



Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious
Annual Survey 2019

Report Prepared for the Board of Directors

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September 2019

Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious Annual Survey 2019

Executive Summary

This report presents findings from the 2019 annual survey of the communities whose major superiors (or those who are analogous to major superiors) are either full or associate members of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR). The survey was sent to the highest superior in each of the communities whose superiors are included in the CMSWR membership lists for 2019. The potential survey respondents included 112 communities: 90 communities whose superiors are full members of CMSWR and 22 communities whose superiors are associate members of CMSWR.

The CMSWR National Office sent the survey forms to the major superiors in February, 2019, with a request to return the completed survey by March 31, 2019. Non-responding communities were contacted during the spring and summer of 2019 to encourage participation in the survey. As of August 28, 2019, a total of 106 communities returned completed questionnaires, for an overall response rate of 95%. The responding communities include 85 “full membership communities” and 21 “associate membership communities,” for response rates of 94 and 95%, respectively.

The survey was designed to assist CMSWR in compiling information about its member communities and the sisters within them. To that end, the survey includes questions about the number of sisters in the community, the number of sisters at each stage of the initial formation process, the age and country of origin of the sisters, the apostolates and institutions in which the sisters serve, and the dioceses in which they are located. The questionnaire for 2019 was similar, though not identical, to the questionnaires that have been used for the annual surveys since 2012.

Details about the survey instrument and the methodology of the study and report are included in the “Introduction” to this report. A copy of the 2019 survey is included in Appendix I.

Major Findings

- The survey results continue to reveal great diversity among the CMSWR communities in terms of their size, the presence of sisters in initial formation, the age distribution of their sisters, the apostolates and institutions in which the sisters serve, and their geographic dispersion, among other characteristics. For example, the responding communities range in size from just two or three sisters to nearly 300 sisters; from having no postulants, novices, and/or temporary professed sisters to having more than 60 or 70 sisters in initial formation; and from serving in a single diocese to serving in as many as 30 different dioceses.

- The responding communities reported a total of 5,411 sisters, including 879 sisters in initial formation (postulants, novices, and temporary professed sisters). If the non-responding communities were added to the count, the number of sisters would likely increase by some 250-300, including 20-30 sisters in initial formation. Thus, the total number of sisters in the CMSWR communities is approximately 5,700, which includes about 900 postulants, novices, and temporary professed sisters.
- Both the overall number of sisters and the number of sisters in initial formation have remained relatively stable over the eight years this survey has been conducted. As noted in previous reports, this overall stability masks significant growth in a few communities and significant decline in some others. Similarly, small changes in the number of sisters within some communities obscure countervailing trends of both growth and diminishment. That is, some communities are experiencing renewed growth in new membership at the same time they are experiencing significant loss due to aging and death.
- The median age of the sisters in the responding communities overall is 58. The median ages of those in initial formation are considerably younger: 25 for postulants, 27 for novices, and 30 for temporary professed sisters. Overall, the sisters are relatively evenly distributed across age categories from the 30s through the 80s, with somewhat smaller percentages of sisters younger than 30 or older than 90. The median age *within* individual communities ranges from as low as the late 20s to as high as the early 80s.
- The responding communities received a total of 137 new postulants and 126 new novices in 2018. During the 2018 calendar year, 114 sisters made their first profession and 79 sisters made their perpetual profession of vows. During the same time period, the responding communities experienced the deaths of 108 sisters.
- Close to three in ten communities (28%) reported at least one sister who made her perpetual profession in 2018. Two-thirds of the newly perpetually professed sisters (65%) were born in the United States. The next most common countries of origin are the Philippines and Vietnam (5% each) followed by Australia and Mexico (4% each).
- Most responding communities (85%) report that their newest member made perpetual profession within the last ten years (i.e., since 2008), with two-thirds (68%) reporting a perpetual profession within the last three years (i.e., between 2015 and 2018). In a very small number of communities (6%), the newest member made perpetual profession before 2000.
- Overall, 85% of the professed sisters (those in temporary vows and final vows) in the responding communities are “active” while 15% are “retired” from apostolic service because of age or infirmity. The active sisters include 19% of professed sisters who serve in internal services for their communities, such as administration, formation, or support services.

- The most common apostolates in the responding communities are education, health care, and evangelization, catechesis, and/or religious education, with more than half of the professed sisters serving in these areas as their primary apostolate (24%, 19%, and 14%, respectively).¹ Pastoral or spiritual ministry (8%) and social work or social services (5%) are the primary apostolates of about one in eight professed sisters.
- The sisters in the responding communities serve in well over 400 educational institutions (mostly in elementary, middle, and high schools, but also in pre-schools as well as at the college and university level) and nearly 200 health care facilities (including hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and other skilled or assisted care facilities) as well as in almost 300 parishes and some 60 retreat or spirituality centers.
- Sisters from the CMSWR communities currently live and/or serve in at least 136 dioceses in the United States and at least 78 dioceses outside the United States. About a third of the responding communities (32%) report that their sisters are missioned in other countries, most commonly in Latin American and the Caribbean (especially in Mexico), Europe (especially in Italy), or Asia (especially in the Philippines).

¹ In reporting the apostolates of the professed sisters, respondents were asked to count each sister only once, using the category that best describes her primary apostolate. The actual number of sisters engaged in some of these apostolates is likely considerably higher than the figures presented in this report since many sisters are engaged in more than one apostolate.

Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious Annual Survey 2019

Introduction

This report presents findings from the 2019 annual survey of the communities whose major superiors (or those who are analogous to major superiors) are either full or associate members of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR). The survey was sent to the highest superior in each of the communities whose superiors were included in the CMSWR membership lists for 2019. The potential survey respondents included 112 communities: 90 communities whose superiors are full members of CMSWR and 22 communities whose superiors are associate members of CMSWR.²

The CMSWR National Office sent the survey forms to the major superiors in February, 2019, with a request to return the completed survey by March 31, 2019. Non-responding communities were contacted during the spring and summer of 2019 to encourage participation in the survey. As of August 28, 2019, a total of 106 communities returned completed questionnaires, for an overall response rate of 95%. The responding communities include 85 “full membership communities” and 21 “associate membership communities,” for response rates of 94 and 95%, respectively. Compared to 2018, both the number of responding communities and the overall response rate are slightly higher (106 communities compared to 104 communities and 95% compared to 92%).³

The survey was designed to assist CMSWR in compiling information about its member communities and the sisters within them. To that end, the survey includes questions about the number of sisters in the community; the number of sisters at each stage of the initial formation process; the number of sisters who entered, became novices, or made first or final profession the previous year; the year of birth of each sister; the apostolates and institutions in which the sisters serve; and the dioceses in which they are located. The questionnaire for 2019 was similar, though not identical, to the questionnaires used for the annual surveys since 2012. The most significant change in recent years was the inclusion of a question asking for the country of birth of each sister who made perpetual profession the previous year.⁴ A copy of the 2019 survey is included in Appendix I of this report.

² The CMSWR Membership Directory for 2019 includes superiors from 113 communities: 91 communities whose superiors hold full membership and 22 communities whose superiors hold associate membership. Since the publication of the Directory, one “full membership community” withdrew from membership. Thus the total number of potential respondents was 112: 90 communities whose superiors are full members and 22 communities whose superiors are associate members.

³ The number of respondents and the response rates for the previous surveys was 101 (out of 126) in 2012 (80%), 93 (out of 121) in 2013 (77%), 100 (out of 122) in 2014 (82%), 106 (out of 120) in 2015 (88%), 104 (out of 118) in 2016 (88%), 108 (out of 119) in 2017 (91%), and 104 (out of 113) in 2018 (92%).

⁴ This question was added to help ascertain the extent to which new entrants are coming from outside the United States and to identify the countries from which they are coming. Other significant changes in the survey instrument over the eight years this survey has been conducted include the addition of questions about the year of birth of each

Unless otherwise noted, this report presents information only for the 106 communities whose major superiors responded to the 2019 survey. That is, it does not provide comprehensive information about all CMSWR communities.

Most of the tables in this report present the number (rather than the percentage) of either *sisters* in particular categories (e.g., the number of sisters who serve in various apostolates) or *communities* that provided certain responses (e.g., the number of communities that reported various levels of membership). Most of the charts and graphs, on the other hand, show percentages (rather than numbers). In some cases, the tables (or the accompanying text) also present mean and median numbers (e.g., the mean and median ages of the sisters). In a few instances, the responding communities did not provide all of the requested information or did not provide usable responses. The tables and/or the accompanying text indicate the number of communities that responded to each question or set of questions (shown as “N” in the tables).

Throughout this report, comparisons are made between the responses of “full members” and “associate members” or between “full membership communities” and “associate membership communities” based on how the superiors from these communities are classified in the CMSWR Membership Directory. Although this report follows the convention of referring to communities as belonging to CMSWR, it should be noted that only major superiors, not their communities, actually hold membership in the organization.

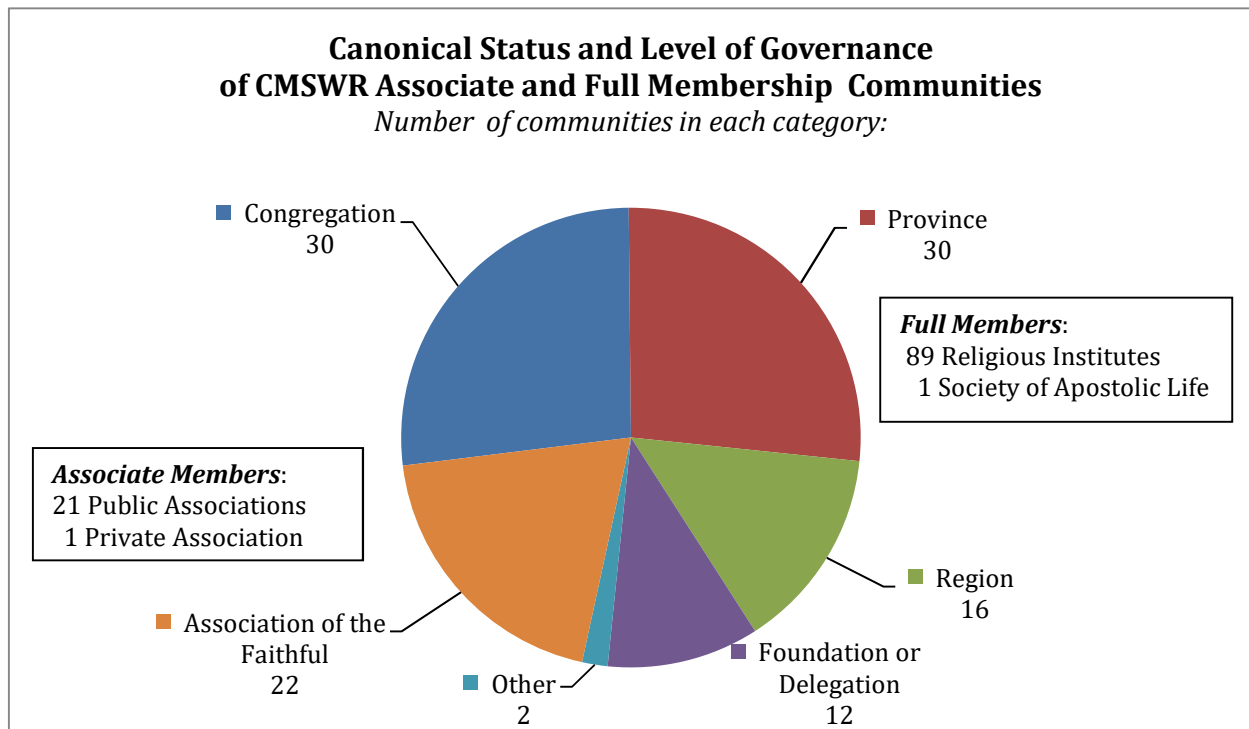
of the sisters (used to calculate age and age distribution), the addition of questions about the number of new postulants, novices, and temporary professed each year (the number of perpetual professions and deaths have been asked since the inception of the survey), and the refinement of response categories, especially regarding the apostolates and institutions in which the sisters serve. Please refer to the survey instruments for the exact wording of the questions and the descriptions of the categories used in the survey each year.

Canonical Status and Level of Governance of the Responding Communities

The survey began by asking the respondent to identify the level of governance for which she (or the superior for whom she was responding) serves as the superior, i.e., whether it is for a congregation, province, region, U.S. foundation or delegation, association of the faithful, or some other unit. Throughout the survey, the superior was asked to respond only for that level of governance. The instructions also noted that “community” was used throughout the survey to refer to the congregation, province, region, or other entity for which the respondent is responsible as the superior general, provincial, regional leader, or other superior. The term “community” is used in a similar way in this report.

The superior was also asked to report the canonical status of her community, i.e., whether the community (or the institute or society of which it is a part) is a religious institute, a society of apostolic life, a private association of the faithful, or a public association of the faithful.⁵

The chart below shows the distribution of all 112 CMSWR communities based on their level and canonical status as well as their status in CMSWR.



⁵ The surveys from 2012 to 2014 also asked religious institutes and societies of apostolic life whether they are institutes or societies of diocesan right or pontifical right. Respondents were also asked if their community is seeking a change in canonical status, e.g., from a public association of the faithful to a religious institute or from diocesan right to pontifical right. These questions are now included in the CMSWR Membership Application and are not repeated in the survey.

Among the superiors who hold full membership in CMSWR, two-thirds of the respondents serve as major superiors of congregations (33%) or provinces (33%). The remaining respondents serve as superiors for some lower level of government such as a region, delegation, or local community.⁶ All but one of the full membership communities is (or is a part of) a religious institute. The other community is a society of apostolic life.

Among the superiors who hold associate membership in CMSWR, all of the respondents are superiors of associations of the faithful. All but one of these communities is a public association of the faithful. The other community is a private association of the faithful.

⁶ At least some of the regions are the equivalent of provinces, but it is not clear that this is the case with all of the communities below the province level. Some appear to be no more than mission houses of congregations that are based outside the United States.

Dioceses on Which the Sisters Live and/or Serve

Respondents were asked to report the dioceses in which their sisters currently live and/or serve. If the respondent is the superior general or provincial of a community that is based in the United States that has sisters living or serving outside the United States, she was instructed to include dioceses outside the United States.

The responding communities reported that their sisters live and/or serve in anywhere from a single diocese to as many as 23 different dioceses in the United States. In all, the sisters from these communities live and/or serve in at least 136 different dioceses in the United States.⁷

One-third of the responding communities (32%) report that their sisters live and/or serve in at least one diocese outside the United States. The sisters in these communities are present in at least 78 different dioceses outside the United States, most commonly in Latin America and the Caribbean (especially in Mexico), Europe (especially in Italy), or Asia (especially in the Philippines).

Appendix II includes a list of the dioceses in the United States in which sisters from the responding communities currently live and/or serve.

⁷ Available data about the communities that did not respond to the 2019 survey suggest that sisters from these communities live and/or serve in another three dioceses in the United States that are not included in this total.

Number of Sisters in Initial Formation and Perpetual Vows

The respondents were next asked to provide information about the sisters in their communities, beginning with the number of postulants, novices, temporary professed, and perpetually professed sisters, as of January 1, 2019. The respondent was reminded that if she is the superior or delegate for a region, foundation, or delegation in the United States that is part of a province, institute, or society that is based outside the United States, she should report only the sisters in the United States.

All 106 respondents provided information about the number of sisters in their communities. The table below shows the total number of sisters in initial formation (postulants, novices, and temporary professed) and perpetual vows in the responding communities.

Number of Sisters in Initial Formation and Perpetual Vows in CMSWR Associate and Full Membership Communities <i>Number of sisters in each category:</i>			
	Associate Membership	Full Membership	Total CMSWR
	(N=21)	(N=85)	(N=106)
Postulants	14	123	137
Novices	28	178	206
Temporary Professed	57	479	536
Perpetually Professed	197	4,335	4,532
Total Sisters	296	5,115	5,411

- The responding communities reported a total of 5,411 sisters, including 879 sisters in initial formation (i.e., postulants, novices, and temporary professed sisters combined).⁸
- The sisters in initial formation constitute about 16% of the total number of sisters in the responding communities.
- The proportion of sisters in initial formation is larger in the associate membership communities than in the full membership communities (33% compared to 15%).

⁸ Data for the communities that did not respond to the survey in 2019 but responded in previous years and/or for whom data are available from other sources suggest that there are approximately 250-300 in these communities, including about 20-30 sisters in initial formation. The addition of these communities would bring the total number of sisters in CMSWR communities to around 5,700, with about 900 sisters in initial formation.

The table below shows the number of responding communities that have each category of total number of sisters (postulants, novices, temporary professed, and perpetually professed combined), i.e., the number of communities that have fewer than 25 sisters, the number of communities that have between 25 and 49 sisters, etc.

Number of Sisters per Community in CMSWR Associate and Full Membership Communities <i>Number of communities in each category:</i>			
Number of Sisters in the Community	Associate Membership	Full Membership	Total CMSWR
	(N=21)	(N=85)	(N=106)
Fewer than 25	18	26	44
25 to 49	3	23	26
50 to 99	0	17	17
100 or more	0	19	19

Most of the responding communities are relatively small, with two-thirds (66%) having fewer than 50 sisters. This is especially the case among the associate membership communities, which all have fewer than 40 sisters. Although some of the full membership communities have larger numbers of sisters, many of these are also quite small. Differences between the average and median numbers of sisters indicate that the statistics are skewed by the presence of a few relatively large communities.

- The number of sisters in the responding communities overall (associate membership and full membership communities combined) ranges from two to 292, with an average of 51 sisters and a median of 30.5 sisters.
- The number of sisters in the responding full membership communities ranges from three to 292, with an average of 60 sisters and a median of 37 sisters.
- The number of sisters in the responding associate membership communities ranges from two to 39, with an average of 14 sisters and a median of 12 sisters.

The next table indicates the number of communities with each level of number of sisters in initial formation (postulants, novices, and temporary professed combined). As the data on page 8 show, there are 879 sisters in initial formation in the responding communities: 99 in the responding associate membership communities and 780 in the responding full membership communities.⁹

Number of Sisters in Initial Formation (Postulants, Novices, and Temporary Professed Combined) in CMSWR Associate and Full Membership Communities <i>Number of communities in each category:</i>			
Number of Sisters in Initial Formation	Associate Membership	Full Membership	Total CMSWR
	(N=21)	(N=85)	(N=106)
None	5	20	25
One or Two	6	14	20
Three to Five	2	15	17
Six to Ten	4	15	19
More than Ten	4	21	25

There are large variations across the responding communities in the number of sisters in the initial formation process. While one in four communities (24%) report no sisters in formation, the same proportion (24%) report more than ten sisters in formation. The latter group includes 12 communities that have at least 20 sisters in the initial formation process, with four having more than 50 sisters in initial formation.

- The number of sisters in initial formation in the responding communities overall ranges from zero to 78, with an average number of eight sisters and a median number of four sisters.
- In the responding full membership communities, the average number of sisters in initial formation is nine and the median number is four. The range is the same as for the responding communities overall: zero to 78 sisters.
- The average and median number of sisters in initial formation in the responding associate membership communities are five and two sisters, respectively. The range in these communities is between zero and 16 sisters.

⁹ As noted previously, there are perhaps another 20-30 sisters in initial formation among the communities that did not respond to the 2019 survey.

Age Distribution of the Sisters

In addition to asking about the number of sisters in each category of formation and profession, the survey asked for the year of birth of each sister. That is, the respondent was asked to report the year of birth of each postulant, novice, temporary professed, and perpetually professed sister in her community. This information was used to calculate the average and median ages of the sisters in 2019.

The tables below show the average (first table) and median (second table) ages of sisters in each initial formation and profession category in 2019.

<u>Average</u> Age of Sisters in Initial Formation and Perpetual Vows in CMSWR Associate and Full Membership Communities <i>Average age of sisters in each category in 2019:</i>			
	Associate Membership	Full Membership	Total CMSWR
	(N=21)	(N=84)	(N=105)
Postulants	26.5	27	27
Novices	28	29	29
Temporary Professed	34	30	30
Perpetually Professed	55	64	63
All Sisters	47	59	58

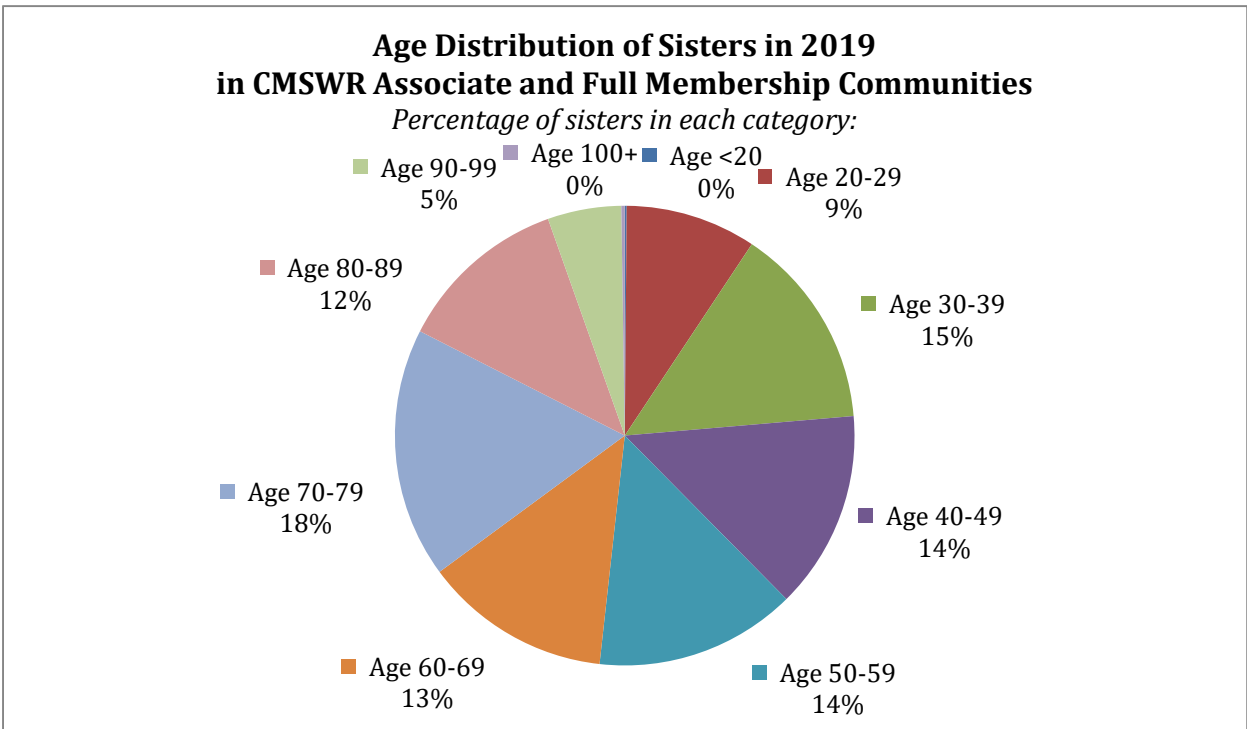
<u>Median</u> Age of Sisters in Initial Formation and Perpetual Vows in CMSWR Associate and Full Membership Communities <i>Median age of sisters in each category in 2019:</i>			
	Associate Membership	Full Membership	Total CMSWR
	(N=21)	(N=84)	(N=105)
Postulants	25	25	25
Novices	27	27	27
Temporary Professed	32	30	30
Perpetually Professed	52	65	64.5
All Sisters	42	59	58

The next table shows the percentage of sisters (postulants, novices, temporary professed, and perpetually professed sisters combined) in each age category.

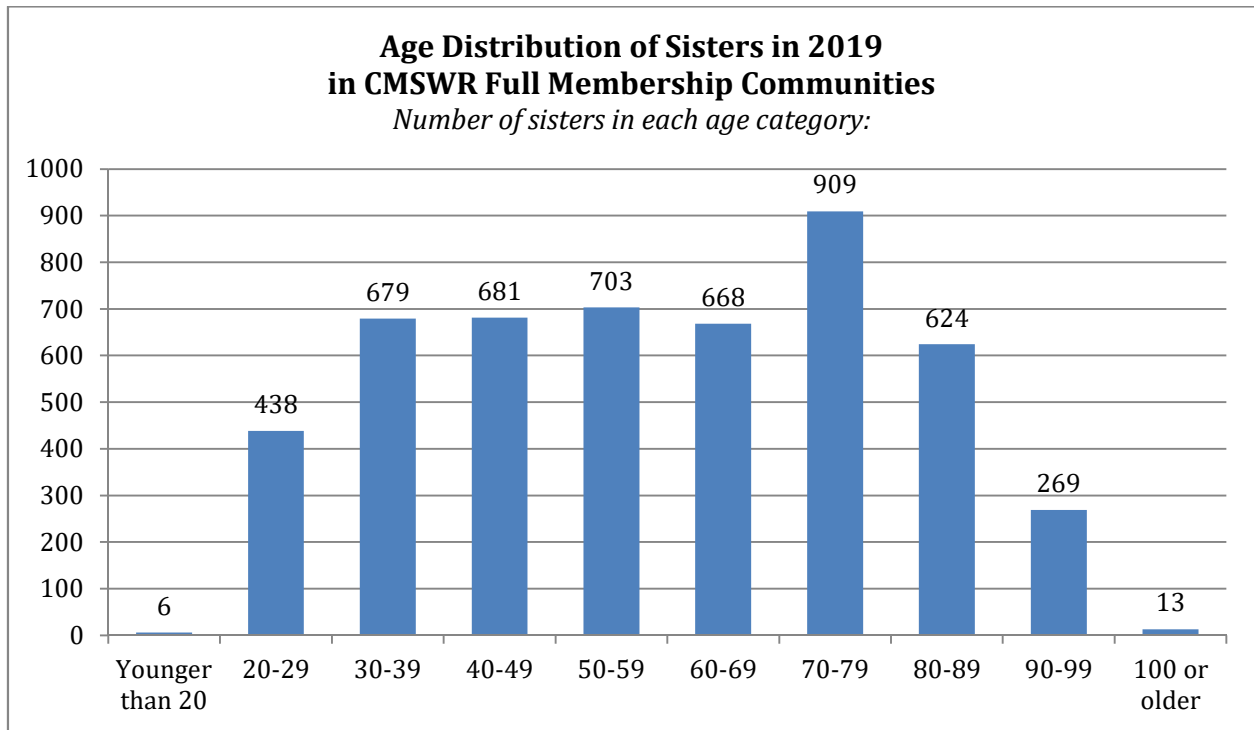
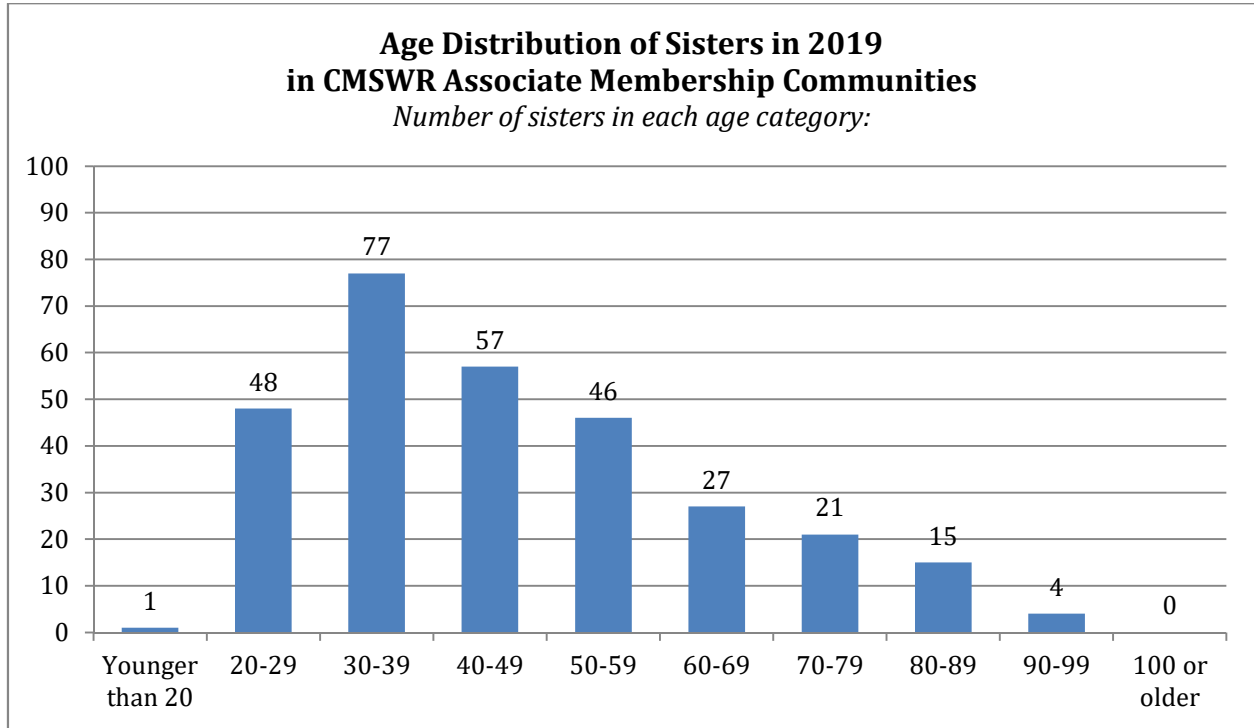
Age Distribution of Sisters (Postulants, Novices, Temporary Professed, and Perpetually Professed Combined) in CMSWR Associate and Full Membership Communities <i>Percentage of sisters in each category:</i>			
Age in 2019	Associate Membership (N=21)	Full Membership (N=84)	Total CMSWR (N=105)
Younger than 20	<1%	<1%	<1%
20-29	16	9	9
30-39	26	14	15
40-49	19	14	14
50-59	16	14	14
60-69	9	13	13
70-79	7	18	18
80-89	5	13	12
90-99	1	5	5
100 or older	0	<1	<1

- Overall, the sisters are relatively evenly distributed across age categories from the 30s through the 80s, with a somewhat larger percentage of sisters in their 70s. There are somewhat smaller percentages of sisters younger than 30 or older than 90.
- The age distribution of the sisters is somewhat different in the associate membership communities than in the full membership communities. The former have higher proportions of sisters in their 20s through 40s, with an especially high percentage in their 30s. The latter have higher proportions of sisters in their 60s or older, with the highest percentage in their 70s.
- There are considerable variations in age distribution *within* communities, with some having sisters across the age spectrum and others having sisters clustered around a narrower age range. The median age within communities ranges from as low as the late 20s to as high as the early 80s (data not shown).

The charts that follow present the information included in the table on the previous page in graphic form. The pie chart below shows the age distribution of sisters in all responding communities, i.e., associate membership and full membership communities combined. This chart also combines postulants, novices, temporary professed, and perpetually professed sisters. The two bar charts of the next page show the associate membership and full membership communities separately.



The next two charts graphically illustrate the differences in the age distribution of the sisters in the associate membership communities and the sisters in the full membership communities. Note that the scale is different in the two charts.



Number of Entrances, Receptions, Professions, and Deaths in 2018

The survey asked respondents to report each of the following for the year 2018, i.e., from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018:

- The number of sisters who entered as postulants
- The number of sisters who were received as novices
- The number of sisters who made first profession of vows
- The number of sisters who made perpetual profession of vows
- The number of sisters who died

The table below shows the number of sisters in each category for the year 2018. That is, it shows the number of sisters who took each step in the formation or profession process during the 2018 calendar year. Note that these figures do not reflect the total number of sisters who are currently at that stage of formation.

Number of Entrances, Receptions, Professions, and Deaths in 2018 in CMSWR Associate and Full Membership Communities <i>Number of sisters in each category:</i>			
	Associate Membership	Full Membership	Total CMSWR
	(N=21)	(N=85)	(N=106)
Entrances	12	125	137
Receptions	16	110	126
First Professions	10	104	114
Perpetual Professions	5	74	79
Deaths	2	106	108

- The responding communities welcomed 137 new postulants and received 126 new novices during 2018.
- The responding communities also reported 114 first professions and 78 final professions during the 2018 calendar year.
- During the same period, these communities experienced the deaths of 108 sisters.

As is the case with other data presented in this report, there are considerable variations across communities in the number of sisters who took each of these steps. For each category, a majority of communities report no sisters in that category and a relatively small number of communities report many sisters in that categories. The table on the following page provides details about the number of communities with various levels of entrances, receptions, professions, and deaths in 2018.

The next table shows the number of communities with various levels of entrances, receptions, first professions, final professions, and deaths in 2018.

Number of Entrances, Receptions, Professions, and Deaths per Community in 2018 in CMSWR Associate and Full Membership Communities <i>Number of communities in each category:</i>			
Number in 2018	Associate Membership (N=21)	Full Membership (N=85)	Total CMSWR (N=106)
<i>Entrances</i>			
None	12	41	53
One or Two	9	29	38
Three to Five	0	11	11
Six to Ten	0	2	2
More than Ten	0	2	2
<i>Receptions</i>			
None	13	52	65
One or Two	5	15	20
Three to Five	3	14	17
Six to Ten	0	2	2
More than Ten	0	2	2
<i>First Professions</i>			
None	14	47	61
One or Two	7	28	35
Three to Five	0	5	5
Six to Ten	0	3	3
More than Ten	0	2	2
<i>Perpetual Professions</i>			
None	18	58	76
One or Two	2	18	20
Three to Five	1	5	6
Six to Ten	0	4	4
More than Ten	0	0	0
<i>Deaths</i>			
None	19	47	66
One or Two	2	24	26
Three to Five	0	11	9
Six to Ten	0	1	1
More than Ten	0	2	2

The table on the previous page shows that the most common response to each of these questions is “none” followed by “one or two.” That is, most of the responding communities have not had large numbers of sisters who have entered their community, received the habit, or made first of final profession of vows, or who have died. Each of these events or experiences tends to be more highly concentrated in a relatively small number of communities.

County of Birth of Newly Perpetually Professed Sisters

The survey asked respondents to indicate the country of birth of each sister who made perpetual profession in 2018. The respondents reported this information for all 79 sisters who made perpetual profession in the responding communities.

- Two-thirds (65%) of those who made perpetual profession in 2018 were born in the United States (51 sisters). The next most common countries of origin are the Philippines and Vietnam (4 sisters each), Australian and Mexico (3 sisters each), and Canada and Nicaragua (2 sisters each). No other country was reported for more than one sister.
- When the countries of birth are collapsed into regions, the percentage of sisters from each region is as follows: U.S. and Canada (67%), Asia (11%), Latin America and the Caribbean (9%), Europe (6%), Oceania (4%), and Africa (3%).¹⁰

¹⁰ Asia includes sisters from the Philippines, Vietnam, and India; Latin America and the Caribbean includes sisters from Mexico, Nicaragua, Argentina, and Cuba; Europe includes sisters from Poland, Germany, Ireland, and the Slovak Republic; Africa includes sisters from Cameroon and Nigeria; and Oceania includes sisters from Australia.

Most Recent Perpetual Profession

The survey asked respondents to indicate the year in which the newest member of the community made her perpetual profession. Among the 94 communities that reported this information, the responses ranged from 1976 to 2018.¹¹

The table below shows the responses by the decade of the most recent perpetual profession in each responding community.

Year of Most Recent Perpetual Profession in CMSWR Associate and Full Membership Communities <i>Number of communities in each category:</i>			
Year of Perpetual Profession	Associate Membership	Full Membership	All CMSWR Communities
	(N=20)	(N=74)	(N=94)
Before 1980	0	1	1
1980 to 1989	0	1	1
1990 to 1999	1	3	4
2000 to 2009	5	6	11
2010 or later	14	63	77

- Most responding communities (82%) report that their newest member made perpetual profession since 2010, with slightly more (85%) reporting a perpetual profession within the last ten years (i.e., since 2008).
- In a very small number of communities (6%), the newest member made perpetual profession before 2000.
- Data in the previous section indicate that about one in three responding communities (28%) celebrated at least one perpetual profession in 2018. However, more than two-thirds (68%) report that their newest member made perpetual profession within the last three years (i.e., between 2015 and 2018).

¹¹ Several communities that responded to the survey did not respond to this particular question. A few of these noted that the question was not applicable. The percentages in this section are based on only those communities that provided a response to this question.

Apostolates in which the Sisters Serve

Respondents were asked to report the number of professed sisters (those under temporary or perpetual vows) who serve in various apostolates. The respondents were instructed to count each sister only once, using the category that best describes her primary apostolate. The actual number of sisters engaged in some of these apostolates is likely considerably higher than the figures reported below.

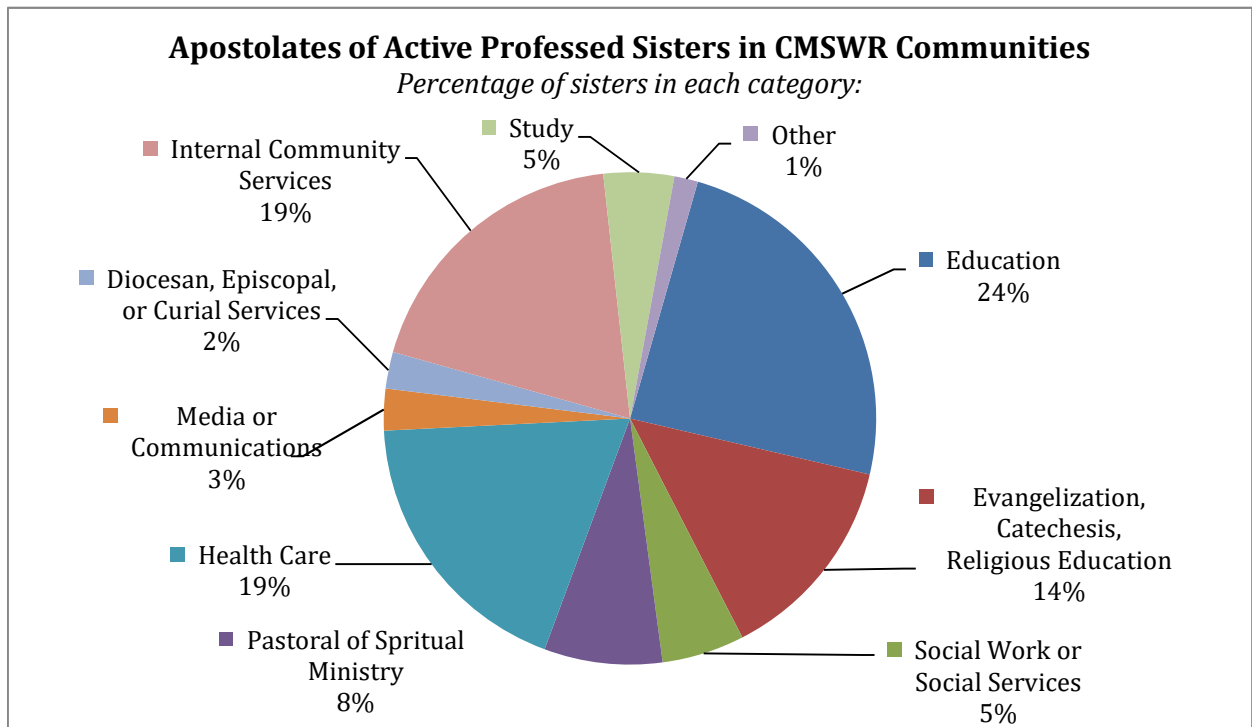
Apostolates of Professed Sisters (Temporary Vows and Final Vows) in CMSWR Associate and Full Membership Communities <i>Number of sisters in each category:</i>			
Type of Apostolate	Associate Membership (N=21)	Full Membership (N=85)	Total CMSWR (N=106)
Education (all levels)	33	965	998
Evangelization, catechesis, religious education	48	521	569
Health care	7	758	765
Pastoral or spiritual ministry	35	285	320
Social work or social service	30	194	224
Media or communications	0	113	113
Diocesan, episcopal, or curial service	10	89	99
Internal community services	56	724	780
Study	8	183	191
"Retired"	15	730	745
Other	2	62	64

The most common apostolates of the professed sisters in the responding communities are education, health care, and evangelization, catechesis, and religious education. Significant numbers also engaged in pastoral or spiritual ministry and social work or social services. "Other" apostolates reported by the responding communities include caring for the poor and caring for family members.

- Overall, 85% of the professed sisters in the responding communities are "active," with 15% "retired" from apostolic service because of age or infirmity.
- Among the active professed sisters, i.e., excluding those who are retired because of age or infirmity, more than half serve in education (24%), health care (19%), or evangelization, catechesis, and/or religious education (14%).
- Significant numbers of professed sisters are engaged in pastoral or spiritual ministry (8%) or social work or social services (5%) as their primary apostolate.

- Another 19% of the professed sisters are engaged in “internal community services” such as administration, formation, and support services for their communities.
- The active sisters include 5% of professed sisters who are engaged in study as their primary work at this time.

The chart below graphically illustrates the information included in the table on the previous page. This chart shows the apostolates of the active professed sisters (those in temporary or final vows) in associate membership and full membership communities combined.



Institutions in which the Sisters Serve

The responding superiors were asked to indicate the number of institutions of various types in which their sisters serve. The respondents were asked to include both those owned or sponsored by their community as well as those owned or sponsored by a parish, diocese, or other organization.

Institutions in which Sisters from CMSWR Associate and Full Membership Communities Serve <i>Number of institutions in each category:</i>			
Type of Institution	Associate Membership (N=21)	Full Membership (N=85)	Total CMSWR (N=106)
Pre-school or nursery school	4	43	47
Elementary or middle school	14	222	236
High school	6	88	94
College or university	5	36	41
Seminary	0	11	11
Hospital, clinic, or health care facility	4	79	83
Skilled and/or assisted care facility	2	110	112
Retreat or spirituality center	7	53	60
Social service agency	6	79	85
Parish	32	261	293
Other	3	45	48

The most common types of institutions in which sisters from the responding communities serve are schools, parishes, and health care institutions.

- The responding communities report sisters serving in well over 400 educational institutions from pre-school through the college and university level, with the largest numbers in elementary or middle schools.
- Sisters from these communities also serve in nearly 200 health care institutions including hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and other skilled or assisted care facilities. Several communities also serve in other health care related organizations such as in home health care and hospice care agencies as well as in the governance of health care systems.¹²

¹² If all of the individual facilities for which sisters serve on governance boards are included in the count, the total number of health care institutions served by sisters in CMSWR communities exceeds 300.

- Sisters also serve in almost 300 parishes and some 60 retreat or spirituality centers. A few communities also mentioned serving in dioceses or diocesan offices, working in Vatican dicasteries, and providing assistance to priests or members of the hierarchy.
- “Other” types of institutions in which sisters serve include various types of residences or shelters, such as residences for people who are developmentally disabled, homeless shelters, and facilities for women, children, or youth with various needs.

APPENDIX I

Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious Annual Survey 2019

This survey is designed to assist CMSWR in compiling information about its member communities. Throughout this questionnaire “community” refers to the congregation, province, region, or other level of governance for which you are responsible as a superior general, provincial, regional leader, or other major superior. Unless otherwise noted, please respond only for that level of governance.

For language assistance with this form please contact one of the sisters below:

Spanish translation – Sr. Maria Meza, MS, phone # 402-786-2750; email: smeza23@yahoo.com

Vietnamese translation – Sr. Angela Pham, OP, phone # 713-723-8250; email: srangel2012@gmail.com

1. Name of your community (include the name of the institute, province, and/or region, if applicable):

2. For what level of governance do you serve as the major superior (or analogous to a major superior)?

(1) Congregation

(2) Province

(3) Region

(4) U.S. Foundation or Delegation

(5) Association of the Faithful

(6) Other (please specify): _____

3. What is the canonical status of your community (or the institute or society of which it is a part)?

(1) Religious Institute

(3) Private Association of the Faithful

(2) Society of Apostolic Life

(4) Public Association of the Faithful

4. If your community is part of a religious institute or society of apostolic life that is based outside the United States, please indicate the location of the Motherhouse and/or Generalate (city and country):

5. Please list the dioceses in which the sisters from your community currently live and/or serve. *If you are the superior general or provincial of a community that is based in the U.S. that has sisters living or serving outside the U.S., please include the dioceses outside the United States.*

Please note: Please respond only for the community for which you are responsible. *If you are the superior or delegate for a region, foundation, or delegation in the U.S. that is part of a province, institute, or society that is based outside the U.S., please report only the sisters in the United States.*

6. Please provide the number of sisters in your community in each category as of January 1, 2019. *A sister on exclaustation should be included in the count of members of your community. A sister in the process of transfer from one religious institute to another should be counted by the community from which she is transferring.*

- _____ (a) Postulants
- _____ (b) Novices
- _____ (c) Temporary professed
- _____ (d) Perpetually professed
- _____ (e) Total number in the community (sum of a, b, c, and d above)

7. Please list the year of birth of each sister in your community in each category as of January 1, 2019. If more than one sister was born in a particular year, indicate the number of sisters who were born that year. For example, if five sisters were born in 1990, list 1990 (5). *Please attach additional sheets if necessary.*

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (a) Postulants: | (b) Novices: | (c) Temporary
Professed: | (d) Perpetually
Professed: |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|

8. Please provide the number of sisters from your community in each category for the year 2018, i.e., from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018:

- _____ (a) Number of sisters who entered your community as postulants in 2018
- _____ (b) Number of sisters who were received as novices in 2018
- _____ (c) Number of sisters who made first profession of vows in 2018
- _____ (d) Number of sisters who made perpetual profession of vows in 2018
- _____ (e) Number of sisters who died in 2018

9. Please list the country of birth of each sister who made perpetual profession in 2017. If more than one sister was born in a particular country, please indicate the number of sisters who were born in that country. For example, if five sisters were born in the United States, list United States (5). *Include only those sisters who made their perpetual profession of vows in 2018.*

10. _____ Year in which the newest member of your community made perpetual profession

11. Please indicate the number of professed sisters (temporary vows and final vows) from your community who currently serve in each of the following apostolates. *Please count each sister only once, using the category that best describes her primary apostolate. Do not include sisters on exclauration.*

- _____ (a) Education (all levels, include early childhood, adult, and special education)
- _____ (b) Evangelization, catechesis, religious education
- _____ (c) Health care (include acute and long-term care as well as mental health)
- _____ (d) Pastoral or spiritual ministry (pastoral care, campus ministry, retreat work)
- _____ (e) Social work or social services
- _____ (f) Media or communications
- _____ (g) Diocesan, episcopal, or curial service (diocesan office, USCCB, Vatican)
- _____ (h) Internal community services (administration, formation, support services)
- _____ (i) Study
- _____ (j) “Retired” from apostolic service because of age or infirmity
- _____ (k) Other: _____

12. Please indicate the number of institutions of each type in which the sisters from your community currently serve. *Include institutions owned or sponsored by your community as well as those owned or sponsored by a parish, diocese, or other organization.*

- _____ (a) Pre-school or nursery school (if separate from elementary or middle school)
- _____ (b) Elementary or middle school
- _____ (c) High school
- _____ (d) College or university
- _____ (e) Seminary
- _____ (f) Hospital, clinic, health care facility (not including skilled/assisted care)
- _____ (g) Skilled and/or assisted care facility or nursing home
- _____ (h) Retreat or spirituality center
- _____ (i) Social service agency
- _____ (j) Parish (not including parish schools)
- _____ (k) Other: _____

Please return your complete survey by **March 31, 2019** to:

Sister Mary Bendyna, O.P.
CMSWR Survey
801 Dominican Drive
Nashville, TN 37228-1905

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Sister Mary at smbendyna@op-tn.org or 615-256-5486, ext. 3178.

Please provide the contact information for the person who completed this questionnaire so that we may contact you if there is need for clarification about your responses.

Name and title: _____

Phone and e-mail: _____

APPENDIX II
U.S. Dioceses in which Sisters from CMSWR Communities Live and/or Serve

Albany	Green Bay	Pensacola-Tallahassee
Allentown	Greensburg	Peoria
Altoona-Johnstown	Harrisburg	Philadelphia
Amarillo	Hartford	Phoenix
Arlington	Honolulu	Pittsburgh
Atlanta	Houma-Thibodaux	Portland in Oregon
Austin	Indianapolis	Providence
Baker	Jackson	Pueblo
Baltimore	Joliet	Raleigh
Baton Rouge	Kansas City in Kansas	Richmond
Beaumont	Kansas City-St. Joseph	Rockford
Biloxi	Knoxville	Sacramento
Birmingham	La Crosse	Saginaw
Boise	Lafayette	San Antonio
Boston	Lafayette in Indiana	San Bernardino
Bridgeport	Lake Charles	San Diego
Brooklyn	Lansing	San Francisco
Brownsville	Laredo	San Jose
Burlington	Lexington	San Juan
Camden	Lincoln	Santa Fe
Charleston	Little Rock	Santa Rosa
Charlotte	Los Angeles	Scranton
Chicago	Louisville	Seattle
Cincinnati	Madison	Sioux City
Cleveland	Marquette	Spokane
Colorado Springs	Memphis	Springfield
Columbus	Metuchen	Springfield in Illinois
Corpus Christi	Miami	Springfield-Cape Girardeau
Covington	Milwaukee	St. Augustine
Dallas	Mobile	St. Louis
Davenport	Monterey	St. Paul and Minneapolis
Denver	Nashville	St. Petersburg
Des Moines	New Orleans	Steubenville
Detroit	Lew Ulm	Syracuse
Dodge City	New York	Toledo
Duluth	Newark	Trenton
El Paso	Norwich	Tucson
Fall River	Oakland	Tulsa
Fargo	Oklahoma City	Venice
Fort Wayne-South Bend	Omaha	Victoria
Fort Worth	Orange	Washington
Gallup	Orlando	Wichita
Galveston-Houston	Owensboro	Wilmington
Gary	Palm Beach	Winona
Grand Rapids	Paterson	Youngstown