

Saint John Associate Gathering – Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Theme - Fostering Our Future

Saint John Associates and Sisters Irene Buechler and Pat Poole gathered to begin discussing the document *Lead with the Spirit*, specifically the chapter on *Fostering Our Future*. This document is a publication of the North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR). A large part of the mission of NACAR is in developing and delivering resources and providing ministry training to those who minister to and work within the Associate-Religious relationship. This manual addresses the broader questions of charism and relationship. The *Fostering Our Future* chapter discussion is in keeping with our Associate Vision, Mission, and Values and Four-year Goals.

Prior to the meeting, Associates were asked to read and reflect on the following questions as explained in the chapter *Fostering Our Future*:

1. How might we ensure that the Charism of the SCIC in our area continues? Responses:
 - a. Sense of spirituality among Associates and Sisters
 - b. Wanting to help others
 - c. Knowing the lifestyle of one living in a religious congregation; desire to do the same
 - d. The way the Sisters pray... more Indigenous ---all nature
 - e. The way of life...charity, helping others

2. What do you believe attracts individuals to the Associate relationship? Responses:
 - f. The sharing aspect of Associates
 - g. Seeing the charism in Associates and Sisters
 - h. Being active ourselves within the Associate-Sisters relationship
 - i. A sense of feminism, of leadership
 - j. The sense of a teacher, caregiver, a spiritual guide, etc.
 - k. By the way Associates live out our charism in all aspects of daily life.

3. How might we invite others to live in Association? Responses:
- l. Telling our family, friends, parishioners, etc. about our Association
 - m. Inviting a friend to an Associate gathering, a “come and see” night
 - n. Asking a friend/family member to help us at the Outflow Supper.

The overall tone of the evening was very positive and Associates look forward to continuing the discussion. Light refreshments were served.

Photo – Sharon Jacquard – Write-up – Denise Isaacs