

**May 15, 2018 Community Assembly Notes:  
“Everyone is welcome!”**

by Linda Taylor, CSJ and Andrea Tande, CSJC

The resounding message of the Community Assembly was “Everyone is welcome!” This sentiment was expressed in participants’ response to the St. Kate’s students who shared their concerns for DACA students and those who are undocumented. It was also clear in the unanimous approval of the Community Assembly’s Vision and Purpose Statements (Please see below) and the Expanded Participation Proposal (Please see below).

Our time together began with two St. Kate’s students speaking about the current situation of undocumented immigrant students and those with DACA status (DACA = Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). Many of the DACA students at St. Kate’s are responsible for looking after their younger siblings, serving as interpreter for the family, and helping the family financially. As DACA status is currently in a precarious state, these students face even more stress. The students asked us to consider how we might be able to support DACA and undocumented students at St. Kate’s. In response, assembly participants suggested a variety of ways we can be involved. Please let the Justice Office know if you would be willing to provide emergency housing for a DACA or undocumented student if need be.

Business included approval of the notes from the 10.28.17 Community Assembly; acceptance of the Commission Summaries of Activities January 2017 – March 2018; a brief overview of the seven Community Assemblies beginning with the first meeting on 1.10.15; the re-approval of the Community Assembly’s Vision and Purpose Statements; and the approval of the Community Assembly Statement of Participation.

The Ministry Commission then gave a presentation on their recent work. Ann Redmond, CSJ, had a strong presence here, as Megan Bender of the Justice Office remembered her as a woman whose “gentle nudges moved the world.” The work that Ann was doing at the time of her death formed the backbone of the Ministry Commission’s presentation on the ministry landscape of sex trafficking. Anita Duckor gave an overview of Ministry Landscapes and Terry Forliti, Executive Director of Breaking Free, spoke about her work with sex trafficking survivors and the important support of the CSJ community in that work. The collection for the evening went to Breaking Free in honor of Ann Redmond, CSJ.

**Participants:** Total: 113 -- Sisters (77), Consociates & Candidates (30), Commissioners (3), Invited Participants (3).

See review of Assembly actions on back side.

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**Re-approval of the Community Assembly Vision and Purpose Statements:**

November 14, 2015, the Community Assembly approved the following Vision and Purpose Statements to use as a working document for two years.

May 15, 2018, the Community Assembly reviewed and unanimously re-approved the following Vision and Purpose Statements using the consensus method.

**Vision:** The Community Assembly gathers people who share the passion for justice and spirituality of loving God and neighbor without distinction, continuing the mission of Jesus in the world today.

**Purpose:** The Community Assembly promotes new ways of engaging with each other, partners, experts, and those directly impacted by social injustices in order to:

- 1) develop and strengthen relationships among persons who intentionally live the CSJ mission;
- 2) understand and support the unique ways individuals and groups are living the mission;
- 3) engage in significant dialogue around the Acts of Chapter;
- 4) educate ourselves about emerging needs and resources, and
- 5) take action for justice and ministry within our local communities and the larger world.

**Participation Proposal passed at Community Assembly – May 15, 2018**

Community Assembly membership is composed of Sisters, Novices, Sister Candidates, Consociates, Consociate Candidates, Friends of St. Joseph, St. Joseph Workers, St. Joseph Worker Community members, and Partners from Relationship and Association, Justice, and Ministry Commissions and Acts of Chapter Committee. Community Assembly Planning Committee invites Partners in Mission/Ministry as appropriate.

Definitions: written by Relationship and Association Commission, published in Together in March 2017.

*St. Joseph Worker* – Current SJWs.

*St. Joseph Worker Community* – Persons previously participated in program.

*Partners in Ministry* - Anyone employed by or volunteering with one of the ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Consociates. This is an organizational affiliation.

*Partners in Mission* – People who carry the CSJ charism in their hearts and who work to carry out the mission of “loving God and Neighbor without distinction.” This might be employees, volunteers, neighbors, friends, etc.