

SUGGESTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

December 17, 2007

We invite you to reflect prayerfully upon your experience of the following:

- Your own Advent reflections on the suggested readings from scripture and the *Grey Nun Associate Responses* from February and April 2007*.
- The enclosed response summaries from local Associate communities submitted in November.
- The enclosed response summaries from the Grey Nun LAG groups and the list of issues they are raising for Chapter consideration. (These may provide additional thoughts for consideration about the charism of St. Marguerite, justice issues that call to us today, etc.)
- The GNSH Associates *Guidelines*
- Issues related to the Associate relationship that you think might be important for Associates to address or to bring to the attention of the Grey Nuns.
- Your thoughts and feelings about leadership in the Associates, i.e., the roles of Associate convener or Associate Advisory Board member. What qualities would these leaders need? Would you ever consider assuming/accepting service in one of these roles? Or calling someone else forth who might have the gifts needed for such service?

We suggest you do the following each time you engage in a period of reflection:

- Be attentive to what's rising up within you, including your *feelings*.
- Watch particularly for any insights, learnings, unsolicited ideas that pop into your mind.
- Keep track of these. Perhaps use a journal. Write them down so you can read them next time you come to prayer and clarify them.

Remember, what may well arise from this experience are thoughts to be shared with your local associate community and important issues to be brought to the attention of the Associates Board or the Grey Nuns. What is becoming clear in you, you will remember. It will rise up again in one form or another and your clarity will increase. At your Associate meeting, when you take that moment to reflect on what's rising up within you, something will come. You'll be waiting for it. It may be something that has come up before or something that seems totally new....

***If you cannot find your copy, this is available through your Associates convener or at <http://www.greynun.net/CHAPTER/CHAPTER.html> (username: gnsha; password: daisy).**

LOCAL ASSOCIATE COMMUNITY GROUP PROCESS

The intent of this process is to create a hospitable, contemplative environment wherein each person gratefully appreciates the gift that each of us is to herself, to each other present, and to the Grey Nuns and Associates, and where it is safe to enter into deep conversation. Each person is listening deeply to herself, to the Spirit, and to each other person. Each one, while listening to others, keeps part of her attention on herself and what's happening within her during the conversations.

1. Begin with a minute or two of silence.

During this silence, recall your contemplative preparation for this meeting and be particularly attentive to what's rising within you now.

2. Each person shares *simply* and *briefly* something of what is happening in her—with the whole group or with one or two others, depending on the size of the group and the preference of its members. (No discussion—just simple sharing.)
3. After everyone has finished her sharing, ask each person to share with the group what she noticed *during* the sharing, particularly any insights, learnings, or unsolicited ideas that might have popped into her mind.
4. Surface and discuss issues related to the Associate relationship that are important for your local associate community to address, for the Associate Advisory Board to address, or that you think might be important to bring to the attention of the Grey Nuns.
5. Share among yourselves some of your thoughts and feelings about leadership in the Associates, i.e., the roles of Associate convener or Associate Advisory Board member. What qualities do these leaders need? Would you ever consider assuming/accepting service in one of these roles? Are there others who might have the gifts needed for such service whom you might encourage to consider serving in one of these roles in the future?
6. End by asking again: What did we notice *during this discussion*, particularly any insights, learnings, or unsolicited ideas that popped into our minds?

Before the end of the meeting, please complete the Local Associate Community Response Form.

LOCAL ASSOCIATE COMMUNITY RESPONSE FORM
January 2008

This form is intended to be filled out by the local associate community if at all possible. When this is not possible within the time frame, individual Associates are welcome to return the form based on their experience with the individual reflections if they wish.

What did you find helpful in this process and/or this mailing?

What recommendations would you make for the future, particularly anything that might help Associates' participation in the Chapter process?

Are there any issues that you would like to bring to the attention of the Associate Advisory Board?

Are there any issues that you would like to bring to the attention of the Grey Nuns?

Did anything surface in your discussion of leadership roles among Associates that you would like to share with the Associate Advisory Board or the Grey Nuns?

Please send response form by email to Sr. Mary Lee Farrell at makeitso2921@peoplepc.com or by post to Sr. Ann McKee, 1750 Quarry Rd., Yardley, PA 19067-3998 **on or before January 26, 2008**.