

U.S.-Ontario Province Policies and Guidelines on SNJM Associate Commitment

One goal of this policy is to support and walk with those who feel called to be SNJM Associates. A second goal is to allow time for Province leadership to identify, through this process, those who can actively live out the charism of Mother Marie-Rose Durocher, and can participate in local activities and gatherings with Sisters and other Associates. These guidelines specify the steps of the process as well as the documentation to be submitted to the Province. Throughout the process, the Associate Coordinating Committee Regional Contact guides the Local Associate Leadership, coordinates with the ACC and Province Leadership Team (PLT), and expedites the process as needed.

Process Steps:

- 1.** Sisters and Associates invite inquirers interested in becoming SNJM Associates to attend multiple local SNJM events and gatherings during a mutual “getting to know you” period.
- 2.** After meeting with an inquirer, LAL decides whether or not to provide an *Application to Become an Associate Candidate* (Form 1). Please provide electronic version of form to inquirer.
- 3.** LAL reviews application and assures that the recommender provides written input. The LAL includes its recommendation and forwards electronic copy of information to its ACC Regional Contact.
- 4.** ACC reviews application, affirms or declines the request, and notifies the PLT via email of its decision.
- 5.** PLT reviews the application and decision of ACC. The PLT approves or declines the request, and notifies the ACC via email of its decision.
- 6.** ACC Regional Contact notifies the LAL via email of the Province decision.
- 7.** LAL notifies the applicant of the Province decision.
- 8.** LAL coordinates formation. The candidate and LAL mutually discern if the candidate should make Initial Associate Commitment. Candidate submits an *Application to Make an Associate Commitment* (Form 2) to LAL. LAL includes its recommendation specifying the growth that the Candidate made during the formation period. LAL sends electronic copy of information to its ACC Regional Contact.
- 9.** ACC reviews application, affirms or declines the request, and notifies the PLT via email of its decision.
- 10.** PLT reviews the application and decision of ACC. The PLT approves or declines the request, and notifies the ACC via email of its decision.
- 11.** ACC Regional Contact notifies LAL via email of the Province decision.
- 12.** LAL notifies the Associate Candidate of the Province decision.
- 13.** LAL coordinates the Ritual for Initial Associate Commitment. The *Initial Commitment of an Associate of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary* (Form 3) is signed and forwarded to ACC Regional Contact. The *Formula for Initial Commitment of an Associate of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary* (Form 4) is recited.