

sent to Dr. Nepper  
10/7/68

## FEDERATION OF THE SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH

### Minutes

The annual meeting of the Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph was held at St. Viator's Convent, Chicago, September 20, 1968. Sister Mary Seraphine presided.

Sister Julie (Boston) presented a paper that could have been entitled "Suggestions for Achieving the Purpose of the Federation." The main thrust of her remarks concerned the possible formation of commissions of Sisters who are not major superiors to study all aspects of religious life today, especially those in which experimentation is being conducted, in order to share their learning and experience with one another and with members of the Federation. In addition, she suggested that the Federation arrange:

- 1) to have a group of Sisters work on the spirit and spirituality of Father Medaille, under the direction of Father Marius Nepper, S.J., in France during the summer of 1969.
- 2) to have Father Nepper spend some time in the U.S. -- possibly a year -- bringing to the various communities in turn his knowledge and appreciation of the charism of Father Medaille.
- 3) to collaborate on translating documents from French into English.

Discussion of these suggestions followed as the assembly divided into small groups.

The afternoon session began with election of the following officers for 1968-70:

President: Sister Mary Seraphine  
Vice-President: Sister Mary Joachim  
Secretary: Sister Jane Aucoin

The following decisions were reached in the course of the afternoon discussion:

- 1) Treasury: Since Federation expenses thus far have been slight, there seems no need to set up a treasury at this time. Should the need arise, the secretary will function as secretary-treasurer.
- 2) Common insignia: question deferred until further experimentation shows whether such insignia is needed.
- 3) Windows in the National Shrine at Washington: Mother de Pazzi



reported that a balance of \$11,370.64 remains to be paid. Mother will contact those communities which have not yet completed payments. The suggestion to arrange a ceremony of formal dedication was set aside.

- 4) Inter-Congregational Bulletin: Proceedings of the CSJ Formation Personnel Workshop held at Fontbonne College, April, 1968, will be published under the direction of Mother Isabel.
- 5) Study Group to work with Father Nepper:
  - Sister Julie to act as coordinator.
  - Financial remuneration of Father Nepper will be shared by federation members. Travel and living expenses of the Sisters selected to participate will be assumed by the Sisters' respective communities.
  - By December 1 the Mothers General or Provincial should notify Sister Julie of their willingness to assign a Sister to the Study Group. A resume of the Sister's background should also be sent.
  - Selection of the participants will be made by the respective major superiors and reviewed by Sister Julie and a group of Federation members (NB- not yet designated). Criteria for selection include: dedication to religious life, stability, ability to do research, openness to dialogue, working knowledge of French.
  - Not all members of the group need be ready to begin on the same date. However, Sister Julie suggested that May 25 be set as a target date when at least some of the group would be able to begin. The work is expected to fill the entire summer.
- 6) Invitation to Father Nepper to come to the U.S.: agreed that Father Nepper would be of greater service to the Federation if he guided the work of the Study Group than if he came to the U.S. Hence, the Federation will not sponsor his visit.
- 7) Commissions: Value of study and sharing results of experimentation within the Federation endorsed.
  - Agreed to use the word "workshop" or "conference" rather than "commission" which suggests something too ambitious.
  - Sister Thomas More suggested that every aspect of religious life might be grouped under one or other of the four basic elements in Sister Agnes Sheehan's description of religious as persons who
    - embrace consecrated celibacy
    - in community
    - for prayer
    - and service

Each of these might be a suitable topic for a conference or workshop.

  - Agreed to sponsor a national conference on Apostolic Service
    - General Chairman: Sister Thomas More
    - Date: early March, 1969
    - Place: Carondelet
    - Participants: Federation members plus two or three Sisters from each Congregation or Province.

-Names of Sisters who could help in planning the Conference or as speakers should be sent as soon as possible to Sister Thomas More, Marymount College, Salina, Kansas, 67401.

- 8) Decided to hold annual Federation meeting during the March conference. If necessary the Federation could also hold a luncheon meeting during the CMSW annual assembly.
- 9) Copies of Sister Julie's talk will be distributed by Sister Nora.
- 10) Agreed that each Congregation would share Chapter decisions, position papers, reports on experimentation, etc., with other member communities.
- 11) Sincere thanks to the Sisters of St. Viator's Convent for their gracious hospitality extended in the spirit of cordial charity.