

# Contextualization

## Initial Reflections

In-House

Margaret Magee

Table 13

### The Big Picture: Graced Crossroads

- Listen to the Heartbeat of the New
- A Deeper Invitation
- Cooperation with Grace
- Vulnerability and its Transformative Potential

*The Soulwork of Grieving: Make Room for the New*

*Flourishing in a Season of Surrender: Sacrificial Love*

### Goal 1: CARE: Part and Parcel of Transformation

#### **Now what is your goal?**

Be open and courageous in our sharing our truth.

Willingness to face our fears.

### Goal 2: We will explore the current and future realities along with the challenges facing our Congregation and the deeper invitations

- Lifecycles and Pathways
- Completion, Vocations, Leadership

#### **What are your initial reflections regarding your future?**

Life in hope knowing God is leading.

Future is scary & unknown.

We want to make it around the bend.

Close what needs to close. Let due what needs to due. So the new came be born.

### Goal 3: We will introduce the proposed approach to Chapter 2025

#### **What are your initial hopes and reflections about Chapter?**

Be courageous, joyful and hopeful.

Listen to others deeply.

Holding each other's truth with mutuality m

#### **What are you seeking for the future of your Region/Congregation?**

Brazil: encourage and accept vocations. Build up new formation program for what is needed in religious life today.

US: continue work with Partners in Mission & Associates to lead in mission.

Need for all to be welcoming to new vocations & laity in sharing and carrying on the charism.

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Avril Chin Fatt

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### Goal 1: CARE: Part and Parcel of Transformation

#### **Now what is your goal?**

Use the skills to listen and share deeply. Exchanging information, ideas in a respectful manner.

Goal 2: We will explore the current and future realities along with the challenges facing our Congregation and the deeper invitations

- Lifecycles and Pathways
- Completion, Vocations, Leadership

#### **What are your initial reflections regarding your future?**

- Time is of the essence. We have to trust - let go of what shackles us and take the risk in going into the future. - Our countries are at different stages in the life cycle yet we say we are one Congregation. Do we move forward individually or as one. How do we do this?

Goal 3: We will introduce the proposed approach to Chapter 2025

#### **What are your initial hopes and reflections about Chapter?**

- Importance of prayer in discerning preparation for Chapter. - We focus on only ONE issue/topic and use Chapter to plan for the execution of that issue.

#### **What are you seeking for the future of your Region/Congregation?**

Young people today are looking for community and relationships and a sense of belonging, a sense of identity. How do we respond to this need?

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In-House  
Dolores O'Brien  
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### Goal 1: CARE: Part and Parcel of Transformation

#### **Now what is your goal?**

- Listen more intently, deeply -- Building relationships, respecting and trusting one another
- Invitation to change -- to be transformed

Goal 2: We will explore the current and future realities along with the challenges facing our Congregation and the deeper invitations

- Lifecycles and Pathways
- Completion, Vocations, Leadership

#### **What are your initial reflections regarding your future?**

In line with the Franciscan spirit, we need to continue the work of conversion and reconciliation which is needed more today than it has ever been

Goal 3: We will introduce the proposed approach to Chapter 2025

#### **What are your initial hopes and reflections about Chapter?**

We hope this is an invitation to be open to be surprised!

#### **What are you seeking for the future of your Region/Congregation?**

That we will be open to new directions and let go of the past

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## Initial Reflections

In-House  
Helen Roberts  
Table 5

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### Goal 1: CARE: Part and Parcel of Transformation

#### **Now what is your goal?**

To incorporate CARE skills into all conversations and interactions.

Goal 2: We will explore the current and future realities along with the challenges facing our Congregation and the deeper invitations

- Lifecycles and Pathways
- Completion, Vocations, Leadership

#### **What are your initial reflections regarding your future?**

Empower Congregational Leadership from members in Brazil.  
Collaborate with laity and other congregations.

Goal 3: We will introduce the proposed approach to Chapter 2025

#### **What are your initial hopes and reflections about Chapter?**

Be open to the new and different.  
Seeking interdependence in relationships and integrity in conversations.

**What are you seeking for the future of your Region/Congregation?**

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In-House  
Pat Klemm  
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### Goal 1: CARE: Part and Parcel of Transformation

#### **Now what is your goal?**

Openness to others to expand our individual thinking.

Goal 2: We will explore the current and future realities along with the challenges facing our Congregation and the deeper invitations

- Lifecycles and Pathways
- Completion, Vocations, Leadership

#### **What are your initial reflections regarding your future?**

There are new realities ahead of us - we must be open to them, especially in regards to the sisters in Brazil (Our youngest members will be around a lot longer than most of us.) There will be new realities in terms of leadership forms and persons.

There are differing opinions on both completion and vocation ministry - some see completion as inevitable; some see vocation ministry as vital and others are willing to let it go, especially in the US and Jamaica.

### Goal 3: We will introduce the proposed approach to Chapter 2025

#### **What are your initial hopes and reflections about Chapter?**

There is a need to do something new; to prepare well ahead of time; to be willing to listen and share from our hearts. to dare to do things differently.

#### **What are you seeking for the future of your Region/Congregation?**

A new way of living will happen - we need to prepare for it. We will not exist as we do now.

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## Initial Reflections

United States  
Rosemary Higgins  
Table

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### Goal 1: CARE: Part and Parcel of Transformation

#### **Now what is your goal?**

- \* To have a base of shared knowledge and understanding, so that we come to Chapter better prepared to make decisions.
- \* We will better understand and participate in shared leadership.

### Goal 2: We will explore the current and future realities along with the challenges facing our Congregation and the deeper invitations

- Lifecycles and Pathways
- Completion, Vocations, Leadership

#### **What are your initial reflections regarding your future?**

- \* A vocation challenge is that we do not have enough people to offer an experience of community life with the Allegany Franciscans.
- \* It would be helpful in Brazil if we had an open approach to vocations.

### Goal 3: We will introduce the proposed approach to Chapter 2025

#### **What are your initial hopes and reflections about Chapter?**

Our hope for Chapter 2025 is that through our Chapter preparations, we will be better prepared to understand and participate in shared leadership.

**What are you seeking for the future of your Region/Congregation?**

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## Initial Reflections

In-House  
Mary Ellen Tucker  
Table

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### Goal 1: CARE: Part and Parcel of Transformation

***Now what is your goal?***

Goal 2: We will explore the current and future realities along with the challenges facing our Congregation and the deeper invitations

- Lifecycles and Pathways
- Completion, Vocations, Leadership

***What are your initial reflections regarding your future?***

God willing Franciscans will continue to exist and those wishing to live this life will find them.

Goal 3: We will introduce the proposed approach to Chapter 2025

***What are your initial hopes and reflections about Chapter?***

***What are you seeking for the future of your Region/Congregation?***

To always continue to think as our congregation as one with differences. Completion could take place in some areas and not all.

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## Initial Reflections

In-House  
Kathy Maire  
Self 1

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### Goal 1: CARE: Part and Parcel of Transformation

#### **Now what is your goal?**

To listen and not be judgemental.

Goal 2: We will explore the current and future realities along with the challenges facing our Congregation and the deeper invitations

- Lifecycles and Pathways
- Completion, Vocations, Leadership

#### **What are your initial reflections regarding your future?**

It is in God's hands. In USA we will join the great "cloud of witnesses" who have been faithful to call to holiness.

In Brazil, the future will depend on the sisters' ability to accept and work with the younger sisters' understanding of life and culture.

Goal 3: We will introduce the proposed approach to Chapter 2025

#### **What are your initial hopes and reflections about Chapter?**

Hope that preparation for Chapter will allow us to make decisions based on total Congregational input.

#### **What are you seeking for the future of your Region/Congregation?**

An embrace of the reality of our world today and all its needs.



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United States  
Mary Lou LAFFERTY  
Table 12

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### Goal 1: CARE: Part and Parcel of Transformation

#### **Now what is your goal?**

Openness to everyone's insights about our future in the process of transformation.

### Goal 2: We will explore the current and future realities along with the challenges facing our Congregation and the deeper invitations

- Lifecycles and Pathways
- Completion, Vocations, Leadership

#### **What are your initial reflections regarding your future?**

\*Establish Foundation(s)/Endowment(s) utilizing our Partners in Mission to continue our Mission, Charism and Values throughout our countries.

\*Review the Mission in Mozambique and the Amazon area working with the Vocation Ministry realizing our future in both.

### Goal 3: We will introduce the proposed approach to Chapter 2025

#### **What are your initial hopes and reflections about Chapter?**

\*Keep on track with what we are doing at the Gathering, so that it will feed into Chapter 2025, Remain open to possibly 1 additional topic.

\*Stay focused on the results of the Gathering.

#### **What are you seeking for the future of your Region/Congregation?**

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## Initial Reflections

In-House  
Barbara Bartkowiak  
Table 10

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### Goal 1: CARE: Part and Parcel of Transformation

#### **Now what is your goal?**

We hope to be open to "New Beginnings" and to be led by the Holy Spirit in our decisions.

Goal 2: We will explore the current and future realities along with the challenges facing our Congregation and the deeper invitations

- Lifecycles and Pathways
- Completion, Vocations, Leadership

#### **What are your initial reflections regarding your future?**

Partnership is key to all of our challenges which requires personal risk and congregational vision.

Community living needs to be central in our life together and is an attractor for vocations.

Goal 3: We will introduce the proposed approach to Chapter 2025

#### **What are your initial hopes and reflections about Chapter?**

Let the 2025 chapter serve as a pathway in which we deeply commit ourselves to be changed and influenced by open discussions.

#### **What are you seeking for the future of your Region/Congregation?**

Let's begin again, as Francis, to rebuild the church now in today's world.

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In-House  
Lorraine Chen  
Table 6

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### Goal 1: CARE: Part and Parcel of Transformation

#### **Now what is your goal?**

Individually, we need to listen to one another to allow the voice of each person to be heard.

Goal 2: We will explore the current and future realities along with the challenges facing our Congregation and the deeper invitations

- Lifecycles and Pathways
- Completion, Vocations, Leadership

#### **What are your initial reflections regarding your future?**

We are not planning for a final completion. We are not looking at completion, but we are looking at a new life cycle.

Goal 3: We will introduce the proposed approach to Chapter 2025

#### **What are your initial hopes and reflections about Chapter?**

Chapter should unite us through prayer and fraternity. We should engage in honest conversations in order to help us with our decision making. No region or culture should dominate another in this process.

#### **What are you seeking for the future of your Region/Congregation?**

That the Chapter will help us to face whatever we encounter when we go around the bend.

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## Initial Reflections

In-House  
Carole Ann Hoppe  
Table 9

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### Goal 1: CARE: Part and Parcel of Transformation

#### **Now what is your goal?**

Importance of letting go of personal opinions, ideas, etc. as well as material things

Goal 2: We will explore the current and future realities along with the challenges facing our Congregation and the deeper invitations

- Lifecycles and Pathways
- Completion, Vocations, Leadership

#### **What are your initial reflections regarding your future?**

Collective vision of who we are as well as our individual realities  
Be open to new life/rebirth

Goal 3: We will introduce the proposed approach to Chapter 2025

#### **What are your initial hopes and reflections about Chapter?**

[didn't discuss; didn't get to this]

**What are you seeking for the future of your Region/Congregation?**

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## Initial Reflections

In-House

Teresita DeSouza

Table 7

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Goal 3: We will introduce the proposed approach to Chapter 2025

***What are your initial hopes and reflections about Chapter?***

***What are you seeking for the future of your Region/Congregation?***

This is our general response:

Be open in hope, love for another, deep relationships with God with God and with the Word of God. Be not afraid to move forward... imaging driving into the fog.. all this for the purpose of our mission in the Church of to

# Contextualization

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Meg Guider for The Sisters in Mozambique and Brazil: Virtual Group  
Eurípedes, Abadia, Maria José, Maria Isabel, Ana Bernadette, Te, Estella, Rita, Rita Cecília, Maria da Paz, Valdete and Solange. (Desyree, technology assistant) Answers to the three questions.

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***What are you seeking for the future of your Region/Congregation?***

Hope!

We can change reality - through a profound transformation and conversion. Let us be strong in the decisions made for our future in mission.

At this time, unity is needed for vocation promotion, using media for evangelization, music, encouraging the participation of lay people; we need materials, posters, cards, use of social media, television, radio, online.

Note the importance of music for vocation promotion.

Accompany and help the most vulnerable.

We need to increasingly make known our work and our commitment to the poor.

Jesus calls us to be part of the lives of the most impoverished.

We need more courage and even more courage.

Recognize that death is part of life.

We must reimagine our life, not simply maintain it.

The time has come to prepare ourselves and believe more in ourselves at the congregational level.

Intensify the Franciscan charisma by following the Rule.

Respond to the invitation to seek, in a deeper way, the essence of Religious Life.

Seek the foundations/ fundamentals and live the simplicity of the Mission. Remember and recognize the importance of Sharing, following the example of the most impoverished.

“Be at home” with the less fortunate as a sign of Consecrated Life, especially with the most vulnerable people.

Open paths for the future and think carefully about the issue of fear.

Think about the examples of Jesus and Mary and the action of the Holy Spirit, and thus face and assume the courage that we need and desire.