

## COMPANION RESPONSIBILITIES – CONSOCIATE CANDIDACY

Serving as a companion provides Sisters and Consociates with the opportunity to welcome and support individuals who are discerning whether to become a Consociate. Companions are Sisters or Consociates who serve as mentors to candidates.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

A concise list of responsibilities:

- Check in with your candidate regularly, monthly preferred.
- Attend candidacy Sharing of the Heart as you are able.
- Attend Community-Wide Mission and Values sessions with candidates as you are able.
- Support, encourage, and accompany your candidate according to your candidate's specific needs and interests.
- Talk with staff or Contact Team members if any concerns arise.
- If your candidate decides to make a commitment at the end of their candidacy, write them a letter of support.

#### More information:

**Companion's Commitment** – The companion commits to walk with the candidate. The formal companion relationship ends when the individual makes their commitment or becomes clear they are not called to be a Consociate at this time.

The most important thing for the person in the companion role is get to know the candidate personally and to mentor them in what it means to be a Consociate with the Sisters of St. Joseph, St. Paul Province. Candidate and community activities provide the companion with opportunities to be with the candidate where they can share and discuss community values.

**Meetings with Candidates** - Companions are asked to meet with the candidate for a one-to-one check-in regularly (monthly if possible). Companions and candidates are encouraged to participate together in activities such as: Candidate Mission and Values and Sharing of the Heart, Community Assemblies, Stirring the Fire retreats, and prayer/ritual and social events with the community.

**Attendance at Candidate Activities** – Companions are invited to participate in Sharing of the Heart with candidates on a bi-monthly basis. Companions accompany candidates at the welcoming and commitment rituals and are also encouraged to participate in community events with the candidate.

**Communication with Consociate Team** - Companions are asked to contact their candidate's assigned Team Contact or a member of the Consociate Team if they have questions, concerns, insights or suggestions related to the candidate or candidacy process.

**Recommendations to Consociate Team and Province Leadership** –Throughout candidacy, the companion, as a representative of the CSJ community, helps discern whether the candidate is called to be a Consociate with the Sisters of St. Joseph, St. Paul Province. If there are any concerns or questions regarding the mutual “fit” of the candidate with the community and its mission/charism, companions are encouraged to talk with the candidate then with the Team Contact and/or Consociate Team as needed. (In the event of a decision to end candidacy, the companion(s) will be invited to bring closure to this part of the journey with the individual they have been companioning.) Upon completion of candidacy, the companion writes a letter of recommendation on behalf of the candidate.

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