

ASSOCIATES' RESPONSES NOVEMBER 2007

We received response forms from two local Associate communities and two individual Associates. All their responses are included below:

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

- There were many ideas exchanged during our meeting. The directive to add anything that came to your mind after the reading, we believe, helped the discussion to be very rich.
- We realized that we are a group of women who feel free to exchange thoughts, and that is one of the factors that bind us together. There is a like-mindedness to our group of both Associates and Grey Nuns. We feel free to share opinions that are not mainstream.
- Knowing that we all feel that there are things that need to be changed in the world and we as Associates can be part of the change.
- Dialogue was good. Good ideas were expressed.
- No matter how down we are, we need to keep faith. God is there and always will be.
- This process gave us an opportunity to see and participate in the Chapter process. It makes us feel closer to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart. This is a privilege for us and aids bonding with the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart.
- After reading the material and discussing it, it has become more clear.
- My experience when gathering to learn, listen & share is that God is always present and by listening you truly can hear God reassuring you of His love and His direction for you and all that are gathered.
- Peace is the core of my vision. Sr. Donna Lord's reflection was especially helpful/encouraging.
- If the yes of life is to be extended into our later years, contemplation along with acceptance of youth needs to be recognized. I participate in a Bible study in my parish and the diversity/stages within this group illustrates the need for diversity in achieving and keeping common ground.
- The reflection process included in November mailings was helpful, too.

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

- Praying to the Spirit for our Nuns' missions and our Grey Nuns praying for the missions of the associates.
- The gap between nuns and associates is closing, but the association is mainly between the four nuns in Yardley who attend our meetings.
- As associates, we can't just sit in the group and talk about it; we have to go out and do it.
- Grey Nuns need to hear what Associates are doing in the world. We build our faith in our associate groups and then go out into the world to use it.
- To have Associates participate, as done in the previous Chapter, in the form of a panel. It made Associates feel a part of the Chapter. It also gave the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart a better understanding of who the Associates are.
- As Associates, we must follow in Marguerite's footsteps.
- We would like this type of Process to continue.
- The suggestions for individual reflection were very helpful and aided our personal reflection. We would like to see this continue.
- As Nuns and Associates we are God's people trying to better ourselves in our journey to Heaven. By sharing, listening, caring, praying & loving we grow in faith and friendship and as a group we try to be all He knows we can be. Our participation with each other is yet another blessing from Our Lord.

The CPC also received a letter from one at-a-distance Associate thanking us for the materials and simply wishing he/she could do more.