



February 11, 2019

Dear Sisters,

It has been a little more than a year and a half since the Chapter 2017 delegates and participants walked through the Door of Mercy in Buffalo, New York, ready to embrace our Chapter 2017 Recommitment and respond to the needs of our suffering world.

At the end of Chapter 2017—our Sixth Institute Chapter—Sister Pat McDermott closed the *first session* of that Chapter but left open the possibility of a *second session* to continue the discussion of two important aspects of our lives: our life together as sisters, and our governance and participative structures in light of the changes that will occur on July 1, 2019, with the Journey of Oneness. As you know, it has since been determined that there will be a second session of the Sixth Institute Chapter in 2020.

The focus of this second session will be the consideration of an integrated model for sisters' life and governance, within the context of our Chapter 2017 Recommitment and our identity as an international, intercultural community. While a final vote on this integrated model will not take place at the 2020 session, we hope that this second session will substantially affirm the model so that work can begin to prepare for its adoption by the 2023 Chapter.

The Second Session of the Sixth Institute Chapter will be held at:

- The Sheraton Westport Chalet in St. Louis, Missouri, from March 26–28, 2020, with travel days on March 25 and March 29.

The membership of this second session will be composed of:

- The delegates and alternates from the first session of the 2017 Chapter.
- Ex officio members, including the additional ex officio members approved at the first session.
- Five participants from each community who attended the 2017 Chapter. (Given the brevity of this session and in the interest of good stewardship, the Institute Leadership Team has decided to limit the number of participants to five from each Community.)

Each Community Leadership Team will be responsible for finalizing its own list of delegates, alternates and participants attending the 2020 Session and for deciding the process for choosing the five participants from among those who participated in the first session of the Chapter.

All members of the Institute—and especially delegates, alternates and participants—are encouraged to participate in the consultations conducted by the Integrating Sisters' Life and Governance Committee in March–April 2019 and October–November 2019.

An Institute Chapter Coordinating Committee has been formed for this second session. Its members are **Sisters Eileen Enright, Ann McGovern, Derby Mercado, Jackie Nedd, MaryHelen Nugent (Chair) and Maria Luisa Vera**. ILT liaisons to the committee are Sisters Pat Flynn and Judith Frikker. The committee had its first meeting in Belmont in early January 2019.

Facilitating the second session will be two experienced facilitators: **Ursuline Sister Margaret O'Brien** and well-known presenter on intercultural dynamics **Arturo Chavez**. Both facilitators will be attentive to the contemplative nature of this session, to our need for deep listening and sharing with integrity

and clear intention, and to our international and intercultural identity.

As we begin our remote preparation for this second session of the Sixth Institute Chapter, may we join together in the new consciousness called forth by our Chapter 2017 Recommitment and the invitation of Jesus that “All may be one.”

In Mercy,

Pat Pat Judith Anne Marie Aine

The Institute Leadership Team