

**Women Before Us Who Risked Being
Open to Divine Energy Animating Fresh
Possibilities**

1. **Sarah**, who waited, listened and even laughed at Yahweh's promise in her old age, yet became the mother of nations. (Gen 18 - 21:)
2. **Rachel**, who waited seven years for love, experienced a long period of infertility and who died while bearing a child, yet who is still celebrated as an intercessor for the people. (Gen 29 - 30)
3. **Esther**, who had the courage of her convictions and believed in the power of advocacy to bring justice for the people. (Book of Esther)
4. **Mary**, the mother of Jesus who risked saying 'Yes' to the unknown and who stayed with her cousin Elizabeth pondering the mysterious directions of their lives. (Luke 1)
5. **The prophetic woman** who discerned the truth and proclaimed Jesus as Messiah by the subversive action of anointing his feet with oil. (Luke 7)
6. **The women who came to the tomb on the first day of the week** who, though perplexed and terrified by their experience, returned home to tell the eleven and all the rest "He is risen!" (Luke 24)
7. **Mary Magdalene who stood weeping outside Jesus' tomb and heard his words of challenge** "Do not cling to me... but go and tell my brothers..." (John 20)
8. **Lydia, the business woman of Macedonia** who was converted by Paul and gathered others to meet regularly for prayer. (Acts 16)
9. **Priscilla, expelled from Rome by the ruler Claudius**, yet who went on to use her gifts of zeal and eloquence to make known to others the truth of the Gospel. (Acts 18)
10. **Brigidine women you've known** who have shown wisdom and courage in different spheres of ministry or in leading our Community and others on mission.

As you reflect and pray with these women, what encouragement are they offering as we try to respond to God's call in this time?

BRIGIDINE LIFE and MISSION UNFOLDING



**This Graced Moment:
Divine Energy Animating
Fresh Possibilities**

*"As Earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will God's integrity and justice
spring forth."*

Isaiah 61:11



In readying yourself for the processes of discernment and voting for delegates to the Congregational Forum from your Community you are invited to use this material for personal reflection and prayer, or for reflection and prayer in small groups.

Personal Reflection:

- ♦ What do I see as some of the realities and challenges for the Congregation at this time?
- ♦ What insights shared at our Community meetings are helping me in the process of discerning and electing delegates for the Congregational Forum?
- ♦ What contribution can I make to enable us to move forward with hope and courage?



Pondering the Word of God:

My word is like the snow and rain that come down from the sky to water the earth. They make the crops grow and provide seed for sowing food to eat. So also will be the word that I speak—it will not fail to do what I plan for it; it will do everything I send it to do.

Isaiah 55:10-11

No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in union with us, and God's love is made perfect in us. We are sure that we live in union with God who lives in union with us because God has given us the Spirit.

1 John 4:12-15

- ♦ **As I reflect on God's word –
What surprised me?
What challenged me?
What invitation arises?**



- ♦ **What seed might I plant and nurture that could make a positive contribution to the future of the Community and the Congregation?**

**"Risky business
this surfing on grace
I do not know if I will be carried
on a powerful swell
or too conscious of self
will lose myself in the wake.
What I do know
is that even though swept under
I will emerge
perhaps bruised and breathless
to find grace afloat
ready again to carry me
safely home."**

Jean Meier CSJ

Let us pray together at this time:

Creator God, Source of all,
we are just a small yet cherished piece
of the whole of creation.
In this timeless moment,
we sense that we are part of all You call Your own -
all that is past, present and to come.

May our dreams and Your Dream
become more closely one
so that we may live wholeheartedly
and continue to foster compassion and hope
in the world.

- adapted from Margaret Silf, *Wayfaring*, pp.61-62

**As followers of Christ, the intention of Jesus' life
and mission to foster God's reign through acts of
healing, compassion, forgiveness and inclusive
love becomes the touchstone for our communal
discernment. Liz Sweeney SSJ**