



Sisters of Charity Federation Meeting  
Nazareth, Kentucky - June 2024

The Sisters of Charity Federation Leadership Meeting opened Wednesday evening, June 12, 2024, with a Welcome Ceremony held on the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth's campus in Nazareth, Ky.

Sisters representing the 14 Congregations in attendance, processed into the meeting hall holding banners from their respective Congregations. From the podium, these Sisters welcomed each other in languages representative of the countries where they serve in mission.



Calling all into prayer, Sisters of Charity Federation Executive Director Grace Hartzog, SC, lit a candle in the center of the room, lighting the sacred fire as the universal drum was played.

SCN President Jackulin Jesu welcomed all to the Nazareth Campus with a brief history of the SCNs and Mother Catherine Spalding's legacy as well as the SCN's hometown of Bardstown, Kentucky. She spoke of the many Sisters who have lived at Nazareth and

now rest in the Nazareth Cemetery. She spoke of their legacy and how it continues on today through the SCNs:

“Our gathering today is deeply enriched by the legacy and pioneering spirit of Mother Catherine Spalding, the foundress of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. Mother Catherine walked these very grounds, dedicating her life to service and compassion. In the face of immense challenges, she served tirelessly, loved the orphans, and responded to the pressing needs of her time with unwavering devotion. Mother Catherine’s legacy is not just a story of the past; it is a living testament to the enduring power of faith and service. Just as Mother Catherine journeyed with her companions in the past, she now journeys with us. Our logo is a beautiful symbol of that sacred journey that we all share as sisters.

While we celebrate Nazareth’s heritage, we recognize that the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth have not journeyed alone; we have walked in collaboration with countless others, each contributing to the richness of our shared history. As we come together in this moment, let us pause to consider the sisters who have come before us, leaving their mark on the history that binds us together. Each of these women has made a lasting impact, adding their own stories to the rich tapestry of our shared experiences. As we walk these sacred grounds, let us draw inspiration from their example and recommit ourselves to our mission of charity.”

The prayer closed with words from Jan Richardson, *Circle of Grace*: “We cannot see it all. If we could see the journey whole, we might never undertake it, might never dare the first step that propels us from the place we have known toward the place we know not, but we walk by faith.”



Charity Federation Executive Director Grace Hartzog, SC, opened the day on Thursday morning, June 13. She recognized new members present and warmly welcomed them. Sister Grace offered thanks and acknowledgment for those who have helped prepare for this meeting and introduced Elizabeth Davis, RSM, as the facilitator.



The Break Breaking Ceremony, a Liturgy for Wholeness, began with the universal drum and lighting of the sacred fire. "Holy One, we acknowledge the gifts of the Spirit given us for ministry. Bless us as we walk together, a pilgrim people, during these days to deepen our understanding of mission through our charity charism."

The meeting then began with the State of the Union, "Walking the Synodal Way" - a conversation between Federation President Donna Dodge and Sister Grace Hartzog. The conversation served as a reflection of recent Federation gatherings and events. Photos and videos from these events were shared. Walking the synodal way supports the goal of collaboration and inclusivity before, and during Covid. Sisters Donna and Grace shared a history of how the 2017 Futuring Document guided the goals. They highlighted how Federation Call, "we affirm our commitment that we never do alone what we can do better together. We call ourselves to "deepen our relationships among Federation congregations and within the Vincentian Family and beyond. ... we celebrate our call to live into our shared future in a spirit of contemplation and prophetic action" guided decisions following the Assembly of the Whole with many virtual meetings, prayers and other life-giving opportunities.

Save the Date was announced for the next Assembly of the Whole scheduled for Oct. 14-18 2026, in Chicago. Details will follow in the July newsletter.

Luke Boiarski, SCN, was recognized for submitting the design to be featured on a monument to honor enslaved peoples at the Elizabeth Seton Shrine in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Rob Judge, Executive Director, National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton/Seton Heritage Ministries joined virtually to share a draft plan outlining a celebration honoring the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mother Seton's canonization on September 14, 2025.

SCN Director of Ecological Sustainability Carolyn Cromer spoke about carbon offsets. She encouraged attendees to consider donating to offset their travel, whether by plane or car. Funds raised will be used to provide solar panels for the Dharuhera SCN Mission in Haryana, India. This mission empowers women and children through education and skills training.

Sr. Grace introduced Sisters of Charity Federation NGO Representative, Jimmy Walters, Ed.D. Sr. Grace shared Jimmy's professional qualifications and expressed the Federation's pride in his work as he engages NGO Liaisons and members with extraordinary generosity.

Jimmy acknowledged the NGO Liaisons in the room noting that they are essential to this work and his gratitude for this collaborative structure created by the Federation, his predecessor, Sr. Teresa Kotturan, SCN.

Jimmy noted his involvement in three focused areas of advocacy at the UN: Homelessness, Care for Earth, and Women & Girls.

Following the presentations with Sisters Donna and Grace and Jimmy, Facilitator, Sr. Elizabeth M Davis, RSM, asked the leaders to reflect and share responses to three questions:

What delighted you today?

What made you uncomfortable today?

What was an absolute surprise?

Responses from each table were shared with the larger group and leaders were asked that we look at the broader reality of religious life today with the following questions:

- Where does Federation need to be and how do we get there?
- Remind ourselves we are not in this alone. Not unique in doing this.

The day concluded with an opportunity to join the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth with a session on S. Elizabeth's experience as a voting member in the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops held in Rome in October 2023.

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