CPC had definitely heard what they said.

Despite these challenges, two individual Associates and one Associate group responded to the reflection questions sent out in March. Below is a sampling of what they said:

1. After reflecting on Mary's visit to Elizabeth: Can you find any similarities in your own life? Can you verbalize them? What did you notice that moved your heart?

- I can see this in my own family, but Jesus is quoted as referring to all (any) who follow His ways as family.
- God's will does prevail but never forces. This insight surprised me/moved my heart.
- One of the continuing surprises is that the void is not empty! The dark and challenging times in my life and times of great unknowing were really gifts that taught me great lessons.
- I learned that as I surrendered and let go, accepted the moment and my feelings, then I opened to a greater knowing and a deeper peace. Graces flowed.
- God is in it all and God always led my heart to know what to do.
- A visit, planned or surprised, is always welcome.

- To keep friendships they have to be nourished.
- Being good role models.
- It is a surprise that the love I search for everywhere is inside.

2. Have we accurately described your longings and concerns with respect to Chapter 2008?

- Some responses I resonate with and others I don't.
- Unfortunately we didn't have the responses.
- With only 10 responding, we wish more could have responded.
- I appreciate that each one shares whatever is in her heart regarding the questions.
- I continue to be grateful that we are sharing and preparing for this important Chapter.
- Yes, reflection summary was very accurate and useful.

3. Is there anything emerging from your prayer or discussions that you would like to share?

- Do roles turn into stereotypes? Is it even a gender thing? Are we hardwired? Do genders have different needs?
- We share dinner which is potluck—which starts with prayer, then discuss current events, and close with prayer.
- I am so grateful for the Grey Nuns and how you bless my life!

4. Is there anything else you want to say?

- Wish we knew where the responses had come from and how many overlapped.
- Since all this appears never-ending, we need constant dialogue!