

## THE MONASTIC INSTITUTE 2015

### The Way Forward

Thoughts and questions that arose over the week of discussion

#### Technology and the Upcoming Generations of Monastics

How do we reach the younger generations?

- Technology is one method: websites, social media, resources for those who are not using SM and how to use it effectively.

What is a wise use of technology for monastic communities?

Disconnect between what is portrayed in social media: the community may portray the life as something, but when people come, they can have a much different experience.

#### The Changing World

How can we be who we are in the midst of complexity of the world?

- Remaining vital and vibrant.

What is the relationship between monastic communities and the culture?

- How do you know when you are enculturated, and not accommodating?

What is the way to be for the “nones” who really want community and the way of life of monastic communities but do not want the discipline?

Changing times—how do you strike balance between monastic life and being sent out on mission work, pastoral responsibilities, community needs?

How do we honor reflective time?

- Mindfulness, contemplative attitude

#### The Changing Community Life

Transition: feelings of dislocation in the monastery, how do people come back after living away from the community for ministry? Often they feel unsure about how to come back and be a part of the community, or even how to “be monastic.”

- Many are told, the harder you work the more value you are to the monastery, which can cause issues.

How do we find a freshness in this monastic *tradition*, when tradition is often highly valued?

What are some ways to allow different pathways into the community?

- Associates, affiliates, immersion, service to sisters...

“Go and Be” how does this happen with small communities?

- Other monasteries in the communities (male and female) bring oblates, and others connected to help.

How can we better deal with the huge age difference within many of our monasteries: The very old monks and the very young monastery.

As communities and buildings are aging, how do we honor tradition and find new traditions and buildings?

- How do we wake ourselves up?
- We must start with ourselves

Balance between monastic practice and the clerical life and training, relationship with diocese and bishops?

### Community Life

How do we allow our community life to contribute to the NE, witnesses to community life?

- Speaking to another, listening, reconciling, concrete loving acts

If we are going to “be” how do we avoid naval gazing?

- Being in the truth of Benedictine tradition?

Cultivating greater joy and healthy ways of being together in community.

Dialogue within decision making.

Practical questions about the integrity of the charism and hospitality to guests.

How do we incorporate poetry in our life in the monastery?

What are we doing to share our charism that we are finding successful?

Dialogue between communities

How do we stop “religious rat race”?

Afraid to slow down, do one thing at a time, mindfulness

How can we allow oblates to continue to be an extension of monasteries in New Evangelization?

What does obedience mean for residential oblates?