

**APRIL 2020**

**Formation: Journeying Together as Disciples of Jesus**

“So that we will become evangelical witnesses full of humanity, experts in fraternity, prophets able to awaken the world, we need to revisit the initial and ongoing formation, including new ways of looking at the vows.” (Capitular Acts 2019 p. 15)

1. As I begin my prayer, I ask for the **grace** of patience and deep respect for the processes of human and spiritual maturation in myself and in others.
2. I prayerfully read Luke 24: 13-35. I enter into contemplation on the encounter of Jesus with the two disciples on His way to Emmaus. I consider the following truths from the story:
  - It demonstrates that belief in Jesus as risen Lord was not self-evident to his earliest followers, even after his crucifixion and resurrection.
  - Our faith is nurtured and sustained through Scriptures, Prayer, Church and Sacraments where Jesus continues to reveal himself and where the faith is sustained.
  - The story of Jesus on the road to Emmaus is one of movement. It contains at least nine verbs describing movement. The two men “are going” (24:13), Jesus “came near and went with them” (24:15), they “came near” Emmaus (24:28), Jesus “walked ahead of them” (24:28), “he went in to stay with them” (24:29), “he vanished from their sight” (24:31), and “they got up and returned to Jerusalem” (24:33). The moves being made by Jesus and two disciples have a purpose, and that is to tell the story of Jesus, to interpret it, to have fellowship (communion) with Jesus and others, and to share it all with others.

That is what it means to be “Journeying Together as Disciples of Jesus in Formation.”

3. Capitular Acts 2019 p. 15 invites us to revisit our initial and ongoing formation. Take time to pray each point and listen to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit and appropriate it on the stage of formation and situation you are in.
  - Every vocation is unique and irreplaceable. The process of accompaniment needs to be individualized, differentiated, informal, life-long, acknowledging and building on personal virtues and competences, providing opportunities for integral human and psycho-spiritual growth and maturation, and nurturing love for the Congregation, the Church and the world.
  - Adopt the pedagogy of Jesus on the road to Emmaus, accompanying the young at their own pace, listening to them and discerning with them.

- Local Superiors with each Sister of the community have mutual responsibility to be companions in the following of Jesus and to grow in their love for one another.
- In our communities, promote co-responsibility, creativity, active listening, and openness to the different mentalities, cultures and languages of various generations. Together let us journey with Jesus, searching, discovering and touching Him, praying in faith and living out what we believe.

What do I desire most in my present formation?

What am I willing to invest to journey together as disciples of Jesus?

**I consider these questions and talk about them with the Lord.**

4. As I revisit my own formation and open myself to the invitation and challenges of formation today, I offer a prayer for all my formators and for the present formators.
5. **Points for Sharing:** What challenges me in my present stage of formation/on-going formation? As a community, we will suggest a structure or program to better sustain and support each member of the community in her vocational journey.