



La Conférence de la Région des Oblats du Canada et des États-Unis
The Conference of the Region for Oblates of Canada-United States
291, Nelson St., Ottawa ON K1N 7S1

☎ (613) 276-0636 @ : crocussec@gmail.com

Statement from CROCUS on Restructuring in the Region

CROCUS have met in follow-up from the Canada-US Joint Sessions, where restructuring in the Region was an important topic. We reviewed the final reports and the questions that need to be answered to go forward as a region.

We agreed upon the importance of Discernment as a method for developing this ongoing and mutual dialogue among the units of the Region. The theme of Discernment in our discussions included the following points from *Discernment: Theology and Practice, Communal and Personal*, Ladislav Orsy, SJ, Liturgical Press, 2020, 88 p.:

- *Discernment is putting ourselves into a state of readiness to surrender to the truth or into a disposition to reach out for the good - natural or supernatural.*
- *The community can never take away the intelligence and freedom of its members. However, it can guide them to avoid false judgments and evade wrong decisions originating in biased minds.*
- *The number of people who support an opinion is no guarantee for quality.*
- *Communal Discernment would defeat its purpose if creative insights and well-founded judgments were watered down to a common denominator acceptable to all.*
- *The line between a pure gift from God and a product of human intelligence must not be blurred.*

The CROCUS group also reviewed the document prepared by the 2021 Regional Committee for the Joint Session, entitled: "Questions a Commission Might Explore." These questions will help us move forward in our shared reflection and decision-making.

We have shared our respective province mission statements towards the development of a joint, regional mission statement. This eventual joint mission statement will serve as a basis for our ongoing discernment on renewing our structures to address the current and future mission needs more adequately.

We discussed the importance of "synodality" and what the Vatican Synod has produced on the synodal process. We observed that the Canadian Religious Conference had encouraged the participation of religious congregations in the synodal process. The importance of the synodal process was emphasized by one of the provincials and affirmed by the group.

Therefore, to facilitate an ongoing dialogue towards renewal and restructuring with the Oblates of the Region, we, the provincials, have coordinated the dates of our respective provincial assemblies in 2022. The four provinces have agreed to invite each province's respective provincials and one or two representatives to participate in ongoing discussions.

The dates are the following:

January 10-11, Assumption Province in Mississauga (Postponed – new dates to be determined)

April 18-22, US Province convocation in Belleville

April 26-28, Notre Dame du Cap Province, in Trois-Rivières

May 30-June 3, OMI Lacombe Province, in St. Albert

We will develop a common approach and methodology for these provincial meetings to continue the ongoing Discernment in the Region. We will develop a timeline for the process and a tentative schedule for this ongoing discernment.

As 2022 begins, and as we look towards the 37th General Chapter, let us keep this discernment process in our prayer, that we might grow in our understanding of God's call for each of our provinces, and for the Canada/US Region as a whole.

CROCUS leadership