



ASSOCIATE SUMMER GATHERING 2018



Associates of the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception (SCIC) were invited to the opening banquet of Chapter 2018 which was held on July 5th. We were also invited to participate in a pre-Chapter retreat facilitated by Sisters Regina Bechtle and Mary McCormick (Sisters of Charity of New York). This experience was spirit-filled with prayer, fellowship and laughter and set the tone for our Associate gathering.

We learned about the four movements toward transformation: (Remembering, Mourning, Bonding and Birthing). Associates from West to East gathered to vision and plan for the future of Association with our theme being “Fostering Our Future...Growing in Relationships”.

Led by Barbara Baker -- Director of Associates of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul based in Kingston, Ont. -- Associate delegates met for two-and-one-half days. With Barbara Baker's gentle leadership we worked together, shared our stories, and planted seeds of a new vision with our Directional Statement and goals for the next four years.

We are prophetic voices following in the footsteps of SCIC foundress, Honoria Conway. As Associates, we truly value our friendship and will continue to grow together in the Charism of Charity. The Directional Statement and goals were presented to the Sisters of Charity who affirmed our birthing. The rest of the time in Saint John, until our closing ritual, was a time to connect again with everyone.

We had two wonderful Associate gatherings at the homes of Donna Schroeter and Sharon Jacquard, a beautiful boat tour of the Kennebecasis River and a day trip to St. Martins thanks to Marilyn Moore. (Donna is Atlantic coordinator of Associates; Sharon is national coordinator for the east and Marilyn is the contact for Associates in the area of Digby, N.S.)

It was wonderful for Associates from the West to reconnect with the Sisters who had left the West a few years earlier to relocate to the East. Sisters and Associates from West to East are connected in our Charism and Mission. We are sincerely grateful to SCIC for providing such a wonderful facilitator for our gathering and including us in the retreat and closing ritual. We Are One!

(Credits: Agathe Joly, Diane Legris, Donna Schroeter, Mary Ann Kneeland & Sharon Jacquard. Agathe is national coordinator for the West. Diane is Prairie regional coordinator, while Mary Ann is Atlantic co-regional coordinator with Donna. Photo by Pat Poole, SCIC with Associates from West and East gathered at the pre-Chapter retreat.)