



## GNSH CHAPTER '08

May 28, 2007

Dear GNSH Associates,

The Chapter Planning Committee met on Tuesday, May 8, 2007 to review and summarize responses of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart and Associates to the second set of reflection papers as sent out in February. We were pleased to receive responses from two individual Associates and one Associates group. We are sharing them again in summary form. Thank you to those who sent in responses and to those of you who engaged in prayerful reflection along side us without submitting a response.

Enclosed with this letter is a card with the Chapter Prayer 2008. We invite you to join with us in making this part of your daily prayer from now through the end of Chapter in April 2008. The prayer reflects our belief that holding onto our contemplative stance throughout the Chapter process is essential and that a transformative experience for us as a corporate body can be birthed only through holding onto that stance and the tension it entails. Taking time to listen to each other at ever-deepening levels and to appreciate and enjoy the gift that we are to one another is the most vital part of the Chapter experience. The issues we choose to address, the decisions we make together and the energy for mission we envision together ahead of us will flow out of that experience.

Ideas for the Chapter Prayer and the logo's design arose from responses to our initial round of desert reflections. Sister Mary Dee Smith graciously agreed to put them into graphic form. The cactus resembles a person with arms up-stretched in prayer, called an orans figure. This is a very ancient, pre-Christian, gesture of prayer and intercession, beseeching our most compassionate God to attend to the cry of our ever-birthing world and congregation. The moon, luminosity in the darkness, is often connected with traditional feminine behaviors such as interest in relationships and the exchange of conversation and companionship.

Also enclosed you will find summaries of the responses received from Grey Nun LAG groups and of those received from Associates. In addition, there is a third set

of reflection materials building on the January and March experiences which we hope will again provide stimulus for further personal reflection and Associate meeting discussions.

If you will be meeting in an Associate group during May or June, you could discuss these reflection questions during your meeting. We would appreciate feedback on your collective responses. If you are an At-a-Distance Associate, or if you cannot attend an Associate meeting, or even if you feel moved to write a separate response to the reflection questions, we would be grateful for your response. Please send all responses on or before June 25, 2007 to Sr. Mary Lee Farrell by email at [makeitso2921@peoplepc.com](mailto:makeitso2921@peoplepc.com) or by postal service to Sr. Ann McKee, 1750 Quarry Rd., Yardley, PA 19067-3998, to arrive on or before June 25<sup>th</sup>.

We heard from you that a number of Associates did not receive all or part of the materials mailed out in March. We apologize for the confusion and are working to improve delivery. It would help us greatly if you would contact us as quickly as possible:

- if you have difficulty opening an email letter from us—sent via Sister Mary Lee Farrell ([makeitso2921@peoplepc.com](mailto:makeitso2921@peoplepc.com))—or opening its attachments, or
- if you discover that another Associate has received a letter or packet from the Chapter Planning Committee (CPC) and you have not received it.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please continue to pray that the Spirit will guide us together throughout this Chapter process.

Sincerely,

*Julia C. Lanigan, Jnsd*

Members of the Chapter Planning Committee:

Rosalie Bertell  
Mary Lee Farrell  
Mary Karen Kelly  
Julia C. Lanigan, Chair  
Frances Whitman

Leadership Council Liaisons:

Kathleen Purser  
Elizabeth Bagen

Enclosures (4)