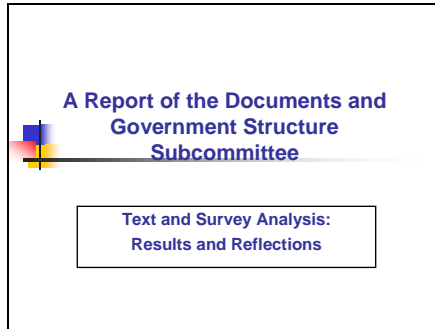
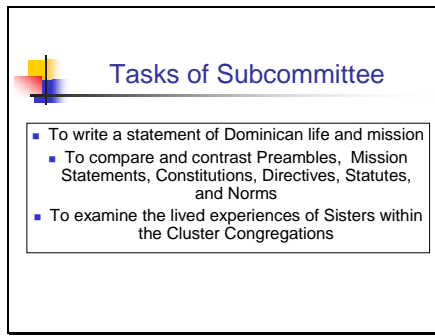


Slide 1



I would like to ask the committee members to please stand. I would also like the sisters who wrote the documents--Constitutions, Directories, Statutes, and Norms. The committee is indebted to you for your efforts. The documents are true gifts in the reconfiguration process and the subcommittee treated them with reverence.

Slide 2



Our tasks from the CCC included that we write a statement of Dominican life and mission, compare and contrast all the documents, and to examine the lived experiences of sisters within the cluster congregations.

It may help to understand what these tasks included by understanding what we were NOT about:

We were not about writing constitutions.

We were not about evaluating styles or individual writing.

We were not about writing Mission statements.

Our committee's work is directed more toward providing an appreciation and a foundation of the many gifts of spirituality, ministry, and life style that the Dominican Congregations offered. When we view all of the parts of this task together, it truly is a powerful work of the Church.

Slide 3

Statement of Dominican Life and Mission

We are called by God to preach the liberating truth of the Gospel and in the spirit and tradition of the Dominican Order to continue the mission of Jesus, preaching, teaching, and healing. Essential to our response to God's call is alertness to God's continuing revelation through study and the search for truth, contemplative and liturgical prayer, the vowed and common life, and a deep conviction of our unity in the Holy Spirit. The common life and the mission are sustained by the presence of the Spirit, by companionship and mutual love. The mission is directed to all the People of God but especially to the marginalized and oppressed.

This statement of Dominican Life and Mission came from every sister. Last year, in Columbus and New Orleans, as you may remember, you all gave words, phrases, and statements identifying who we are and what we believe as Dominican woman.

Slide 4

Comparison of Constitutions

Methodology

- Each committee member sent Documents digitally.
- As a committee we identified major themes within each of the 22 sections of Congregational Constitutions
- Using Excel, a matrix was created for each of the twenty-two sections with the Congregations' names as column headings and themes as row headings.

How did we compare constitutions, and other documents? Each committee members sent documents digitally. As a committee we identified major themes within each of the 22 sections of Congregational constitutions. We then combined each of the documents into an Excel file. This complete matrix can be found on a CD and was given to the Congregational leaderships.

Slide 5

Sample of Constitution Matrix

		Prayer						
		Columbus	Akron	St. Mary's New Orleans	Eucharistic Missionaries	Oxford	Kentucky	Great Bend
Eucharist	The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. It is the sacrament of unity, the bond of communion, and the altar of the New Covenant. It is the memorial of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and it is the sacrament of the Church's unity and mission in the world. (CCC 1324)	The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. It is the sacrament of unity, the bond of communion, and the altar of the New Covenant. It is the memorial of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and it is the sacrament of the Church's unity and mission in the world. (CCC 1324)	The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. It is the sacrament of unity, the bond of communion, and the altar of the New Covenant. It is the memorial of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and it is the sacrament of the Church's unity and mission in the world. (CCC 1324)	The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. It is the sacrament of unity, the bond of communion, and the altar of the New Covenant. It is the memorial of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and it is the sacrament of the Church's unity and mission in the world. (CCC 1324)	The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. It is the sacrament of unity, the bond of communion, and the altar of the New Covenant. It is the memorial of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and it is the sacrament of the Church's unity and mission in the world. (CCC 1324)	The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. It is the sacrament of unity, the bond of communion, and the altar of the New Covenant. It is the memorial of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and it is the sacrament of the Church's unity and mission in the world. (CCC 1324)	The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. It is the sacrament of unity, the bond of communion, and the altar of the New Covenant. It is the memorial of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and it is the sacrament of the Church's unity and mission in the world. (CCC 1324)	The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. It is the sacrament of unity, the bond of communion, and the altar of the New Covenant. It is the memorial of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and it is the sacrament of the Church's unity and mission in the world. (CCC 1324)

Here is an example: Each congregation has a section of their constitutions entitled, Prayer. Under prayer, we found common themes--in the example above, Eucharist was one of the themes. That theme is listed on the left with each congregations wording from their constitutions in the body of the document. Each congregation is listed at the top. EVERY WORD OF EVERY DOCUMENT IS INCLUDED. We did the same thing for each of the directories, statues, guidelines, norms.

Slide 6

Sections of Analysis

- Prayer
- Study
- Apostolic Life
- Community Life
- Vows
- Obedience
- Celibacy
- Poverty
- Formation
- Stages of Formation
- Government

- Chapter
- Prioress
- Council
- Local Government
- Temporal Goods
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Transfer
- Mission Statements
- Obligation to the Constitutions
- Prologue

All Congregation have these sections. The order of listing the sections and themes came from the documents themselves.

Slide 7

Further Analysis

- Preamble
- Mission Statements
- Directories
- Statutes
- Norms

The preamble and mission statements are found on large posters. Different congregations use different titles of their documents.

Slide 8

Results

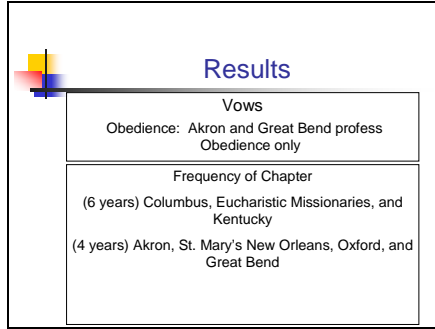
- Four Congregations are Papal: Columbus, Kentucky, Great Bend, St. Mary's New Orleans
- Three Congregations are Diocesan: Akron, Oxford, Eucharistic Missionaries

Kentucky has a Regional Government Structure

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Slide 9



Results

Vows
 Obedience: Akron and Great Bend profess Obedience only

Frequency of Chapter
 (6 years) Columbus, Eucharistic Missionaries, and Kentucky
 (4 years) Akron, St. Mary's New Orleans, Oxford, and Great Bend

Vows

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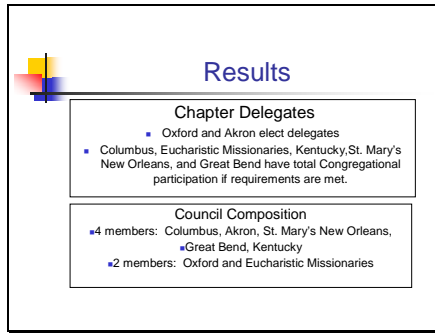
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Slide 10



Results

Chapter Delegates

- Oxford and Akron elect delegates
- Columbus, Eucharistic Missionaries, Kentucky, St. Mary's New Orleans, and Great Bend have total Congregational participation if requirements are met.

Council Composition

- 4 members: Columbus, Akron, St. Mary's New Orleans, Great Bend, Kentucky
- 2 members: Oxford and Eucharistic Missionaries

Chapter Delegates

Oxford, Akron, and St. Mary's elect delegates

Columbus, Eucharistic Missionaries, Kentucky, and Great Bend have total

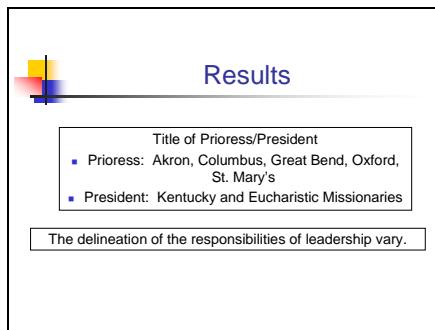
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Council Composition

4 members: Columbus, Akron, St. Mary's, Great Bend, Kentucky

2 members: Oxford and Eucharistic Missionaries

Slide 11



Results

Title of Prioress/President

- Prioress: Akron, Columbus, Great Bend, Oxford, St. Mary's
- President: Kentucky and Eucharistic Missionaries

The delineation of the responsibilities of leadership vary.

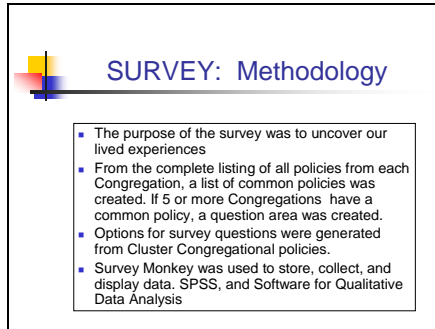
Title of Prioress/President

Prioress: Akron, Columbus, Great Bend, Oxford, St. Mary's

President: Kentucky and Eucharistic Missionaries

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Slide 12

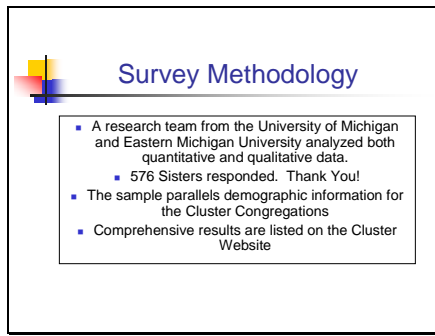


SURVEY: Methodology

- The purpose of the survey was to uncover our lived experiences
- From the complete listing of all policies from each Congregation, a list of common policies was created. If 5 or more Congregations have a common policy, a question area was created.
- Options for survey questions were generated from Cluster Congregational policies.
- Survey Monkey was used to store, collect, and display data. SPSS, and Software for Qualitative Data Analysis

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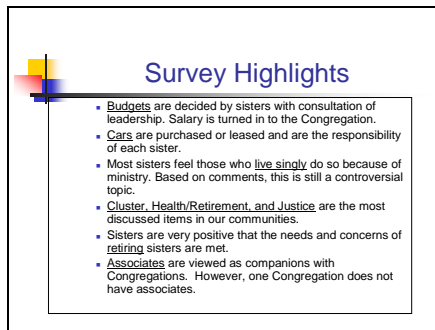


Survey Methodology

- A research team from the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University analyzed both quantitative and qualitative data.
 - 576 Sisters responded. Thank You!
- The sample parallels demographic information for the Cluster Congregations
- Comprehensive results are listed on the Cluster Website

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Slide 14



Survey Highlights

- Budgets are decided by sisters with consultation of leadership. Salary is turned in to the Congregation.
- Cars are purchased or leased and are the responsibility of each sister.
- Most sisters feel those who live singly do so because of ministry. Based on comments, this is still a controversial topic.
- Cluster, Health/Retirement, and Justice are the most discussed items in our communities.
- Sisters are very positive that the needs and concerns of retiring sisters are met.
- Associates are viewed as companions with Congregations. However, one Congregation does not have associates.

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Reflections

The purpose of the survey was to uncover the lived experience of the Cluster Congregations. The open-ended responses reveal both the challenge and gift that the Cluster process brings to our lives.

Our responses to what we most cherish and do not want to let go of, help us to see what we claim as our identity while we recognize the giftedness others bring.

Our responses to why we entered religious life tell us that we truly are rooted in the Dominican tradition.

□ Akron mentioned a variety of qualities that they wish to preserve. The Holy Preaching and study were the most often cited by Akron sisters. Although one sister mentioned the Congregation's German roots, most wanted to remember the deceased sisters and their willingness to take risks.


□ Columbus sisters are clear and proud of their American roots and the pioneer spirit of the sisters who began their Congregation. Many sisters mentioned their love of their Congregation during their 175th anniversary. Among the most cited qualities mentioned were joy, hospitality, and independence.

□ Great Bend sisters express a love of their rural heritage. There is a strong sense of community fostered by annual days of celebration, study, and prayer. Sisters value and want to keep a spirit of hospitality, joy, simplicity, and prayer. Great Bend sisters do not want to abandon their annual community days. Many sisters mention music as a gift that Great Bend Dominicans give to others.

□ Kentucky sisters want to preserve their pioneering spirit and the heritage of being the first Dominican Congregation in America. Risk-taking, independence, democratic ideals, and maturity are all integral to the Kentucky charism.

□ Eucharistic Missionaries are unanimous in their devotion and reverence to the Eucharist. They also have a deep sense of mission and their unique attention to the needs of all people. They cite openness and flexibility to the needs of poor.

□ St. Marys, New Orleans mentions warm Southern hospitality with closeness to their sisters. Although two sisters cited their Irish heritage, most have commented on the strong bonds within the Congregation. There is a real sense of care, concern, and graciousness in almost all of the comments. Oxford Sisters hold their Slovak roots sacred. Because of this sense of history, sisters want to keep their traditions at Christmas, prayer, Eucharist, and community gatherings.



Reflections

Our responses to what we look forward and are most concerned about remind us of the challenge of preaching the Word whether or not it may be comfortable.

Our documents are more than canonical requirements, they tell us about ourselves and that we are indeed gifted by the inclusion of all.