



Communication – July 26, 2021

Welcome to the 2021 General Chapter of the CND! We hope to transmit the vibrant spirit with which the sisters and associates greeted one another and entered into the general chapter *together for the life of the world*.



**Sr. Agnes Campbell** welcomed the sisters and associates and expressed her gratitude for everyone's work to make this chapter happen via Zoom. In addition, she thanked the various teams who are making this General Chapter possible. Sr. Agnes concluded by welcoming in "The same Spirit that spoke to Marguerite Bourgeoys that speaks to us today, "Lord, do not permit this good and sincere purpose you have been pleased to inspire in us ever to falter.' With Marguerite and the Blessed Mother, together for the life of the world, we live this chapter in love and with fierce hope."



## Opening Prayer

**Marthe Falie Minkoue** facilitated the PowerPoint slides supporting **Marie de Lovinfosse** who led the opening prayer.

Sr. Kathleen Deignan's music capturing the call to "gather up the blood" prepared everyone's hearts and minds to receive the Holy Spirit and hear the call of Jesus in Matthew 13:16-17. Sr. Agnes's reflection on Jesus' words expressed thanksgiving to our "Lord, who opens our eyes and ears, who opens our way of thinking and living, who opens this General Chapter today. Amen."

## Gifts of the CND

The provinces and regions shared many unique gifts. Here are some that were held in common:

Listening      Openness      Creativity

Joy and a Sense of Humor

Hope      Trust      Energy



Franciscan Sister, Maria Elena Martinez, General Chapter Facilitator, shared her gifts of warmth, joy, and courage as she commenced the virtual facilitation of this 98<sup>th</sup> General Chapter of the CND via Zoom.

Sr. Maria Elena reminded the delegates to live out the gifts they brought to the Chapter, especially their common gifts of listening, creativity, and openness. She encouraged everyone to, “Make the path by walking,” share in the joy, to gather in one heart and one spirit through this virtual means. Also, to be thankful for God’s grace at work in everyone as a chapter and through the various teams including interpretation and technology. In union with the sisters and associates, she concluded by calling upon the spirit of St. Marguerite Bourgeois to foster life in these new and difficult situations of today.

## Integration of Small Groups



Today's small group discussion offered participants the opportunity to reflect on three questions:

1. How do I come to this chapter? Where is my heart, my spirit?
2. What are my hopes for this chapter experience?
3. What do I offer to this chapter experience?

Delegates shared a common spirit expressed as, "Behold, I am doing something new." There was also appreciation for shared issues across provinces and regions such as meeting the needs of refugees, immigrants, and climate change. Additionally, delegates expressed appreciation of the associates and a hope that the partnership between associates and sisters will grow and thrive. There was also an energetic and passionate spirit full of the "desire to be open and trust one another to see the truth about our reality and to see clearly our future."

It was truly a day full of joy and hope for the future of the Congregation of Notre Dame and those whom we serve. Delegates were asked to conclude the day with a moment of silence, reflecting on what stood out for them and what stayed with them as they put closure to this day. Along with this final reflection we continue to invoke the Holy Spirit in a union of prayer, "Come Holy Spirit, Come!"