

## GENERAL CHAPTER SUBCOMMITTEES

Every six years the Congregation engages in the process of bringing together delegates representative of the entire membership, to reflect on where the Holy Spirit is leading our Congregation . . .

- ❖ in service to God's people by being open to the "signs of the times"
- ❖ in how we are in communion with one another
- ❖ in considering that review of reports, discussion of issues, proposed actions as well as any major business matter reflects our Congregation's precious heritage
- ❖ in election of the general minister and councilors.

Realizing that preparations for the 25<sup>th</sup> General Chapter needed to begin, Sister Danat Marie Brysch, Minister General, initiated the establishment of the 25<sup>th</sup> General Chapter Planning Task Force. It is the concern of this Planning Task Force to implement plans and procedures that will enable each delegate to fulfill her responsibility in serving as a participant in the General Chapter for the common good of our Congregation. One of its first tasks was the establishment of the various subcommittees and clarifying their responsibilities.

The members of the General Chapter Planning Task Force were given the opportunity to indicate subcommittee preferences. The subcommittee liaisons from the GCPC are:

- ❖ Handbook of Rules and Procedures: Sister Mary Maristella and Sister Mary Jolene
- ❖ Liturgy and Ritual: Sister Mary Virginia
- ❖ Election Process: Sister Mary Błażeja
- ❖ Theological Reflection: Sister Margaret Mary
- ❖ Communications/Technology: Sister Mary Rosita

The Provincial Ministers and their Council were invited to submit to Sister Danat Marie and the General Council the names of sisters in their Province to serve on each of the GC Subcommittees.\* In this way another avenue for producing a true *Chapter for All* was established.

## Highlights of the General Chapter Task Force Subcommittees

*The Handbook of Rules and Procedures Committee* has done extensive work in revising the Handbook. With the recommendations and approval of the Task Force, attention was given to crafting the role and responsibilities of the facilitator and canon lawyer. In the previous General Chapter, a moderator was engaged to take the place of the facilitator. With the use of electronic voting for the 25<sup>th</sup> General Chapter the committee adjusted the use of paper ballot to electronic devices.

*The Liturgy and Ritual Committee* is responsible for the development of the Liturgical Calendar to be used by the delegates during the General Chapter and the rituals and prayer services conducted during that time. The committee is working on a prayer book for the Chapter delegates. The prayer book will contain the prayers to be used during the Chapter.

*The Election Committee* has been involved in preparing the discernment process for the election of the minister general and council. This process includes preparation of a novena that the provinces and vice-province will use on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of each month from September to May 2024. A theological reflection on Servant Leadership has been prepared in accordance with Franciscan spirituality and the heritage of Blessed Mary Angela to be used in February 2024.

*The Theological Reflections Committee* developed three theological reflections based on the three subthemes of the General Chapter theme: Conversion, Reconciliation and Mission. Each reflection develops one of the subthemes. One reflection is for use by the local chapters and the other two for the General Chapter.

*The Communications/Technology Committee* has initiated a short newsletter to be periodically sent to each of the sisters of the Congregation. Sister Mary Francis Lewandowski developed an email data base of all the sisters in the Congregation. Sister Mary Francis has been working closely with Sister Catalina Marie Batres, Treasurer General, regarding the use of the Internet and AV equipment to insure smooth production of the technology during the Chapter. The North American Province will provide Samsung tablets to all the sisters at the General Chapter. In this way all the sisters will work together on the same technical devices.