



ONE VOICE

November 2005

Northeast Leadership Gathers in October

Sister Carolyn Krebs, OP

With fall in the air, Leadership of the six Northeast Congregations gathered at the Retreat House in Elkins Park on October 27. Ruby Cribbin led the way through a full agenda as Phase A Member meetings were reviewed and preparations were finalized for Phase B Member meetings. Thanks to your suggestions, you will note some positive changes as Members meet in March, 2006. It was emphasized how important Member participation is in this Northeast process.

The Leaders began the day placing our Northeast experience in the broader framework of the DLC, reflecting and sharing on aspects of the national meeting that influence our own process.

Some of the ideas surfaced touched on changing configuration as a part of Dominican tradition, listening to the earth to lead us, both anxiety and excitement as necessary parts of our life, importance of contemplation in creating our dialogue built on study. Leadership invited all to see this process together as integral to our Dominican life.

Looking ahead, encouraging the use of the booklet, *Our Common Journey* was of prime importance at the Leadership gathering. During the coming months all Members are invited to use the booklet's material in any way that is helpful - in meditation, in community, in informal conversations, in regional meetings and hopefully intercongregationally as well. There was

much praise for the Three Membership Meetings subcommittee who produced this wonderful resource for us all. But it is only as good as the use each of us make of it.

Encouraged by the 742 Members and Associates who attended Phase A meetings, it is hoped that the one day meetings of Phase B will top that. Registrations will go out in January for the four meetings: March 11 (at College Pt., LI), March 12 (at Sparkill), March 13 (at Elkins Park) and March 25 (at Blauvelt). The focus of these meetings will be on what we bring and what we receive as we move toward our vision statement. First drafts of new structures options will



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also be available for your consideration before these meetings. At the March meetings, the New Structures subcommittee will welcome suggestions, comments, changes, ideas around the options drawn from Members' thoughts at the Phase A meetings.

As committee reports were studied, Leaders made financial arrangements to cover Members' attendance at Phase B and C meetings. Attendance of Associates at these meetings was affirmed, with the request that Associates contribute to the hospitality costs at the meetings

they attend. It is hoped that Associates will also have opportunities to meet across congregations as Members are encouraged to do.

A highlight of the Leadership meeting was the announcement that the Central Vocation Office is up and running. Sr. Kathy Logan, OP with the assistance of the six Congregational Vocation Ministers (CVMs), has furnished the space in St. Paul's Parish, Jersey City and is beginning to contact those women who have already approached one of the Northeast congregations. Sr. Kathy will direct these women

in their introduction to Dominican life and their discernment process.

As we make *Our Common Journey* together, much will be happening through the winter into next spring. Leadership will again gather in April to bridge what has begun with what will continue to lead us to the vision set in early 2005.

2006 Membership Meeting Calendar

One-day meetings: (9:00 am to 4:00 pm)

March 11 ~ College Point, Long Island
March 12 ~ Sparkill
March 13 ~ Elkins Park
March 25 ~ Blauvelt

Overnight meetings: (7:00 pm the first day to 4:00 pm the second day)

June 16-17 ~ Sparkill
June 17-18 ~ Caldwell
June 26-27 ~ Amityville

