



# BROTHERS OF ST. JOHN OF GOD

Province Our Lady Queen of the Angels

2468 South St Andrews Place Los Angeles, California 90018

Telephone (323) 734-0233 Fax (323) 731-5987

## Order of St John of God General Chapter Preparations USA Province Sensing

How many groups:	List of topics:	Composition of groups (brothers, co-workers, clients/users,)
Five (5) Groups	1. Aging and Diminishment	Bro. Stephen de la Rosa, O.H., Bro. Pablo Lopez, O.H. , Bro. Thaddeus Bui, O.H., Bro. Michael Bassemier, O.H.
	2. Climate Change	
	3. Workforce Shortage of Nurses	Bro. Michael, Giovanni Argueta, John Cascio, Bro. Stephen John Casico, Arjene Aguirre, Soccorro Aquila, Christine Degoma
	4. Driven Economy and Nursing Home	Willy Atienza, John Padama, Arleen DeGuzman
	5. Spiritual Needs and Thirst for Meaning	Bro. Ignatius Sudol, O.H., Bro. Thaddeus Bui, O.H., Sac., Bro. George Tecku, O.H., Bro. Peter Gelfer, O.H., Sac., Sister Frances Flyn, CSJ, Sr. Irma Odabashian, CSJ, Sr. Raphael Magana, OP

### 1. Topic chosen for the group: **Aging and Diminishment**

#### 2. Why did you choose that topic?

- In 1969, there were 40 Brothers in the USA Province, Our Lady Queen of the Angels, and 3,000 Brothers in the Order Worldwide.
- The English-speaking region of **Western European Oceania North America** has accepted that the Provinces in the Region are in a historical context of Completion and has named this Journey "Walking Each Other Home. «

#### 3. What surprised you about the experience and what it generated?

- There were no surprises but did confirm a downward trend in the number of Brothers in the Order and active aging.

#### 4. What did you discover? What have been your key insights on that topic?

- [1963] **12,096** Brothers of various Congregations and Orders in the United States.
- [2022] **3,516** Brothers of various Congregations and Orders in the United States.
- [1990] **6,721** Brothers of various Congregations and Orders in the Worldwide.
- [2018] **3,987** Brothers of various Congregations and Orders in the Worldwide.
- [2022] **831** Solemn Professed Brothers God Worldwide.
- [2023] **811** Solemn Professed Brothers God Worldwide
- [2022] **60** Average age of the Brothers of St. John of God worldwide
- [2023] **10** Brothers of St. John of God in USA Province
- [2023] **76** Average of the Brothers of St. John of God in the USA Province.



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- j. Not only the brothers of this Province are diminishing but this trend is affecting other Orders and Congregations.

## 5. What was confirmed for you?

- a. At what rate will the curve's downward trend slow down?
- b. Will there ever be an upward trend?
- c. If there are more candidates, will they ever replace those gone?
- d. Will what remain to be considered the consecrated life of the past?
- e. Will the attitude toward religion change in the coming years? How?
- f. Will secularism remain the dominant belief system of most people in the United States?
- g. Will the Catholic Church in the United States survive the current lack of trust of the people?

## 6. What assumptions/biases did you have to let go of?

- a. That the religious life as we knew it will not be the model that will live on into the future.

## 7. What key questions has it enabled you to surface for your Province in the future?

- a. What are the sustainable levels of care that will fund the needs of the aging Brothers?

## 8. And for the whole Order?

- a. Will the Order become supportive of new governance structures as Commissary to be officially have oversight of the remaining Brothers?

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## 1. Topic chosen for the group: **Climate Change**

### 1. Why did you choose that topic?

- b. Nursing homes are not immune to the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss. Temperature changes, extreme weather events, and shifts in disease patterns directly impact vulnerable populations like elderly residents in nursing homes.
- c. Understanding these effects is crucial for nursing home administrators to ensure the well-being and safety of residents and staff.
- d. Climate-related challenges can disrupt supply chains, affect facility infrastructure, and strain resources, demanding proactive preparation and response.

### 2. What surprised you about the experience and what it generated?

- a. How climate change affects senior and elderly patients.



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### 3. What did you discover? What have been your key insights on that topic?

- a. **The warmer weather** patterns tend to dehydrate senior and keep them indoor, creating the hazards of immobility.
- b. **Air pollution**, exacerbated by climate change contributes, contributes to 7 million deaths.
- c. **Extreme heat waves** can exacerbate respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.
- d. **Air pollution**, exacerbated by climate change, contributes to 7 million premature deaths annually.

### 4. What was confirmed for you?

- a. **Nutritional Impact:** Will food costs affect seniors who are unable to afford food?
- b. **Medication efficacy:** Does the heat affect the body's ability to metabolize medications?
- c. **Housing environments:** Are there programs that help seniors insulate their homes for heat or cold temperatures?
- d. **Caregivers:** Will caregivers be able to travel to the people they care for when unexpected, whether like heavy rain or snowstorms, hurricanes, or earthquakes?

### 5. What assumptions/biases did you have to let go of?

- 1) **Mental Health:** That seniors do not become more depressed by witnessing changes to their local environment and possibly face more significant stress?

### 6. What key questions has it enabled you to surface for your Province in the future?

- a. **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** reports provide comprehensive climate science data.
- b. **World Health Organization (WHO)** offers guidance on adapting healthcare to climate challenges.

### 7. And for the whole Order?

- a. The Order needs to encourage it's Centre (facilities) implement policies that do not contribute to the carbon footprint of contamination into the atmosphere.
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## 1. Topic chosen for the group: **Workforce Shortage of Nurses**

### 2. **Why did you choose that topic?**

- a. St John of God Retirement and Care Center (SJGRCC). There is a nursing shortage due to various factors. The US Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that more than 275,000 additional nurses are needed from 2020 to 2030. Employment opportunities for nurses are projected to grow faster (9%) than all other occupations from 2016 through 2026

### 3. **What surprised you about the experience and what it generated?**

- a. Predicting the dynamics of the nursing shortage in the future is fraught with uncertainty.
- b. **Technology** The advancement of technology developments as telemedicine artificial intelligence might change the roles and requirements for nurses in way unknown.
- c. **Disease Patterns.** How disease patterns will evolve is a challenge. Global events like the pandemic can suddenly increase demand.
- d. **Education:** the future in education and training of nurses, might emerge, or the pace of training might increase addressing the shortage more effectively than anticipated.

### 4. **What did you discover? What have been your key insights on that topic?**

- a. **Exact Magnitude:** It's difficult to predict precisely how severe the nursing shortage will become as factors like healthcare policy changes and technological advancements can impact the demand for nurses.
- b. **Long-Term Solutions:** While addressing immediate concerns, we don't know with certainty which strategies will be most effective in attracting and retaining nurses in the long run.
- c. **Impact of Nursing Workforce Changes:** We don't have a complete understanding of how changes in nursing workforce demographics, such as the influx of younger nurses from foreign countries.

### 5. **What was confirmed for you?**

- a. The Nurse Shortage is universal and that many American Hospitals recruit in the Philippines or India.



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## 6. What assumptions/biases did you have to let go of?

- a. That there are sufficient nurses in the United States.

## 7. What key questions has it enabled you to surface for your Province in the future?

- a. Will we need to increase wages to be competitive with acute care hospitals.

## 8. And for the whole Order?

- a. Will the Provinces in the Order that have nursing schools educate nurses so that they can pass the Board of Nursing License in the United States.

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## 1. Topic chosen for the group: **Driven Economy and Nursing Home**

### 2. Why did you choose that topic?

- a. Today's market-driven economy has created a complex and heavily regulated business model for managing healthcare facilities. St. John of God Retirement and Care Center is a 501 c (3) Skilled Nursing Facility that has been providing senior care on the corner of Western and Adams since 1945.
- b. The fundamental thrust of offering a quality of life and care nursing environment has been built on the Christian value of Charity and the Charism of Hospitality of the Brothers of St. John of God. Historically, operations have functioned at a breakeven or a net loss. Traditionally, over the year, the shortfall has been managed by a prudent case mix of patients from various payer mixes and fundraising.
- c. Today, St. John of God Retirement and Care Center rely heavily on two public programs, Medicare, and Medicaid, to pay for the services they provide to most of their patients. The rates paid by states for Medicaid do not adequately reimburse the actual costs incurred by providers, resulting in a major disconnect between payment levels and the needs of the patients.

### 3. What surprised you about the experience and what it generated?

- a. A projected growth in the 85 and older population will likely contribute to a greater need for services.



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- b. St. John of God Retirement and Care Center has struggled with Medicaid rates insufficient to cover the costs of delivering care to an increasingly frail and medically complex population.
- c. Rate inflation continues to make it hard for staff to fund their cost of living.
- d. Wage, Benefits, and Payroll Taxes 61% of Revenues
- e. Nursing Expense: 28% of Revenue
- f. Nursing Registry 10% of Revenue
- g. The Institute of Medicine has reported that not-for-profit nursing facilities have higher nurse staffing levels and fewer healthcare deficiencies than their for-profit counterparts.

#### 4. What did you discover? What have been your key insights on that topic?

- a. What new legislation is in the making, that will limit care revenue to the elderly and handicap.
- b. Are future funding levels going to vary significantly between states, possibly leading to disparities in nursing home care availability and quality.
- c. Will Medicaid focus on expanding community-based services as an alternative to nursing home care to help individuals age in place.
- d. Will Medicaid implement new quality assurance measures to monitor and improve the quality of care, which could potentially affect funding allocations and facility operations.
- e. What was the reason why the DHCS retracted the published Medicaid rate of effective date of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. No update of new rate as of this time.

#### 5. What was confirmed for you?

- a. Future policies changes might alter the eligibility criteria that affect who can receive funding.
- b. Technology in nursing home care will grow.
- c. Integration with other programs to streamline the provision of services, will there be a dual-eligible programs.

#### 6. What assumptions/biases did you have to let go of?

- a. That State and Federal reimbursement rates will remain consistent.



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## 7. What key questions has it enabled you to surface for your Province in the future?

- a. Will fundraising be sufficient to assist the Care Center reduce its losses.

## 8. And for the whole Order?

- a. To what degree can the Order cope with less funds coming from the Provinces?
- b. Will the Order develop a means to assist Centers in first World Countries to cope with losses?

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## 1. Topic chosen for the group: Spirituality & Thirst for Meaning

### 2. Why did you choose that topic?

The topic was given to the group by the Provincial.

### 3. What surprised you about the experience and what it generated?

The sharing together of the different charisms with the four Brothers and three Sisters in our Sensing Group was an enriching experience. The contemplative aspect of us communal sharing generated a deeper understanding of the issues. There was a greater appreciation for the efforts of the Brothers about belonging and their ability to look forward into the future with strength even though their numbers are diminishing. The sensing process helped the group to listen in a deeper way, being able to slow down and reflect. The desire to move forward, with others, as we face the ongoing changes in religious life and ministry. We are participating in a greater plan God is mapping out for us, just as our founders did in their own time with no map to follow. Can we infuse the Charism of Hospitality in the staff and expand our circle of friends.

### 4. What did you discover? What have been your key insights on that topic?

The key insight was seeing the “culture of fear” in our world, visible in the “erasure” of people in mind and heart as well as from existence is counter cultural to the God’s mandate “to love one another”. We agree that the healing and reconciling aspects of our Charism of Hospitality helps restore the human dignity, the irreplaceability and value of each person.

### 5. What was confirmed for you?

We felt that it is vital that our Charism of Hospitality be shared and passed on to future generations, to continue the vision and mission of our founder St. John of God.

### 6. What assumptions/biases did you have to let go of?

The assumption is thinking that we have sufficient time to begin this process of how to re-envision our Hospitaller mission with diminishing numbers of Brothers. It is imperative to start a deeper reflection and planning now.



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## 7. What key questions has it enabled you to surface for your Province in the future?

1. How can we address the “culture of fear” in our workplace?
2. How do we better serve our vulnerable and aging population in a more wholistic way in our campus with fewer Brothers?
3. Is it time for us to establish a more comprehensive Mission and Mentoring Program?
4. How can all the Brothers of our English-Speaking Provinces, WEONA, strengthen one another by connecting via informal Zoom Meetings as we share our hopes and dreams.

## 8, What key questions has it enabled you to surface for the whole Order?

1. How do we, as an Order, address the ongoing sexual abuse crisis and the behavioral/mental health issues affecting the health and wellbeing of our vulnerable residents?
2. How do we, as an Order, address the emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs of our Brothers as we accompany and empower them to walk the journey of aging in a wholistic way?