As the United States Region of the international congregation of the Franciscan Sisters, Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, the Wheaton Franciscans are preparing for General Chapter, which will take place March 21 through April 5, 2022.

A Chapter is a gathering of a religious community to set direction and elect leaders. A “General” Chapter is the highest decision-making body of the Congregation. The delegates of the General Chapter represent each province, region, or area that comprises the congregation. Because of the ongoing situation with the COVID pandemic, this meeting (which was postponed from 2021) will take place over Zoom.

In general, Chapter takes place over two distinct parts – first, visioning and direction setting, and second, election of new leadership based on the direction that has been discerned.

At the end of January 2022, the Regional Leadership Team and the General Council met on Zoom for personal sharing and regional updates. They noted the significance that this meeting was the last official meeting between this configuration of these two teams, as there will be a new General Council elected at the upcoming chapter. The RLT expressed their gratitude to the General Council, especially for their support and guidance during our transition to a region.

Please hold all the Chapter participants in your thoughts and prayers. We entrust to Francis, Clare, and M. Clara our congregational journey of renewed living of the Gospel and our Franciscan Charism.
Above, Louise and Frank Leonard escape winter with a stay in La Cruz de Huanacaxtle Mexico. They enjoy the local farmer’s market and God showing off the beauty of creation with stunning sunsets.

Below, Jeanne Connolly finds comfort in escaping winter with a visit to Orange Beach, Alabama (photo by husband Pat). The splendor of creation is displayed in awe-inspiring sunrises and emerald green waters.
Covenant Companion Shirley Justin-Wolff and Sr. Lynn Schafer embrace winter by sharing their passion for cross-country skiing.

Below, Kitty enjoys winter bird-watching.

Srs. Bea and Sylvia embrace winter by adding floral beauty to their home.

Below, photo of snowy Chicago courtesy of John Nicholas, brother of Jamie Nicholas
READY MADE WINTER MEALS

from Sister Ilenna

In the winter (anytime really) I like to do what I call “batch cooking” on the weekends.

I make a big pan of roasted vegetables, a couple of chicken breasts, and a big bowl of rice or quinoa.

Then I have ready made meals to go for the rest of the week.

I also like to make big pots of vegetable soup, butternut squash soup, and chili.

I’ll freeze in small containers and they’re ready to heat and eat in no time.

Happy Cooking!

Sr. Sylvia warming up with a bowl of chili
Chill out time for Sr. Melanie

From Louise Leonard

Winter Comfort Relax

From Becky LeClair

Sensible Shoes
A story about the spiritual journey
Sharon Garlaugh Brown

Barefoot
A story of surrendering to God
Sharon Garlaugh Brown

An Extra Mile
A story of embracing God’s call
From Becky LeClair

The Runaway Bestseller
American Dirt
Jeanine Cummins