

**Chapter Planning Committee**

**Personal Discernment**

**Calling Forth Sisters for Elected Leadership**

***Come to the edge***

Find a quiet prayerful place where you can pray undisturbed for about one hour. Please bring with you to this discernment process: **Considerations in Discerning Elected Leadership** (included in the discernment packet) and some paper to write the names of those you wish to call forth to elected leadership. You may also want to use the CSJ Member Directory in your discernment. The link to the Directory on the CSJ website is below.

<https://www.csjoseph.org/member-only/member-directory/?filter_11=Show+Sisters&mode=all>

***Scripture Reflection:***

Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 1042-45)

**Opening Prayer**: O God of Generosity and Grace, as I discern those who I will call forth for elected leadership, I ask for the gift of wisdom and interior freedom, that will enable me to move beyond my own predilections and be fully open to the promptings of the Spirit.

As you begin your personal discernment, you are encouraged to first reflect upon what our Evolving Design states about congregational government, elected leadership, their responsibilities, abilities needed, and the priorities for Chapter deliberation discerned in our pre-chapter Zoom sessions.

Let me honestly respond to the following questions:

* *Who are the Sisters who come to mind as I discern elected leadership?*
* *What gifts do they have that with others will provide the gifts needed to fulfill the directions set by Chapter for the next 5 years?*
* *How free am I to call forth someone who may have some of the gifts for leadership but for whom I have unfavorable feelings?*
* *Where do I experience the promptings of the Spirt as I discern?*

I might want to slowly and reflectively read the names of our Sisters in our Congregational Directory. I continue to pray for the gift of wisdom and interior freedom *“a room inside my heart where my truth and God’s truth merge.” (Ted Dunn)*.

*When I am finished in surfacing names, I write down those whom I wish to call forth for elected leadership. I place this list in a “sacred place” where I have the Chapter Prayer and Logo. I pray the following:*

**Closing Prayer:** *Loving God who has constantly guided and inspired our Congregation from the beginnings of its foundation in 1650, continue to pour your Spirit upon us and lead us to elect those Sisters to leadership who possess the wisdom, energy, insight, compassion and courage that we need at this time in our history so that stimulated by the Spirit of love we may move always toward profound love of You and of our dear neighbor.* Thank you, for this gift of prayer. May it be fruitful. Give my spirit peace. Let me continue to be open to your Spirit. Amen.

You may need to repeat this prayer process a second time before or after meeting with a small group for communal discernment.

This is the first step in the discernment process for elected leadership in the Congregation. The second step is a communal discernment process in small groups in person or via Zoom (RLC, Mission Circles, Wisdom Circles, or other small groups that are formed to discern elected leadership.)