

CRG RESPONSE/SYNTHESIS

The following specific communal values were identified by the CRG's as guiding and expressing criteria for apostolic living as our community grows smaller and fewer Sisters are engaged in active ministries.

Prayer

- Prayer/Discernment/Faith Sharing/State of the Heart creates community
- Contemplation/ Spirituality/ Contemplative prayer that draws us into an awareness of our oneness with God, each other and all creation
- Openness to grace/ a new call

Community

- Community Life/Balance (important for well-being)/sharing the mission/Common Good
- As the number of lay employees increase and are directly involved in the care of Sisters and our Vowed life as we live it today requires willingness to embrace a new theology of the vows.
- Our benefits, how do we deal with change in the dynamic?
- A broader sense of “community” than articulated in our Constitutions, i.e. our “extended charism family”; The Dear Neighbor; Unity and reconciliation
- The GIFT of our history and the gift of friendships in community which is the heart of religious life, a counterweight to offset division; value of being together
- A shared vision
- Continue implementation of the plan for Member well-being

Presence/Outreach

- Presence - God uses us/our presence to connect with our neighbors and others
- Faithfulness – to the gospel, to God, neighbor and each other
- Outward focus-embracing the cares and needs of those beyond ourselves
- Compassion and understanding of the circumstances of those with whom we live and minister
- Renewing our commitment to the Directional Statement/Consensus Statement

The following criteria for apostolic living were identified based on these values:

- **Trust in God**/Faithfulness to grace/Sharing the heart; knowing my need for God in my life; self-emptying
- **Contemplative prayer and listening** with a sense of evolving consciousness while continuing to live in vulnerability individually, communally and with global awareness; faith sharing
- **Deepening consciousness of the vowed life** as we live it in this time and space
 - **Poverty**-Prayerfully surrendering to the effects of aging and loss as we become smaller
 - **Chastity**- actively nurturing relationships while embracing the expansiveness of the call to love God and the dear neighbor
 - **Obedience**- discerningly listening to and for the will of God in daily life
- **Bringing about Unity**/live so that the fruits of the Spirit are evident in our personal/communal living
- **Understanding** one another and living in communion with each other and the world
- **Honesty** with self and one another / Acceptance and respect of one another / Personal self-awareness; Gentleness of Spirit
- **Living in faithfulness to our Constitutions; our Directional Statement** - now, in 2018, and into the future with a deeper understanding and consciousness
- **Care for the Earth**
- **Connecting to a “local” community** (whether living in a group or not) for gathering regularly. What does living in a community mean? What is happening today in our community and in our church?
- **Being attentive to being in communion** with one another / Find and implement ways that we enhance our relationships—celebrations, community reconciliation, grieving, etc.
- **Becoming better informed by reading** about issues that affect us personally (Medicare, finances, etc.) to enable us to advocate for ourselves
- **Being located in low income areas** – living and/or creating community with the poor
- **Building and deepening relationships** with CSJs, CSJAs, CRG group members (suggestion: change the name so that it reveals a greater mission focus instead of “corporate), neighbors and global focus.

Additional Comments:

The prayer "action" we are doing as a community in preparation for Chapter unites those of us living singly and in groups. Can there be something after Chapter that unites us similarly as community? Could this be a consideration under the topic of new models?

My understanding of community is doing the same thing (mission-centered apostolate) in different ways in various places. It is the belonging to something larger that holds us together. In some ways, it obliges us to know the different ways in which we minister and to support each other in that.

Carrying out the charism of and/or being a Sister of St. Joseph includes creating a 'safe container' for those with whom we come in contact; living in a nonjudgmental way; being filled with love and acceptance; and having a common purpose. In so doing, a person is able to be united with each one with whom she comes in contact in her apostolate.

Members questioned the need for criteria: How do we quantify being and interpret criteria? Are we already living and being apostolic, faith-filled?