



Invitation and Call

from Congregational Forum of
Sisters of St Brigid, May 2016

**As Brigidines,
we recognise that we are
a diverse group of women,
united by our history, charism,
goodwill and commitment.
We affirm the contribution of
each sister. Her life, prayer and
ministry are gifts to our
congregation and to our
fragile planet.**



We are challenged by age,
loss, diminishment and
geographical distance.

Our place in society has changed.
Our ministries are in greater collaboration with
others and our influence is increasingly one of
presence. We embrace this new role in all the
communities of which we are a part.

Building on the Directions set at the previous
Congregational Forums and the initiatives taken
in Communities, we are called to look with eyes
that recognise fresh possibilities and hearts that
respond with compassion and courage.

Inspired by the joy of the gospel and the
unfolding of Divine revelation, we are invited
at this threshold time to a continuing
conversion of mind, heart and spirit.

This demands an engagement
with the new challenges of our
contemporary world
(cf. *Laudato Si* #139).

**We are called in solidarity with others as
individuals, Communities and a Congregation:**

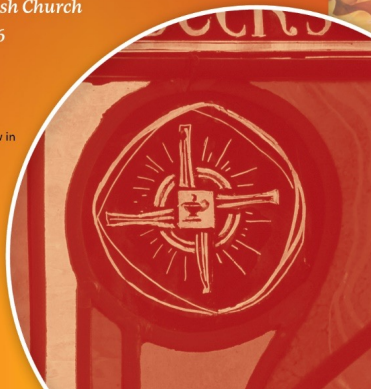
- To open ourselves further to Divine Energy in
the ordinariness of our daily lives. In a spirit
of joy and contemplation we respond with
compassion and love.
- To deepen our understanding of the complexity
and inter-relatedness of factors which threaten
the life and well-being of our common home.
- To walk in solidarity with people who are
searching and those hurt or excluded by Church
norms or experiences, following the inspiration
and example of Pope Francis.
- To hold in reflection and prayer the sacredness
of all creation, the many manifestations of
exploitation, injustice and suffering, especially
of women and the most vulnerable and to trust
Divine Energy at work in and through it all.
- To extend and deepen our partnerships in a
spirit of mutual respect and service fostering
a sense of dignity and opportunity for all
according to evolving needs. New forms of
internal leadership and responsibility will
emerge from these for the life of the Community.
- To ensure that the use of our resources is
underpinned by generosity, equity, compassion
and justice. (Congregational Forums 2007, 2011
and Revised Constitutions 2016).
 - *by continuing Project Funds at Community level.*
 - *by committing to the purchase of Fair Trade
and other products which promote social and
environmental well-being.*
 - *by investing our finances ethically and
in accordance with principles of social
responsibility and accountability.*
- To take decisive action for justice.



Bishop Daniel Delany saw a need and invited your predecessors to respond; today you must discern that need and respond appropriately. There is no need for market gurus, public relations consultants or spin doctors; the honest witness of women like yourselves over the centuries continues to keep the flame of Brigid alive, continues in the words of Bishop Daniel Delany "to do ordinary things extraordinarily well". In this ordinary time of our church together may we all accomplish the extraordinary!

*Bishop Denis Nulty's homily
in Tullow Parish Church
on 12 May 2016*

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In this graced moment, we are becoming more deeply aware of our mission to live within one web of life: our common home. The cries of our hurting planet and those of our sisters and brothers in distress tug at our hearts as we hear the groans of ecological and human exploitation that lead to destruction and annihilation. We are impelled to take action in small and large ways in the footsteps of Jesus, living in the spirit of Brigid of Kildare and reflecting the values of Daniel Delany.



At this time in our story we are challenged to embrace a spirituality of 'enough' and to let go gracefully and intentionally. Simultaneously we are drawn into a transformative awakening to wonder, beauty and creativity in all. We respond through contemplative presence and action as we hear the exhortation of Pope Francis to 'wake up the world' (cf. Apostolic Letter on the occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life, Part ii #2).

Divine Energy calls us into new and prophetic relationships with the evolving mystery of the universe, of Earth and of humanity in ever widening circles of love, compassion and justice.

Our belief in this graced moment gives us the hope that a different future is possible. We trust in Divine Energy, the God of love at the heart of all, animating fresh possibilities.

