ILC gathers for continued conversation about the future

As Easter approaches, the Institute Leadership Conference (ILC) was blessed to be together March 24–30 in Auburn, California. The poem, “The Annunciation,” by Denise Levertov, grounded leaders for the work of the week as each team brought its courage and consent to the conversations to clarify their future roles and responsibilities, imagine the future ILC, refine the elements of the Mercy Fund for Ministry plan, and update one another on the life and mission of members.

A diverse panel of leaders shared their personal experiences of the Journey of Oneness. Through individual reflections and table conversations, Sisters Pat Vetrano, Ana María Pineda, Julie Mathews, Kathy Wahl and Áine O’Connor discussed what touched, resonated with, and challenged them during this time of transition. Participants also discussed and refined their future roles and responsibilities.

The panelists underscored our Institute’s joyful partnership with God in our unfolding story of Mercy, delighting in what theologian Dorothee Soelle calls the “God who created the world not ready made.” One panelist noted that “leadership is a dance rooted in God [and] based on our relationships with each other that calls us anew to see, think and believe in widening circles that touch our world.”

As part of the widening circle of Institute consciousness, the ILC reviewed suggestions for funding ministries developed by the Institute Ministry Group of the ILC. While current funding approaches may differ across Communities, the goal is to develop common funding vehicles that steward the
resources of the Institute and provide support to Mercy ministries and other ministry initiatives into the future.

Next, Ruth Thomas, the Institute’s chief operations officer, provided an update on civil structures and introduced the topic of properties from an Institute perspective. That evening, local sisters and associates in the Auburn area joined the ILC for a reception.

Using the Constitutions and the Chapter 2017 Recommitment, the teams discussed the roles and responsibilities of leadership teams during 2019–21 and explored what future ILC gatherings might be like. Sister Judy Carey, the chair of the Integrating Sisters’ Life and Governance Committee, facilitated the second consultation with the leadership teams.

**Photos:** Sister Bridget McCarthy, who works with Dignity Health in Auburn, and ILC member Sister Ana María Pineda share a smile at the mid-week social.

Sister Maria de Bello serves as the ILC’s spiritual guide.

Sister Judy Carey, chair of the Integrating Sisters’ Life and Governance Committee, and ILC member Sister Sue Sanders enjoy the mid-week social.

CCASA Sisters Julie Matthews and Angelina Mitre chat during a break in the meeting.