

## ***Journey Toward Oneness***

### ***Constitutions Process 2020***

August 24<sup>th</sup> 2020



Letter to all Sisters in the Congregation

From the Constitutions Working Group 2020

Dear Sisters,

This is an update on the letter in the July edition of *Mercy Alive*. It brings some new and amended detail on the plan for deepening our understanding of the proposed new governance structure for the Congregation. It is part of the Chapter 2018 mandate and follows consultation at the Plenary Conference (November 2019). One of the functions of the Plenary is 'to engage in long-term-planning for the Congregation as a whole.'<sup>i</sup> (#116 Constitutions).

There is a new date for your diary - October 1<sup>st</sup> at 4.00.p.m.  
(Irish Time) – an invitation to join with the whole  
Congregation on that day for the Launch of the process.



Places are not limited by Covid-19 restrictions, nor  
advice not to travel beyond your hall-door; you can  
join-in to this pre-recorded event from your own  
places all over the four continents. Provision will  
be made for those with unreliable internet access or a shaky  
electricity supply. Not quite another Tallaght, July 14<sup>th</sup> 1994,  
but better access - and you can create your own party  
atmosphere!

Following the Launch, three meetings will take place locally,  
building and expanding on October 1<sup>st</sup> (the first meeting of the  
series).

**Diary: October 1<sup>st</sup> 4.00 p.m. (Irish Time):** Invitation to  
Launch -Save the date!

**Three further dates:** Facilitators will liaise with clusters/leaders to arrange dates around **October 18<sup>th</sup>** (Mission Sunday), **November 11<sup>th</sup>** and **November 30<sup>th</sup>**.

How these three “meetings” will take place will vary, and your Province/Region facilitators/hostesses will be in touch with you to arrange what suits, responsive to prevailing circumstances, constraints and possibilities.

We remind you again of the Congregation’s website

<http://www.sistersofmercy.ie>. A special “box” now has a number of goodies in it – resources all related to Constitutions Process 2020 – letters from CLT, Draft Statutes 4.2a and others. Chief among the resources is a ‘working document’ - Constitutions Draft 4.2a (July 2020) - which covers Articles 76 to 88 and supersedes Draft 3 (March 2018) – the cream-coloured booklet referenced in July’s *Mercy Alive*. It is our

hope that each Sister will receive a hard copy of 4.2a in her own Province/Region in due course.

We recommend you read Constitutions Draft 4.2a (July 2020) before October 1<sup>st</sup>. It is informative and clearly indicates the proposed changes, is beautifully written in accessible language and, at a deeper level, how it describes our lives is at once inspiring, alive, reassuring and challenging. You are encouraged to have a Notebook to hand to jot down any questions that occur to you during this process.

What else is going on with the Process? We have three more Sisters on board, called the Communications Support Team. They are an unbelievable resource, highly endowed, skilled and technically savvy and their contribution will greatly enhance your engagement with the material in October-November.

We have been Zooming among ourselves since March, and in July/August with the Communications Support Team, and obviously liaising with Leadership - all of us endeavouring to facilitate this “engagement with membership” in as an informative and enjoyable way as possible.

Anything else? Facilitators (termed “hostesses” in one location and isn’t it a lovely word?) are identified in the various Provinces and the U.S. Region. They will all be participants in a Zoom call on September 17th 6.00. p.m. (Irish Time) and they will be liaising with local level leadership to arrange meetings and optimal modes for all of us to connect-in to this next phase of the Congregational Process.

We have enjoyed working together and trust you too will also be enriched as you engage with the process.

God bless you wherever you are and stay safe,

*Coirle McCarthy, Elizabeth Manning, Maria Ngui, Catherine  
Ryan, Kathy Rule, Lily Sexton, Alyce Waters.*

*(Constitutions Working Group 2020)*

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<sup>i</sup> Constitutions of the Congregation of Sisters of Mercy Adaptation of the 1985 Constitutions by the General Chapter of the Congregation of Sisters of Mercy (August 1994). # 116