

1	<b>How do you see Centers of Life taking shape in our USON Region and in your local geographical area?</b>
2	A wise choice with a lot of meaning. More conversation and in question
3	Our Ramona convent Mission Centre leadership does a nice job in their meeting agendas every month.. Maybe we can meet with other Mission centre's once a year at the Catholic congress conference once in Anaheim, CA by sharing a concession booth to bring awareness to our core values
4	Let each region figure out its own shape. In Oregon: Due to constant personal physical changes, no assignment of SNJMs to a center, just Oregon Allow SNJMs living out of state to choose a region Have once a month in the Foyer a gathering optional for Sisters & Affiliates During the week on specific day each month 10:30 – noon followed by lunch Lay staff do set up & order food Program organized by SNJMs: i.e. talks on water & ecology & climate; showing video with prayer; TED talks; people volunteering a presentation Prayer & small share groups included Possible “zoom” for those unable to attend with breakout rooms Special events (Dec. 8, July 4 etc. that happen on their own days) Socials just for fun
5	Not too sure
6	I have no clear idea. I already meet monthly with 2 sisters for conversation and sharing of life. We’ve been doing this for years.
7	Personally, as a co-coordinator, my MC only met 4 times a year and followed that pattern throughout its existence. One was purely social, fun ... another a service with other MC's ... And we did have some extra when needed e.g health team meeting , PLT business ... It was large i.e. about 70 earlier and diminishing as we went on ... So it was just too large. even though it was about half vowed and half associates, only a few associates attended. One problem, I think< was that every one had to declare a Center to be included in directory information and many were not interested in meeting. SOOOOOOO ... I think a core from our local geographical area might form into a Center of Life. I see a Center of Life being purposely chosen as a group, being less than 15, being hybrid i.e. meeting together or via zoom as possible for all usually being together, having at least a couple yearly celebrations when it is possible for all to be physically present. I could see a couple meeting jointly as agenda might demand. There would need to be some technical support, equipment ??? tech person ???
8	can contribute and offer a ministry of Prayer, Presence and Support as we move into a future known only to our God. I pray that we will have the courage to" meet the needs of our time."
9	Here in the East Bay, I imagine that the group will look much like our Mission Center due to geographic closeness, but hope that it will develop into a more active entity.
10	I believe it will be an easy transition for my region since we are a relatively small Mission Center.

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11	My SoCA experience is we have always been a group of those in ministry in SoCA (Sisters and Associates) and have adapted our group to changing SNJM structures. I expect we will continue to do this with the 2026 reconfiguration.
12	By age, topic, each person's heart concerns.
13	As evolving from our Mission Centers with more emphasis on on group connection ,conversations , spiritual care and celebrating one another
14	Whatever model emerges now will probably have to be changed in five years. Centers of life will have to include in person and virtual participation and a mixture of members with different degrees of memory function.
15	Centers of Life helps us get to know each other better.
16	our longings will continue to be for: closeness, connections , sharing, breaking bread, ,meaningful ritual, joy, delight , fun, and celebrating life.
17	1) Each area/geographic region must decide how that will look for them. My hope is that true and honest conversation can take place in each. 2). Spokane as one region of WA state is in need of the “deeper conversations” ... without talking to one another and being honest and realistic about diminishment and numbers and who is available to do what and who has energy to begin with ... we’re aging out, let’s be honest. 3). I hold out hope that WA state’s 3 geographic regions can find ways to connect that are life giving for our Sisters and Associates. We’ve had some zoom events that have been very life-giving for all ... again, who has energy to do the planning and facilitating, and what would be appropriate topics.
18	I basically want to stay in touch with the SNJMs I know.
19	Pretty much like are Mission Centers,though fewer groups.
20	It seems to me that our SNJM Community here at Merrill Gardens could be one, or two, or even three Centers of Life. We continue to be part of the SoCA MCentre virtually.
21	Reviewing the needs of our Sisters and Associates of this area we will outline possible options which give us opportunities to be together for visiting, prayer together, discussions and sharing.
22	When I see our stats on membership and become more involved in the Mary’s Woods Community I wholeheartedly need to make the “kingdom” a nurturing reality right at Mary’s Woods. I do not need to ‘do’ a project but rather to live each day with those whose paths I cross...to do so in a million of small ways that the Spirit leads. Abandonment to the way life happens each day is the tried and true work of God. I and I believe we are all called to show up and live life’s reality.
23	I believe that they are taking place and doing well since I do hear of some meetings.

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24	Be sure that members who are in resident/nursing homes are invited to attend all gatherings in person. If they are able to go out. Don't presume they can't. Check with them.
25	We need to dissolve to evolve. We do not need structures. The persons in my group, even when they did not see how the future might look, felt most comfortable with letting things evolve. We have Health and Well-Being and Finances in place. Sisters/Associates in our group just wanted to figure it out as time moves along. Our expanded spirituality is taking place as we age and live with lay people sharing our vulnerability with each other. Asking for help and assistance. These are experiences we have not really had in ministry, that is more on giving than on how to receive and ask for help. An experience of reciprocity and humility.
26	Affirm how sisters are being supported now...small groups, individual friendships...some groups are international....affirm gatherings by zoom.
27	I think the majority of Centers of Life will be in Greater Portland Area with perhaps more than 3 groups initially. I'm not sure about how to include the Southern Oregon area, Since our area is so large many of us travel hours to attend a meeting and are not located in one local area. Four of the Sisters are now in the Portland area. The other 3 Sisters in this Mission Centre are near the coast, in Medford and in Salem, a long way from everyone else. Almost all active Associates we have had are not able to be active now, have health issues, or have died.
28	I presume that in many places, where the Mission Centre is a geographic unit where sisters know each other well and have an established pattern of caring about each other, will continue their current patterns of showing up for each other and adapting to each other's changing needs. In Oregon, Mission Centres, may need a revised, geographic organizational pattern. The least disruptive approach could be making locations where Sisters are physically clustered the day-to-day "centers of life" and a named state-wide umbrella as a structure for periodic larger gatherings of Sisters or Sisters and Associates.
29	In our Yakima Mission Centre, I see the Center of Life evolving from our current Mission Centre. But I would like to see possibilities for "adjunct" members of the Mission Centre who live in other areas but want to be connected with us and our ministries. There could be two levels of membership: "Main" meaning you live in that MC, and "Supporter" meaning you live elsewhere but want to stay in touch with the MC and contribute whenever possible to activities, e-meetings, etc.
30	Some will gravitate toward and want to remain with already established resonance group that they feel comfortable with. ("If it ain't broken, we don't need to fix it") Others will be open to new groups that are created and the shy or disconnected will remain outside any groups. There are gifted activators in our community, sensitive and visionary who will inspire new expressions of groups of belonging.

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31	<p>1. personally I would like to reassemble with my transformation group if some of them wish to continue. perhaps the group might include only half of the originals. 2. we have so many who are either active or inactive or simply just too damned tired to want to even join a center. perhaps those tired could simply join a group that only requires prayer and no meetings or interaction. those who want an active group might gather with others wanting to concentrate on one of the priorities such as snjm spirituality or belonging or ministry etc. 3. I think 6- 10 persons is big enough. 4. I think there might be a possibility of regrouping every year or 2 due to change of interest group or more realistically health, sickness or death has changed the group composition and attendance. 5. the group can have a monthly prayer in person as well as including a zoom for a member who does not live in the geographic area. b.maybe quarterly the group has a speaker for area of focus... c.perhaps once a year the group makes a retreat 1 or 2 days for prayer and discernment about the future level of participation and gratitude. (may)a planning retreat day for group as well as welcoming new members who may need a new group. groups could stay together for as many years as they want and remain closed to new members. summer months can be decided by members. in our small group some want deep sharing groups through storytelling of lives. personally, I would hate this due to my being sent out of state for my final days. the pain and suffering is still excruciating at times.</p>
32	<p>I think that the East Bay and Merrill form natural center locations, but Santa Cruz has become a center as well. Thursday prayer group brings us together, and that core group are involved in Villa activities and the Chapel community.It provides a good mix of caring for one another, spirituality and mission.What we have done only rarely is participate as a group in Province business. I don't know enough about Or, WA and the East Coast to comment.</p>
33	<p>At this time all is by Zoom. I have been part of small international group for more than five years and two other international groups also.</p>
34	<p>Many of us are part of other groups, cohorts etc. which can be considered somewhat centres of life . These are sources of enrichment which foster the 4 values above. Sharing this richness with our local centres of life spreads the good news of who we are congregationally . Creates a sense of pride, gratitude and joy.</p>
35	<p>I think support and relationships will mainly happen at the local level, with opportunities to connect more broadly through technology. I like how the 3 regions in Washington connect on zoom several times a year.</p>
36	<p>Groups forming based on geography when physical gathering is possible/ desired. Virtually when this is preferred for diversity, distance, handicap, etc.</p>
37	<p>Similar to what we have now io our region. As for our USON region I would hope that the structure we have now that is US Ontario unifying all of our regions should continue. We should have someone who is looking out for those of us who are so widely separated by geography.</p>
38	<p>I am encouraged by the effort that is being put out to make this happen successful</p>

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39	I understand that these centers will be formed locally. I presume that someone takes the initiative to bring together a group. It almost sounds like creating an “intentional” community” and that the idea is that the members live close to each other to be able to relate in person.
40	I see many similarities to the Mission Center model, but the Center of Life will probably become a new reality as its lived out.
41	I am the only sister in this geographical area. I presume the centers will include a larger geographical area.
42	I am the only SNJM in my geographic area.
43	I gather there are many different Centers of Life, and some non existing at this time. But for core values, “ Don’t change what isn’t broken.” Core values of spirituality, belonging, engagement, awareness of ministerial issues don’t need changing.
44	In my local geographical area I don't see the advantage of making any changes. It "feels" forced rather than organic. We have changed and continue to change and there is life.
45	I imagine they will take shape in a way similar to the way mission centres took place.
46	I’m not sure how they will be determined. I believe Mission centers are too large for individuals to feel connected.
47	As we age - who is going to be present to the Sisters and how is the personal presence going to work? As I listen to Sisters - this is a big concern.
48	We are moving but not sure exactly where.
49	I feel the Grace time in Happy Hour is a Center of life already.
50	I believe it to be vital and life giving sharing time with each other as SNJM’s. I appreciate the time given even in drawing us together as a support dialogue.
51	Locally, I see many challenges. In Spokane, we have an active Associate group with very, very few Sisters. So regional or cross fertilization by interest or desire. Aging is real and significant. Life spirit lives on.
52	Related to question 2: sufficient time and honest sharing can take place before decisions are made!
53	I am hopeful but have concerns
54	The four members of my house are so life giving for me, I don’t think I want to add another group. (I currently do have two other prayer groups that I meet with monthly.) If I were to become a part of a new group, I most likely would drop one of my current groups. I think to avoid burnout of facilitators, it would be helpful for any new group to receive not an agenda, like Thresholds, but guidelines for topics and/or speakers. Some groups might use them while other groups might not.
55	Another Associate and myself live in central CA. I do travel to Oakland/Cambell/Santa Cruz once a month or so but it's a minimum 2-3 hour drive. I'm not sure how it will take shape.

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56	I prefer to choose my group. I prefer a small group. I would like to try a zoom group with people in other places or if in person, a small group of less than ten - twelve.
57	I am at central California (Sacramento)it not easy to travel to the bay area so often
58	It is hard for me at this point in my life to separate out my local geographical area (Portland) from Mary's Woods (Lake Oswego). I have visited MW's with some frequency because I walked as a friend and healthcare representative with a Sister through her cancer and 10 months on Hospice. I also attend the community gatherings and celebrations and other opportunities at Mary's Woods. The first three bullet points under Core Values are provided for Sisters living at MW's and often beyond MW's by our SNJM staff, Fr. Berg and the Spiritual Care Department. The three bullet points under Culture of Oneness and parts of the Operational Functions within the Centers of Life are not directly addressed at MWs as I have experienced it. So I envision a Center of Life at MW's but the aspects that are missing will need to be addressed. I want to explain my focus on MW's. It is my hope to move to MW's in the next 1-3 years.
59	I see the Sisters and Associates in each geographical region in dialogue and discernment about what will serve God's way for us in our region.
60	It is clear how important our need for connection is to the USON Leadership. We need the connections with each other. I am grateful.
61	Settle size of group- 40 here Physical presence, assistance, etc
62	I see the Centers as very unique in each area. I have no idea how it might develop in my area.
63	I don't know. We have not talked about it together since the community conversation
64	It looks like the physical gathering of "Center of Life" will naturally happen in areas with fewer sisters. Many sisters belong life giving circles of various kinds already, including sisters associates and lay people. Take advantage of what already exists. Our energy is limited.
65	I'm in one of the smaller ones; we are gradually evolving and will continue to do so, I think.
66	I hope that the current East Bay Mission Center will be able to have some role, but also would hope to connect with other CA Sisters.
67	Right now, we are carrying on with fewer and fewer members. Many have transferred to Marylhurst group, which I am told has not been meeting. Hence we have not yet moved to Centers of Life discussions.
68	Concept of Centers of life very helpful. It is an idea that I think works for us given our makeup as a group.
69	Not much different from what we called Mission Centers. If there is a healthy Associate organization in a given area, they might function; otherwise not. In fact, the vibrancy of the Associate organization is where the life is.

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70	Centers of Life should be about 20 persons and include a range of persons to stimulate conversation. These discussions could include prayer, personal information, talk on issues of the day, justice concerns, sharing on community issues, support in living life including health issues. I do not know how to form them.
71	Similar to my experience of mission center
72	I see the Centers of Life taking shape as an overall communication platform. The various ministries in a local area meet on a regular basis independently then perhaps quarterly they come together in a Center of Life meeting to share the joys and challenges of their ministries with each other. As they come together the experience of oneness is expressed. "Many ministries, but the same Spirit." Core values and Corporate Stands can be a uniting force in Center of Life groups. At times to be decided the Center of Life groups in a local area can come together for prayer and ministry sharing, etc. This gathering would reinforce the feeling of unity throughout the Congregation.
73	We fortunatly in the Windsor mission cenre live in close proximity except for one sister in Brazil, so distance is not an issue. Mobility problems is the greatest difficulty as some grow more frail.
74	I miss our formerly active Mission Centre so look forward to being part of an SNJM group. I find my other groups to be very life-giving!
75	I live with 3 other sisters in Independent living, and 4 sisters live in the Memory Care Unit. So this community is my primary Life Center. There are about 16 sisters and 25 associates that live in the geographic area of Spokane and Coeur d'Alene. With the larger group, we try to meet at least quarterly. We have not gathered regularly as a small community group, although two of us gather for evening prayer every day. We are going to begin gathering once a week, as a community, to touch base, pray and just visit beginning the first Thursday of Advent. We also eat lunch together, mostly every day. We want to intentionally begin to gather more frequently - and hopefully inviting the sisters in memory care to join us.
76	I think since we are all getting older that it would seem that we would belong to a Life Center that is close to where we live to avoid unnecessary driving of cars. So for me the Villa would be the logical location.
77	Yes, we are well-positioned to do so.
78	For me it is cross congregation connections/ developing relationships beyond my locale/ widening the spaces of our tent. Because, we have no space to meet per se, we do the best we can as well as respect the energy of people. Keeping all simple and not complicated is ket.
79	Centers of life seem similar to mission centers. It seems important to have smaller groups so how o do this for Marylhurst group?

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80	In our local community, our group is quite large. I do NOT want the focus to be just on Merrill Gardens (35 Sisters). Since we have a number of Sisters living close by who do not live here at Merrill they would feel excluded from conversations around this discussion.
81	-SNJM life in our Spokane area is rapidly diminishing - in numbers, through death, as well as aging challenges, physically and mentally. I do not foresee us becoming a viable separate "Center of Life," nor is consideration of that future model one which brings me hope or energy in the present. Might we consider becoming a Spokane/Seattle/Yakima (former Washington Province) Center of Life? - Could more of our planning time and energy focus on ways to continue uniting and strengthening SNJM life within our entire USON Region?
82	Communication is essential. I feel each of us takes the life-giving aspect and respect for each one's ability to add time and talents. Geography
83	More conversation happening among our sisters and hopefully associates
84	Well probably be in our mission center with other groups on zoom
85	To be truthful I do not see if much different than my experience in my Mission Center which is So CA
86	I feel that many of us all ready belong to groups that give us life. I personally belong to several groups and since I live in Assisted living have opportunities to be involved in spirituality connection and belonging
87	I think using Holy Spirit Center as a place to come together works well. We are fortunate to have a team that brings everybody together, including those that are in skilled and memory care.
88	Locally I think there is not much interest in interacting if I use what I see here at Mary's Woods as a pattern. Many have a "just leave me alone" attitude. "I'm tired".
89	Personally, I am pleased with the current ways the East Bay Mission Centre has been gathering. If others in this area are comfortable continuing with this pattern, I would hope we might continue. I think each sister and associate needs to be in a group in which they are comfortable--or not participating in a group, if that is important for them. For some, it might evolve organically based on common interests, etc.
90	I would imagine that we will continue in the same manner we have been doing. We meet periodically for prayer, liturgies, education, and celebrations. The associates also meet as a group once a month and use a shared book as a resource.
91	I like the focus on building the Centers of Life on our current set-up. It should work well in Albany.
92	As was mentioned in the presentation, the Centres of life will evolve from the current Mission Centres. We likely won't perceive drastic changes from the way life is in today's Mission Centres. Probably the leadership teams have more concerns about who will assume leadership in the future since all are aging...



93	For the Seattle MC, I think we need to meet with our MC leaders to discuss how best to create Centers of Life in our area.
94	I'm pondering whether some more PLT led prep time would be helpful especially for those in larger Mission Centers that are active. In my local geographical area (East Bay), I am concerned that many or most will prefer to stay as is and just change the name to "Center of Life." Personally, while our East Bay MC meets regularly and has good attendance, Sisters and Associates always sit with the same people so personally, it's weak as far as life giving. I am part of an "Across Mission Centers" group that meets monthly via Zoom and I find that group very life giving
95	We suggest that we leave the Mid-Atlantic Mission Center as it is understanding that small groups will get together when they want to do something.
96	<p>For larger groups, provide a format that is open to all (ie Sisters and Associates across the "Region of the US.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In areas of larger groups of Sisters and Associates, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Plan a regular monthly gathering (e.g 2nd Wednesdays 10 – 12 a.m. for 10 months, excl June and July)</li> <li>o In a central location (e.g. Marylhurst foyer) with equipment and tech support for a hybrid meeting</li> <li>o Inviting all Sisters and Associates (via Oregon News and personal invitations for those unable to access Oregon News or local communication system)</li> <li>o Requesting RSVP's for manner of attending (personal or via internet)</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Provide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o From Spiritual Group – a possible prayer component for each of 10 months</li> <li>o From other committees and gatherings (e.g. Water Committee, Cohort Groups, Grant Committees, Health and Well being group, Laudato Si Animators Grass roots group, Graced Times, casual groups ...), each assuming responsibility for a topic and providing a plan and facilitation with general group sharing as well as small groups.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
97	In the South Bay Area, we have many opportunities to get together for liturgy, celebrations, and other events with other sisters and associates in the northern California area. Our Regional Office and Health Care Team members are wonderful to work with. Since many of us are in our 80s and 90s, and no longer drive, there are limits to what we are able to do.

In USON Region:

Based on my experience of Mission Centers in former NY province

Anticipate these centers of life will include the same people as the current MC—all have been building community in these groupings for many years

Basically Name changes: while NYP –called “ regions” (Prior to 2006); In USON called “Mission Centres”(2006-present); after 2026—renamed “centers of life” 2026—

Over the years they have evolved to include associates and partners. Over the years strong interpersonal bonds have developed. Changes will happen as aging continues and deaths occur. There will also be a need for more “staff support” to assure the infrastructure in the years ahead.

Ideas for next steps: for OR

Have a meeting for all OR sisters: Perhaps agenda could be planned by current MC coordinators with one or more from PLT.

Brainstorm configurations that fit our current reality. With assistance of our OR Regional staff we already come together for major feasts as well as for funerals. These facilitate community building.

Perhaps additional activities throughout the year could be scheduled at PH foyer that would be open to everyone. Could be a film, a TED talk; a call to justice action; a Laudato Si activity. Could also be a retreat day or a faith sharing time. These events might stimulate some to be part of follow-up groups on the same theme.

I sense a number of sisters have belonged for years to Wisdom groups and prayer groups and some other affinity groups—those provide some of the connectedness mentioned as a feature for centres of life. I see those continuing.

Do we really need officially defined subgroups in OR or could OR be one centre of life with many and diverse fluid subgroups?

A challenge: Centres of life address our “heart” needs. In addition as sisters we need to evolve how to address our “nuts and bolts” infrastructure needs. These involve sustaining and extending the infrastructure with regional staff for our daily living needs as well as managing finances. E.g. transportation when we no longer drive; shopping; availability of services in an emergency—earthquake. major winter storm;