February 20, 2020

**JOURNEY OF ONENESS UPDATE: Ministry**

**Implementation advances for ministry**

Ministry is beginning to take next steps in the implementation process of the Journey of Oneness.

At a two-day meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, ministry leadership liaisons and ministry directors from across the United States gathered to review and update the proposed structure and discuss a projected process and timeline.

“This meeting speaks to a new moment for ministries as we move forward,” says Sister Pat Flynn, the ministry liaison on the Institute Leadership Team. “Our purpose is to put us in the best place for the most potential for our ministries in the future. It is not just about structures, but about building relationships and fulfilling our canonical responsibilities to ministries.”

One of the first canonical responsibilities is to begin a process to change the civil law documents of ministries to reflect the change of one elected leadership as of July 1, 2019. Since all ministries are now Institute-sponsored, the articles and by-laws of these corporations need to reflect this new dynamic.
This phased process will begin in the United States with South Central. Local leadership teams and local ministry directors will determine how best to complete this work with their ministries and provide necessary support. Every country in the Institute will have its own path in the process, which respects the diverse laws and experience of each nation. A timeline for this process is being developed.

“The ministry function is our mission. It is huge to who we are. It is what we live and breathe,” says Sister Pat Coward, leadership liaison to South Central. “The bottom line is that ministries will continue in Mercy. We also want to forge a path so new ministries can be created in the future to keep the mission of Mercy alive.”

“According to our Constitutions, as Sisters of Mercy, we sponsor institutions to address our enduring concerns and to witness to Christ’s mission,” say Sister Christine McCann, ministry director for the Mid-Atlantic and project coordinator for ministry. “This is our story, the heart of our tradition. It is what was, what is and what will be.”

“The slow, silent work of the ministry implementation team is like a bird in the wintertime,” says Pat Flynn. “Sometimes it feels like it is not moving, but it is. Movement happens subtly in a way that is difficult to notice or describe, but is important.”

The next step in ministry implementation will be to refine the ministry office job descriptions and gain approval of the Institute Leadership Team.

**Photo:** A lively discussion ensues between ministry leadership liaisons (left to right) Sisters Pat Lapczynski, Pat Coward, Peg Sullivan, Peg Maloney, Pat Flynn, Debbie Lee Kern and Pat Whalen.