



OSP/IHM Governing Board
Report to the IHM Coordinating Council

October 22, 2021



After reflection and conversation about the 175th Gathering and Celebration the board put forth the following direction for all our communities to work on together. Our hope is that these processes will engage our memberships in a very personal and communal way.

Overture

The Oblate Sisters of Providence legacy will live on in the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the IHM legacy will live on in the Oblates.

I am because We are. The African Philosophy of Ubuntu

Looking forward to 2029, Oblate Sisters of Providence celebrate 200th anniversary

The Oblates story made the IHMs story possible.

Our call continues to be that we move into the future together.

What can we do together, that we can't do alone?

Movements

- Create educational and relational spaces for us to hear each other's voices, in deeper and richer conversations to stretch ourselves about the ways we have participated in systemic racism and the ways we want to move into a new reality.
 - Regular gatherings where we explore the 4 presentations from Jeannine Hill Fletcher.
 - Invite Jeannine Hill Fletcher to be with us in a more interactive mode to continue the exploration into our histories and past behaviors and our call into today's reality.
 - Ongoing education

- Tell our story anew – Mother Lange and Theresa Maxis – acknowledging our pasts, claiming the richness of our story and our call to reparation as a sign of hope for others.

We own that our OSP and IHM story is unique to religious life. Let us claim this story and tell it anew acknowledging what has been kept in secret and is now revealed for us to see more clearly calling us to response and action.

- Understand the roots that bind us together.
 - Engage in conversation with women of color who have left our congregation about their experience of racism within our communities.
 - Build relationships among ourselves and beyond (associates, co-workers, laity, partners) to receive substantive feedback on how our behaviors are changing or need to change as we come to understand our own implicit biases.
 - Claim, tell, and integrate our new story into the various facets of our life and ministry.
- Create a journal of individuals reflections that is grounded in our spiritualities and focuses on racism – our individual and communal experiences.
 - Target dates - November 10, 2022/Advent, and Lent 2023
 - Make our communal voices heard and presence known together through the ministry of advocacy for the powerless:
 - Voting rights
 - Gun Violence
 - Human Trafficking
 - Asylum Seekers
 - Climate Change

*The Healing Racism committee will be invited to consider pursuing this initiative.

In the recent issue of *Occasional Papers*, published by LCWR, Joan Chittister, OSB was interviewed for an article entitled, “We Are Called to Follow the Questions.” Joan stated, “I believe that there are four actions which every religious community must take in light of the questions of our time: publish, convene, join, and lead.”

The OSP/IHM Governing Board believes that the next steps as to what we can do together is a concrete way to accept the invitation posed by Joan Chittister, OSB.