Podcast script for Phase V:

Preparation for the Leaning to send the Working Document of the Statutes to Rome

Catherine Walsh, OP – January 11, 2022

Welcome to all Sisters and Associates;

Welcome to this review of the work of the OPSCC Task Force on Canonical Governance. We bring you this review in preparation for your congregational leaning to support sending the Working Text of the Statutes for the Association to *the Vatican Office for Religious* for review and approval.

As you will remember, this process of moving toward a collaborative canonical governance model began in April 2019. Since its beginning you have assisted us in creating a model and then in developing the draft Statutes of that model which we call an Association. You have participated in two inter-congregational zoom meetings to review the draft Statutes. Some have held congregational discussions to further understand the draft Statutes. Some of you acted as readers for the draft of the Statutes. All your input was reviewed and used to edit the Statutes where needed. Practical items that arose out of these discussions have been collected to be addressed in a Directory which we are beginning work on at this time. This Directory will address those practical aspects of the Association such as: how chapter delegates are selected , how many delegates from each congregation, etc. Thank you for all of this. I should also mention that we have periodically reviewed our work with all the leadership teams to receive their insights and suggested revisions.

The Task Force now believes we have a document that is ready to be reviewed by *the Vatican Office for Religious. The* Leadership of each congregation agrees. So, we have asked the leadership of each congregation to hold a leaning to determine your support for sending the working text of the Statutes to the Vatican. You will remember that we took a leaning after we had a model to see the support from each congregation for continuing in the process of developing the draft of the Statutes for the model. You overwhelmingly said “yes.”

So, we are asking you to study the working text of the Statutes for the Association and determine your answer to this question: *Am I willing to affirm sending the Working Text of the Statutes for the Association to the Vatican Office for Religious for review and approval?*

Remember this leaning is not a vote, nor does it commit your congregation to joining the Association; instead, if your leaning is affirmative, it means your congregation is choosing to continue in the process of creating a collaborative canonical governance model. Thank you for your participation in the leaning, we await the results.