



## **MODULE 6 FACILITATOR'S GUIDE: Whole Mission, Authentic Charism**

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## MODULE GOALS

- To incorporate graces gathered through the previous modules and re-experience deeper understanding and commitment to the gifts of living the charism today and for the future.
- In the spirit of the founding sisters, to share the State of the House and create a shared vision of gospel living of mission, and discern personal and collective action using the lens of the CSJ charism to meet the needs of those around us as God calls us at this time.

## WELCOME AND BRIEF CHECK-IN (5 MINUTES)

## CENTERING PRAYER (15 MINUTES)

*Facilitator signals the beginning of prayer using a song, chime, or quiet invitation. When all are settled, read the following instructions.*

- Choose a sacred word as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within.
- Sit comfortably and with your eyes closed, settle briefly, and silently introduce the sacred word as the symbol of your consent to God's presence and action within.
- When you become aware of thoughts, return ever-so-gently to the sacred word.
- When I signal the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with your eyes closed for a couple of minutes as I read from our maxims and from scripture.

*Facilitator signals the end of silence using a song, chime, or a quiet invitation. After a few beats of silence, read the following:*

**Maxim 61:** Strive also wholeheartedly after the peaceful and intimate union with God, very cordial charity and forbearance towards the neighbor, really innocent purity of heart, very perfect fidelity to grace joined to a peaceful death to all natural inclinations, a very true humility, simplicity and sincere candor, the obedience of a child who looks for no reason,

poverty completely stripped, continual joy of spirit appropriate to your institute, in a word, attain the pure and perfect love of God which explains all things.

**Maxim 67:** Accordingly, pursue to the very end and with gentleness and vigor what you have once and for all resolved and what you prudently believe corresponds to the greater glory of God.

**Scripture:** John 17:20-26

“I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am\* they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known,\* that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”

### SHARING THE STATE OF THE HEART (20-30 MINUTES)

*Enter into a quiet, contemplative sitting position to reflect on these questions; then briefly share what has been given to you during this time of reflection.*

- How has God been revealed to you since our last gathering?
- How has that changed you?

*Facilitator brings Sharing the State of the Heart to closure, honoring what has been shared. Then Facilitator plays video for Module 6.*

### VIDEO FOR MODULE 6 (20 MINUTES)

## CREATING A MIND MAP OF THE CHARISM (30-45 MINUTES)

Just as you did in Module 1, create a shared concept of the Charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

*\*Important:* there are no right or wrong answers, this is to see how individuals relate and create their understanding of deeper aspects of the charism.

### **Items needed:**

- Large newsprint or flipchart paper
- Bold markers for easy reading at a distance
- Painters tape
- Wall space, large table space or an open floor
- Notebook paper for participants

*Facilitator reads the following:*

We shared this experiential exercise in our first session on Living Charism. Now, we will work through the concept of Charism and Mission together again, with the collective awareness of worldview, stereotypes, unconditional listening and conflict in our community.

### **Creating a mind/concept map:**

- As a large group, brainstorm aspects, phrases, and ideas associated with the charism of the community. The facilitator will record these on newsprint for the entire room.
- At the end of the group brainstorm, ask each member to individually list key phrases or ideas in order of most importance to her. Once each member has had a chance to do this, then break into groups of three or four people.

### **Small group sharing:**

- Find the three to five shared key elements of the group and list them each on a large piece of newsprint.
- Under each key element, brainstorm additional key aspects/characteristics, then keep building layers by asking questions. What does that mean? What would that look like? How do we see this in ourselves? How do others see it in us?

- Begin to draw arrows and make notes on how these elements and answers have relationship to each other.
- Note if there are any key elements that are not in alignment with the whole group, e.g. one person believes “care for creation” is a key element of the charism but it was not listed by the whole.

Once each small group has sufficiently mapped three to five aspects of the charism in depth, take a moment to have the group study the various layers.

*Facilitator calls the group back to a large group discussion of the following questions.*

- Did you all have a shared understanding of mission in relationship to charism?
- How does the group understand the differences between mission, charism and ministry?
- What was similar and how did understandings differ?
- Was there ever disagreement on what was an important aspects or distinctions between mission and charism?
- It has been said the charism is the door through which we invite ourselves and others to access the Gospel. Is there uniformity in this group or unity in the understanding of the charism in relationship to mission?

*Facilitator draws discussion to a close and invites the group into a time of contemplative silence.*

## BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY (60-90 MINUTES)

*Facilitator reads the following:*

We have journeyed together, looking at who we are today; recognizing how we are shaped by our worldviews and how those worldviews are continually evolving; understanding the power of stereotyping; identifying the challenges of listening unconditionally; imagining a healthy and vibrant community by creating a caring and holistic process for conflict resolution. If we make the commitment to practicing—not perfecting—these learnings, we have the chance to become and model God’s beloved community today and into the future.

As we enter into this conversation, let us be mindful that some may need time to think, absorb and process before sharing. Let us intentionally make space for all so that no wisdom is left unspoken.

- What are concrete actions we need to develop to collectively become the beloved community?
- Who will be allowed in this community?
- How will we welcome them?
- How will we lovingly hold one another accountable?
- How do we live our mission wholly and our charism authentically?

## GUIDED DISCUSSION FROM THE READINGS (45-60 MINUTES)

From the silence, speak only if you feel called to respond to any of the excerpts and queries below. This is not a time for conversation, but for a deeper sharing of understandings revealed. Once someone has shared, allow for space, then others can continue to speak if prompted by the Spirit. After all have shared, if there is time and the group feels compelled, more discussion may be desired.

- Walter Brueggemann shares,

*“The issues of God’s freedom and his will for justice are not always and need not be expressed primarily in the big issues of the day. They can be discerned wherever people try to live together and show concern for their shared future identity.”*

Do I believe that living right relationship in my local community is living justice?

Do I dismiss the importance of attending to creating the beloved community because I need to “save the world”?

- Pope Francis writes,

*“Sometimes I wonder if there are people in today’s world who are really concerned about generating processes of people-building, as opposed to obtaining immediate results which yield easy, quick, short-term political gains, but do not enhance human fullness. History will perhaps judge the latter with the criterion set forth by Romano Guardini: ‘The only measure for properly evaluating an age is to ask to what extent it fosters the development and attainment of a full and authentically meaningful human existence, in accordance with the peculiar character and the capacities of that age.’”*

As we live today to build a beloved community for the future, do we seek easy answers with quick results, or are we willing to invest in a people-building process that allows to live into our fullness?

What will be asked of us today if we say yes?

- Maxim 61 encourages us to strive wholeheartedly after the peaceful and intimate union with God...to attain the pure and perfect love of God which explains all things. And Maxim 67 advises us, pursue to the very end and with gentleness and vigor what you have once and for all resolved and what you prudently believe corresponds to the greater glory of God.

How do we live our lives, individually and corporately, with the gentleness and vigor that corresponds with the perfect love and to the greater glory of God?

## GATHERING THE GRACES (5-10 MINUTES)

Reflect on the following questions:

- What have I heard?
- What am I learning?
- What difference will it make for me tomorrow and the day after that and beyond?
- What difference does it make for us as the community of St. Joseph?

Each participant may share ONE brief awareness/learning from today's process.

Take a few minutes to record in your journal:

- What awareness has the group gained during this time?
- What wisdom needs to be recorded and carried into the next session?

## CLOSING PRAYER

*Facilitator invites everyone to reflect silently for a moment on what they have experienced during this time together. Choose a group member to read the following.*

Reader:        Ever-loving God,

in Jesus, the Incarnate Word and with the enervating power of the Holy Spirit,  
You show us how to become most fully human,  
realizing our own human and divine destiny as your beloved daughters.  
We come to the end of these conversations, renewed and inspired  
to fully live our charism as Sisters of St. Joseph.  
We pray that we may accordingly,  
pursue to the very end and with gentleness and vigor  
what you have once and for all resolved  
and what you prudently believe corresponds to the greater glory of God.  
(Maxim 67)  
We ask this and all blessings through Jesus your Son,  
in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Note: Your group may choose to prepare a closing ritual to recognize the end of this process.