

What would be important in planning for the next Chapter?

3. What would be important in planning for the next Chapter of Affairs and Elections?

The schedule was very well planned, The prayer experiences and our weekday Mass was truly prayerful and uplifting,

"Retain and further adapt the elements that made this chapter go so well, including a quality facilitator"

"Monthly updates, continue to invite participants to assist in ""jobs"", rituals, needs... this allows for inclusion.

Once again, invite our Associates, Employees, Families, other Communities, etc. to pray with/for us. It was evident we felt the power of prayer throughout.

By 2023, consider that ALL Sisters could be voting members, and possibly some Associate representatives. We may even consider involving some employee/expert representatives for some issues, due to our numbers lessening and our needs different at that time."

I think it would be good to come back to the minutes of this chapter and pay strong attention to the process as we move into our next Chapter.

ways to continue to involve everyone- is there a possibility to have all sisters present for the election?

Continue the prayerful preparations in the months ahead. That made a lot of difference, I'm sure.

it would be important to me for the next chapter of Affairs and elections that we repeat the same election process, have chapter committee reports after each of their meetings and have pre chapter discussion guides that encourage critical thinking and careful listening.

I appreciated the reporting of the preparations of the Chapter Preparation Committee.....to the point and the resources were not overwhelming to study and reflect upon. The various ways of communicating with the sisters was also meaningful. The gifts and style of Catherine and Danielle were meaningful for our time together.....hope we have a chance to work with them again.

Keep the process of nominations and elections. Mixing of tables for discussion.

Pray for openness. Five years is quite a long time and what will we look like at that time.

Use the same facilitator, pray in various ways before coming together, alone and as we did the contemplative prayer in chapel once a week. The prayer selections and music be put together as well as the group this year.

To follow similar processes that I felt were very successful.

The process that was followed for this Chapter was very well handled and not over whelming. Thank you

That we have as strong a facilitator and Chapter Preparations Committee as we had this time.

I would say to follow the same procedures- At this point I can not think of anything that could really be improved.

An excellent planning committee and facilitator as we had for this Chapter

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Considering that all of us will be 5 years older, we might consider having the next Chapter of Affairs and Elections at two different times.

When we are involved in the actual election, that is a time of quiet, of personal reflection, and especially of prayer. In the days previous to that we had already talked about candidates, qualities needed, had used cards to picture configurations of persons together, etc. It was inappropriate to again discuss in the middle of our election after some persons had been elected. It is unduly influential. We needed the time to do the above (first sentence): pray, reflect, trust ourselves to the Lord. By the time of elections, we have done the "leg work" and have adequately discussed. Further discussion is not appropriate to the actual election time. By its very nature it is a time for persons to commune with God and come to a decision aided by prior discussions but not influenced by further discussion at that time. We needed the quiet time to pull prior information together and to make our own decisions.

A comparable process as this Chapter seemed to leave open an invitation to the imagination. Perhaps reimagining new models of Religious Life could be a specific component next time.

I think this different process for elections was helpful and well received. I hope we can continue to use this process or something very similar in the future.

Canonical Delegates need to be held to a higher standard of preparation and expectations than the supportive participants. We really needed a fall Caritas meeting.

To use a lot of the process we used this time.

Explore the possibility of scheduling the Chapter at another time of year.

Continue to have conversations at tables and then move to other tables for more input. Keep process the same.

Use the same or similar format for the election process.

"For the future, I would recommend that the same time line and process be reviewed in preparation for Chapter and for follow-through on the issues of concern as well as the procedures for the election process.

Another good Chapter Prep Committee—variety of people

Continue to keep everyone updated, along the way.

It will be important to remember the dynamics used in the election discernment process, so that they can be used again.

Presence of the facilitator at community days; having an effective facilitator

hearing from those who accepted and did not accept being nominated

"#1 More opportunities for delegates to meet with each other in places away from the motherhouse.

#2 More facilitation of discussions on the common ground of what leadership really is and does and what does governance mean. The delegates were asked to do very little before the actual Chapter.

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#3 We could have been challenged to more preparation through reading, meetings and discerning the signs of the times in addition to our prayer."

"I wonder when we were in the chapel and voting a number of times for a council person if it would have been helpful to go around quickly and talk to others besides those who were in our little circle. Or I wonder if it would have been helpful at that time to take a moment of silence before we voted again. It seemed like we were struggling and needed some time.

As I observed how the supportive participants were included except in the voting of decisions, I wonder if associates could be part of that role especially during the Chapter of Affairs. We may have a hand full of associates present but these are the ones who choose to be really involved. I realize that the community sometime needs to have a conversation about/with associates and their involvement as Catherine stated during community days.

I liked the election process before Chapter and during Chapter."

The pre-chapter preparation was incredible and contributed greatly to our readiness for the process. To continue to foster openness and mutual respect. It is beneficial to have a facilitator.

Those who were nominees did not have any free time on the retreat day.....and that was 1/3 of the canonical delegates. Prayer time was important for ALL.

Start 1.5 years out at least; more time for retreat before nominees share reflections;

While I am very pleased with the outcome, I think congregation as a whole could have been more in the loop in an on-going way about the thinking of the Chapter Prep Committee and Facilitator. I appreciated a response to my email to the committee about 3 weeks out with some sense of the topics that would be discussed.

I would like to see us have a more rigorous pre-Chapter plan. Nothing stopped us from having group conversations but providing material and direction for meetings would have given a stronger push to the preparations. As we age significantly as a congregation we have to accommodate that reality but still expect that delegates, especially, have responsibilities to make serious preparations. That might mean more meetings, more study and other time commitments.

I would like to see opportunities for fun that are different than a social where everyone sits at the same table the whole time. Having fun and enjoying one another is part of the balance of community life so it makes sense to me to be intentional about including it in chapter scheduling.

Inviting a few people who have not been on the chapter prep committee to be on the next one.

Changing the time of year that elections are held. Perhaps sending a survey to those in full-time ministry to best accommodate their work schedules.

Making the preparation process more robust and start sooner. I would have found it helpful to have more meetings with diverse groups of people. It would be helpful if the chapter prep committee organized these so that there would be options to meet with different groups of sisters rather than always having self-organized groups. While the reading was helpful preparation, I think a process of group discussion, sending feedback, and receiving whole community feedback for each of the chapter

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topics would have been helpful. Perhaps a whole community retreat day could be included as part of the preparation months in advance and not during the middle of chapter.

Obtain a good facilitator. Selection of a good Chapter Preparation Committee.

Many choose a different time of year for Chapter. Maybe use Community Days with added days.

Have a team as well organized as this one was.

Keep the sacredness of the experience; also the inclusion of supportive participants being able to give input to delegates.

Use this type of election and preparation in the future, change tables often to hear other sisters ideas. Prayer and openness shared together. Talk to sisters before the Chapter began as how they would feel to be on the Leadership Team. Our daily prayer recited together. Our liturgies each day.

have some options for the use of our properties I am wondering, if, after election of the

first two on the leadership team, there might be some discussion, and the two newly elected might have time to share their input. (Might cut down on the number of ballots cast.)

Perhaps some type of hearing device could be used for Sisters who want to be canonical delegates but even with hearing aide (which I have) find it hard to hear in even table conversations or small groups.

Due to a few comments I've heard, I am only wondering (not advocating) -- what would it be like if sisters were invited to submit their names to be a part of the Chapter Preparations Committee.