

*“Beloved, do not believe every spirit,
but test the spirits to see whether they are from God.”
(John, 4:1)*

March 13, 2025

Dear Sister:

You have been in our thoughts and prayers during our planning time and we hope that you have had some personal time and space to rest since the Discernment Retreat. We also are hoping you have had a chance to further assimilate and work with the material that was unearthed during our time together. As promised, we are enclosing some instructions and a reflection sheet (see attached, *“Discernment Reflection”*) in preparation for your initial disclosures at the March 27 - 30, Regional Gathering.

Preparation

1. Please bring the **“symbol”** that you brought to the Discernment Retreat (or a different one if this shifts for you) so that we can use this as part of the Regional Gathering environment. Bring all of your discernment materials that you have as you might need these during the Regional Gathering.
2. Please use the enclosed reflection sheet (*“Discernment Reflection”*) to prepare for your initial Regional Gathering disclosure. You will be invited to share your responses to these reflection questions with all of the sisters.

You will have up to **3minutes** to share these reflections at the Regional Gatherings. For most people, this is around $\frac{3}{4}$ of a type-written page using font 12 or 13. In order to be fair to the other discerners, no one will be allowed more than three minutes. ***Focus your remarks, and practice timing yourself, so that you are not rushed by the time limit, or surprised if you are asked to stop at three minutes.*** There will be some time for the sisters to give you feedback in response to these initial disclosures, and we will orient you to the process during our briefing together.

We will meet with you from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the St. Elizabeth Convent in Tampa, Wednesday, March 26th the evening before Regional Gathering begins (Brazil 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.) We will debrief with you at the end of Regional Gathering on Sunday, March 30th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. (Brazil 4:00 – 6:00). **Please make sure your travel arrangements are made so that you do not arrive later or leave early.**

We would encourage your ongoing discernment in whatever ways are important for you (e.g., prayer, journaling, conversations with your local community and other sisters, spiritual directors, counselors or confidantes, etc.). Please take the opportunity to dialogue with other discerners as you might need. When in conversation with other sisters, feel free to share your own experience of discernment. However, once again, please do not share the personal disclosures or the “leanings” of other sisters. Let each sister be the author of her own story.

We look forward to companioning you through this next phase of discernment. In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to contact us. Remember, *It is all gift. All of it!*

Sincerely,
Ted Dunn and Beth Lipsmeyer Dunn

