

Reflection for the Installation Liturgy for the General Council
Sister Jane Ann Cherubin, SC
October 13, 2019



When I was in high school trying to decide what I should do after graduation I met with Sister Laverne Cassidy, then known as Sister John Marie, my homeroom teacher. She asked me if I ever thought of religious life and after that I couldn't stop thinking about myself as a religious sister. I struggled to make a final decision and one day Sister Laverne asked me two more questions. Would I be happy deciding not to become a sister and I answered, "No, I don't think so." Then she said, "Do you think you would be happy becoming a sister and I said, "Yes, I think I would." Then she said, "Don't you think your decision is made? These

life decisions are difficult to make but after I finally decided to enter the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill I felt a deep inner peace.

I felt this same peace when I said yes to accepting the call as General Superior during our Chapter this summer. Before responding to this call we were asked by the chapter facilitator to choose a passage from sacred scripture that calls us beyond frontiers. The only passage that came to mind was Jonah and the whale and try as I might I couldn't think of anything else. During my time of reflection on Jonah I was thinking of my decision before the Chapter to return to Korea where I ministered for 32 years and now thinking about Jonah I was questioning where God was asking me to go. During my prayer I remembered what one of our sisters asked me before the Chapter ~ she said, "Do you believe in God's providence for you?" I prayed to be open to God's will for me and I realized that if I didn't say yes to what the Lord was calling me to I would continue to stay in the whale!

At our Chapter we developed our 2019 General Chapter Statement which is in the inside cover of your program. It states:

The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill move beyond frontiers
to witness charity and justice to our wounded world.

We advocate for and serve with those who live in poverty.

We model interculturality and reconciliation.

We restore and protect the earth

We must all work together so that we can move beyond frontiers to witness charity and justice to our wounded world.

In 2008, as Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, we prepared a Vision Statement which states:

As citizens of the world,

We stand in solidarity with all creation.

Ever more conscious of our internationality,

We seek harmony in every dimension of our lives.

By living vibrant compassionate community,

We witness God's covenantal fidelity.

Through deep listening to our charism,

We call ourselves to new ventures and risk-taking.

We prepared this Vision Statement eleven years ago and it is still as vibrant and compelling today as it was then.

At this time, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Bishop Edward Malesic for his wonderful support and encouragement and for celebrating this beautiful liturgy. I would also like to thank Monsignor William Rathgeb, Father Jeremiah O'Shea and Father Tyler Bandura.

A special thank you to all those who helped to make this day so special. To Sister Catherine Meinert, the United States Provincial, Sister Yong Son Kim, the Korean Provincial and their council members and all of our sisters, I am so grateful for all of you!

I am deeply thankful to Michele Kardos, our Director of Music, and all those who shared their musical gifts with us today.

I am also blessed by the many individuals who helped with the planning and preparations. Thank you to our families and friends who love and inspire us. And especially to all of you who are with us here today.

And most of all I would like to thank Sister Sung Hae Kim and her council—Sister Carole Blazina, Sister Seon Ja Lee and Sister Mary Jo Mutschler—for their dedicated service. I am grateful for all you have done for our community and for the Church.

With the same Spirit of Elizabeth Ann Seton, Vincent DePaul and Louise de Marillac, I look forward to these coming years with hope that together as Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill we may live out our Vision and Chapter Statements with the same yes as when we first entered. May all our yeses that bring all of us closer to God continue to resound in our hearts.

I look forward to these coming years, privileged to minister with Sister Carole, Sister Kwangshim and Sister Maria, and with your prayers, I ask the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us.