

BRIGIDINE LIFE and MISSION UNFOLDING

... Current realities in our world

An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better that we found it. We love this magnificent planet on which God has put us, and we love the human family which dwells here, with all its tragedies and struggles. (Pope Francis EG 183).

As Brigidine women individually, and as a Congregation, we are not islands: we are part of the societies and the wider world in which we live, and as our constitution reminds us " we must be vitally aware of needs of our times so that our ways of extending the kingdom may be attuned to the needs, aspirations and challenges of our contemporary world" #3

We must go out through that door to seek and meet the people! Have the courage to go against the tide of this culture of efficiency, this culture of waste. Encountering and welcoming everyone, solidarity and fraternity: these are what make our society truly human. (CICLSAL 2Feb14) The challenge of climate change has become not only economic, political or social. It is also an issue of morals, religion, values such as justice and social inclusion, the obligation of solidarity with future generations and the moral obligation to care for the earth, namely creation, which is our habitat. (Serondo, Cafod, 7 Nov 14)

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Lk 4:18-19)

We are called now, as the Church, to go outside in order to arrive at the margins, geographic, urban and existential – the margins of the mystery of sin, pain, injustice and misery – to the hidden places of the soul where each person experiences the joys and sufferings of life. (Evangelii Gaudium 62)

Alongside this deeper cause – the rejection of another person's humanity – there are other causes which help to explain contemporary forms of slavery. Among these, I think in the first place of poverty, underdevelopment and exclusion, especially when combined with a lack of access to education or scarce, even nonexistent, employment opportunities. (Pope Francis, Peace Message 2015)

God is forever inviting humans to collaborate in that global and cosmic process of birthing possibilities of new hope. (O'Murchu , 2006)

What in our current reality has pulled on your heartstrings this week?

This Graced Moment:

Divine Energy animating fresh possibilities

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See

You are invited to explore several of the following resources that call us to reflect on some of the current realities of our world.

- Mother Earth Breathing http://www.youtube.com/embed/nGeXdv-uPaw
- Global Warming http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/101-videos/ global-warming-101
- A glimpse at life for women today: 10 Indicators of Gender Inequality (article)
- Saltwater in my eyes (powerpoint)
- Appreciating Age
 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpeEXMAGajy
 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpgBunoRRim
- A wish for peace: Syrian refugees in Lebanon https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISNMRqCXAbs&x -yt-cl=84411374&x-yt-ts=1421828030
- Food security: http://food.caritas.org/seeds-of-hope

Other resources that address the current realities of our world could be used. Please share these with other Communities.

 Sharing of contemporary realities —both challenging and hopeful— that touch you.

Judge

- What passages of Scripture or contemporary Christian writings come to mind in considering these situations
- What is at the heart of these matters calling for the wisdom of our Christian heritage?

Act

- Keep a list of areas which have the most energy for each group.
- At a later step in Forum preparation these will be revisited in relation to future responses the Congregation might make.





Pray

world

The compassion of God is for all that has been made. (Ps 145:9)

To the home of peace to the field of love to the land where forgiveness and right relationships meet we look, O God, with longing for Earth's children, with compassion for the creatures, with hearts breaking for the nations and people we love. Open us to the visions we have never known strengthen us for self-givings we have never made delight us with oneness we could never have imagined that we may truly be born of you, makers of peace and justice.

"As Earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will God's integrity and justice spring forth." (Is. 61:11)

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