



Sisters of Charity Federation Meeting
Nazareth, Kentucky - June 2024

On Saturday, June 15, the meeting began with announcements by Planning Committee member, Joanne O'Regan, CSM. Everyone was invited to introduce themselves at their tables, and share, *what does a good day mean to me?*

The prayer committee led the morning prayer that included readings from scripture, Laudato Si, and the writings of Wendell Berry.

Sister Elizabeth Davis invited everyone to read together the Charity Federation:

- Mission Statement
- Vision Statement
- Federation Call



The group reviewed the goals of the Futuring 2017 and Beyond document:

Goal 1- To foster solidarity, we commit to deepening and widening our relationships among the Federation and beyond.

Goal 2 - The Sisters of Charity Federation will effect systemic change by addressing issues of social and ecological justice, particularly for those living in poverty and on the margins.



Sister Elizabeth highlighted some of the themes from the gathering, including Charism of Charity, beyond our Congregations; care for the common home; advocacy; less focus on internal, more on external; inclusion of younger voices, and inclusion of older members.

She shared the story of Yitzhak Perlman, the great violinist, crippled by polio as a child. The story told of Mr. Perlman one night in concert. With a violin string broken, and no quick way to repair it, Mr. Perlman played with his 3 remaining strings. It was a wonderful concert, with sounds the strings had never made before. The audience was in awe at what he could still do with his instrument! Mr. Perlman said, *“You know, sometimes it is the artist’s task to find out how much music you can still make with what you have left.”*

Sister Elizabeth posed two questions:

- What are or could be the many components of the Federation?
- How can we imagine a different way of being Federation – components, relationships, structure?

She highlighted examples of ways the Charity Charism continues to spread beyond individual Congregations, through collaborative groups, shared governance, and memberships. Table discussions continued the conversation.

Federation Futuring

Following the lunch break, participants met to discuss next steps and additional ways to collaborate. The feedback was shared with the larger group.

The closing liturgy was held at St. Vincent de Paul Church on the Nazareth campus.

A bluegrass band provided entertainment during the closing banquet.

All were invited to next year's gathering set for Moncton – June 2025.

[To view more photos, click here.](#)