**Clinton, Sisters of St. Francis - Parish/Entity Conversation**

1. **What did we hear?**

* We heard an affirmation of Vatican II throughout the convocation.
* If we feel like complaining, we need to look in the mirror. It is up to us to initiate change.
* Celebrate our Baptismal call, especially on the anniversaries of our baptism!
* Accompaniment with others on their faith journeys requires deep listening, waiting, and a long term commitment.
* Listen to/elicit others’ stories. Don’t assume we know others even if we have been acquainted for years.
* We heard the stories of the mother and son in their struggles to come to the U.S. which gave us a deeper appreciation of and admiration for their courage and resilience.
* We need to learn the art of framing “thick” questions in order to elicit deep conversation.
* It is important to read the signs of the times – our changing demographics, cultural/ societal realities, etc. Are we afraid of the future …of change? Are we holding on to our view of Roman Catholic?
* We need to embrace *both/and* instead of *either/or* thinking.
* We must move to the future, not back, in time and space.
* Throughout we heard the importance of humor – of not taking ourselves too seriously, of being able to laugh at ourselves.
* We didn’t really hear about the importance of the social aspect of the Gospel except in the workshop about immigration. However, an entire part of *Joy of the Gospel* talks about this, especially in light of the economy. Our witness to the importance of the social mission of the church is an essential part of evangelization – especially if we want to attract youth.

1. **What does it mean for the Sisters of St. Francis?**

* We are called to go outside of our comfort zone to meet people different from ourselves.
* We want to hear one another’s stories within community in a new and deeper way.
* We recognize a call to continue to delve into evolutionary theology and our Franciscan charism as our contribution to the wider Church and as our piece of evangelization. We believe that this is part of our prophetic call as women religious.
* We need to each be aware of our individual role as well as that of the community – both/and.
* We want to increase intentionality in creating a spirit of peace at The Canticle where we are curious about each person and where everyone is acknowledged and included.
* We want to notice, allow, reverence, and accept the gifts of each Sister and of all those who accompany us in ministry and service.

1. **What help do we need?**

* Continue as a diocese to develop a framework of support for women. Continue to accompany and hear their voices. Look for additional ways that women can be seen as leaders as well as support persons. Do the wives of deacons have a particular role in the church?
* Continue to find ways to reduce clericalism and allow our priests to be one among us. We were encouraged that not all of the priests vested for the final Mass at the convocation. Could women have been Eucharistic ministers even if clergy members were present?

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