

SEEDS OF HOPE
Facilitator's Directions

Materials needed.

Photos of Newer Members

Letter #1469, What Mother Theresa Looked for in Newer Members

Letter #2870, What Mother Theresa Praised in Sister Ludmilla

Letter #899 Mother Theresa Encouraging New Member

Closing Prayer

This topic allows The FACILITATOR to see photos of more than eighty-three women who are newer members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The photo gallery is arranged alphabetically according to the various Units of the congregation. These photos are displayed in two small photo albums in the picnic basket or simply viewed on the computer. You may use these photos with women who are interested in joining the community, with students, and with those asking the question: "Do you have women entering the School Sisters of Notre Dame today?" The Introduction to the photo album could be the following:

The women pictured here are hoping to follow Christ by living as School Sisters of Notre Dame. May we support them by our prayer and love. They are in various stages of formation, from Postulant to Final Profession.

May, 2004

To see those in initial formation throughout the School Sisters of Notre Dame The pictures will be displayed in alphabetical order according to Districts Units and Home Provinces. After viewing the photos, one might ask the question: "Do you see evidence of an international congregation? What does this mean to you?"

The FACILITATOR distributes Letter #1469 and says: Let's read this together and discover what Mother Theresa looked for in newer members. After reading the letter The FACILITATOR asks:

1. Were there any surprises? If so, what did you find surprising or different?
2. What does this letter tell you about Mother Theresa, as a foundress and as an administrator?

The FACILITATOR passes out Letter #2870 on Sister Ludmilla. As you read this consider what made her a valuable community member and educator.

3. What stands out for you in Mother Theresa's description of S. Ludmilla?
4. What made her sudden death such a heart ache for Mother Theresa?
5. Do you know someone like S. Ludmilla?

The FACILITATOR offers Letter #899 to the participants saying: As you read this silently, what do you think Agnes Finke is asking of Mother Theresa? (i.e. What if some of the sisters don't live up to what I expected? Do I leave?)

If there are School Sisters of Notre Dame present and married couples, you might invite them to consider their own experiences of dealing with disillusionment within community or within marriage...The FACILITATOR says: How have you dealt with disillusionment either in community, in ministry, or in marriage? What helped you either stay with a commitment or make healthy choices?

Anything you've learned about the School Sisters of Notre Dame from this conversation? Invite them to check out the websites of various Units in the Congregation. If possible have a newer member available to share her story. Some newer members have never met School Sisters of Notre Dame, but found the congregation through the website.

Conclude with a spontaneous prayer for all considering a vocation to the School Sisters of Notre Dame and all in formation at this time. (End with the SSND Blessing for Students) or invite three readers to share from *You Are Sent.*