

JOURNEYING TOGETHER
TOWARDS THE 2025
GENERAL CHAPTER

ELC 2024
NEWSLETTER 1



RELIGIOUS OF
THE SACRED
HEART OF MARY

Enlarged Leadership Council Meeting 2024

Camilla Morteau

From October 29 to November 7, the leaders of the Institute of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary are meeting at the Noddfa Center in Wales for the Enlarged Leadership Council Meeting 2024.

The group is made up of Sisters Margaret Fielding, Maria Aparecida Moreira, Ana Luísa Pinto, Sipiwé Phiri, Monica Walsh, Breda Byrne, Cathy Minhoto, Coltrida Mooya, Florence Muuka, Kathleen Kelemen, Kathleen O'Donovan, Maria Helena Morra, Maria Teresa Nogueira, Maria Timoney, Marie-France Correau and Vália Erneio. Sisters Brid Long (facilitator), Lory Rockenbach, Mary Jo McElroy and Veronica Brand (translators) also attend the meetings in person.



Welcome

Sister Margaret Fielding, Leader of the Institute, welcomed the group with the words “may the beautiful, peaceful surroundings of Noddfa nourish our spirits and shape our hopes/dreams and longings as we engage in reflection, sharing and deep listening during the coming days.”

We come as a listening, discerning body of apostolic women religious, faithful to our heritage and the mission entrusted to us in today's world. In doing so, we remember our founder, Jean Gailhac, a man who was deeply sensitive to God's action in the world of his time and deeply committed to respond to the greatest needs.

We are invited to grow in that sensitivity, in the capacity to look at all life and sense the movement of God's Spirit and to respond in the choices we make and the decisions/actions we take.

In the initial conversation, the sisters shared their hopes for the meeting and also revealed that they were concerned about the world situation, in particular the elections in the United States and Mozambique, the war between Russia and Ukraine, the various situations of human poverty and the ecological crisis. But they also expressed great joy at being together. Together they feel stronger, with hope, always learning from each other and open to God's newness.



Leadership Council

Reflections with Dr. Jessie Rogers

The morning of the second day of the meeting began with a prayer led by Sister Maria Helena Morra, remembering the women of salvation history. Together, the leaders of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary also remembered many courageous women in the history of the Institute and the world.

Afterwards, the leaders welcomed Dr. Jessie Rogers, a theologian specializing in the Old Testament, for a reflection on the theme of the 2025 General Chapter, together with the inspiring verse from Micah 6:8.

Jessie Rogers emphasized that the Religious chose one of the best known and most powerful verses of the biblical prophets as the biblical inspiration for the Chapter. In the New Revised Standard version, it is translated like this: "... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"



Dr. Jessie Rogers and Sr. Brid Long



Dr. Jessie Rogers



*Sr. Kathleen Kelemen and
Sr. Florence Muuka*

"Remember your history, as individuals and as a congregation. The Lord has walked with you in the past. Take time to remember, and let the memory of God's actions in the past give you hope and expectation for God's work now and in the future."

The afternoon reflection was dedicated to the theme of the chapter "Women of Prophetic Hope, Walking Together, Risking the New, so that All May Have Life".

"As you listen to God, to each other and to the cry of the earth and of those kept poor, you will hear God's invitation. God wants to be found. And as you hear and respond, as you walk humbly with God, doing justice and loving mercy, you will become women of prophetic hope, walking together, risking the new, that all may have life", said Jessie.

For Jessie, God is saying: "be who you are, because you are women of prophetic hope... You are continuing the story."

The sisters were very grateful, happy with Jessie's presence and the depth of the reflection.



Sr. Marie-France Correau, Sr. Ana Luísa Pinto and Sr. Paré Moreira



Sr. Cathy Minhoto and Sr. Coltrida Mooya



Sr. Maria Teresa Nogueira, Sr. Breda Byrne and Sr. Valéria Erneio



Reports

The third day of meetings was dedicated to the Institute Leadership Team Report and the Financial and Statistical Reports. These were followed by reflection and dialog.

The Leaders will continue meeting until November 7th, with the certainty that “The Lord is lighting lights when we need them.” (Procession Lighting Lights, by James Alberione).



Leadership Council



Sr. Monica Walsh and Sr. Kathleen Kelemen



*Sr. Maria Timoney, Sr. Florence Muuka and
Sr. Kathleen O'Donovan*



*Sr. Margaret Fielding,
Sr. Kathleen O'Donovan and
Sr. Maria Timoney*



Noddfa



*Sr. Pará Moreira and
Sr. Veronica Brand*



*Sr. Ana Luísa Pinto and
Sr. Breda Byrne*

