



# BRIGIDINE LIFE and MISSION UNFOLDING

## ... Some Brigidine current realities

*"I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt 28:20) and "I know the plans I have in mind for you: plans for peace, not disaster, reserving a future full of hope for you".*

*(Jer 29:11)*

### INTRODUCTION

At the core of our Congregation's raison d'être is its identification with the mission of the Christ: being in relationship with God and with God's mission, incarnated in Jesus who calls us to gospel life. At the heart of this is keeping alive our sense and experience of God. Contemplation and action in turn brings us close to the poor and excluded, at the service of people broken by violence and to those on the margins of well-being. In the twenty-first century, the call of mission also awakens a new ecological and cosmic awareness of and imperative to be in solidarity with creation.

We can never lose sight of these central purposes of any religious congregation. At the same time we are challenged to juggle our capacities and finite resources in living the mission at this stage of our Congregation's life cycle. As we prepare for the Congregational Forum in 2016 we hold in balance these priorities with practical realism and fidelity – it is a "both/and" rather than "either/or" facing of reality.

In presenting a snapshot of some aspects of our current reality as a Congregation we hope to ground our conversations about the present and the future. At a later date the Resources Task Group will provide a detailed report which will help guide future decision-making. We are again challenged to "Stand at the crossroads and look, ask the pathways of old which is the way to good? Take it and you find rest for yourselves." (Jer. 6:16)

### THE CONTEXT

As Brigidines we are called to live with a radical reverence for all of creation and a deep sense that everything is gift. While our lives at this time are marked by diminishment and letting go we live, trusting that God will supply all our needs. (Cf. Phil 4:18)

We are blessed with gifts that many in today's world do not have: security, peace and "the daily bread" of community and loving support. We are grateful for the ways our sisters before us have managed our property and finances. We are aware of the challenge to us to continually strive to live simply and sustainably. We continue to use our resources primarily to carry out our Brigidine mission. In this "graced moment" we must plan responsibly, not only to provide care and quality of life for our sisters but also to have a positive influence on the whole community of life.

**A missionary heart is aware of the limits of circumstance and makes itself "weak with the weak ... everything for everyone (1 Cor 9:22). It never closes itself off, never retreats into its own security, never opts for rigidity and defensiveness. It realizes that it has to grow in its own understanding of the Gospel and in discerning the path of the Spirit, and so it always does what good it can, even if in the process, its shoes get soiled by the mud of the street. (Evangelii Gaudium 45)**

**This  
Graced  
Moment:**

*Divine  
Energy  
animating  
fresh  
possibilities*