

Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
Leaven Assembly
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Raindrop – Collaboration/relationships

Good morning!

Viewing our umbrellas I reflected on the raindrops of relationships and collaboration on the spokes of the umbrella. The visual reminded me that just one raindrop doesn't make a great difference in a garden. BUT, when it is joined by many rain drops, there is growth and new life.

in Laudato Si Pope Francis has stressed that in faith we need to be grounded in our relationships – how we relate to God, to each other, our neighbor here and the across the world, and to the earth – ALL were created in LOVE – and we are called to respond in love as Sisters of Charity. The presentation by Illia Delio this past weekend recalled Chardin's great quote "Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of **love**, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, we **will** have **discovered fire.**"

This love – this fire – is always available to us. But, daily we can become locked within our own world - unaware of or insensitive to others –and not present to others beyond our small circle. We can walk by people or the beauty of our earth and not notice the overwhelming presence that is within each person and in our world.

In our relationships we enjoy spending time with friends and those who hold the same leanings and thoughts. We are challenged to stretch ourselves to move out to relate with the other (whether God, neighbor, or earth) in openness and presence. Each day through technology, we are aware of the plight of our sisters and brothers around the world. The awareness of these **events in our daily lives should break our hearts and move us to a deeper presence or cause us to take action.** The ongoing dilemma with the immigrant children has cracked the hardness of many hearts as the news highlights their plight. We sang – Open our eyes just a few minutes ago. Let us open our eyes to see beyond our interests and short-sighted world view. DeMello's words of AWARENESS, Awareness, Awareness should jolt us into the present moment – to see what is truly around us, beneath us, across our world. Nancy Schreck challenged us yesterday to "stop doing what is easy and focus on what is necessary – that it is our time to be brave."

In an article that Illia wrote about the future of religious life she states: "Evolution is a process of moving toward more complex life, that is, a greater degree of relatedness, more consciousness, and deeper union. Sometimes in our closed systems we just don't have the consciousness to see that we are being drawn to new relationships which would mean new life for us. It is important to attend to what is happening in our midst, what are the new patterns of relationship that are drawing us to **something new and deeper, that is, more love**, more relatedness, more Christ-like."

What are we willing to risk in our lives as we stretch ourselves to relate to others? As Sr. Constance **quoted** from Eric Jantsch: "To live with an evolutionary spirit is to let go when the right time comes and to engage new structures of relationship."

The Leaven groups mentioned **collaboration** many times as a priority. As a community, we do collaborate with the Charity Federation in various ways. We are aware of the option for shared ministry

with the Charity Federation in New Orleans. The Vincentian Family has many opportunities for collaboration, and **technology has been the blessing** that has connected people of all nations to share their wisdom through Zoom, Skype, live-streaming, etc. Networking webinars bring expertise and sharing on topics of interest without the cost of travel. **But there are so many other possibilities.** The web of relationships are many and we need to research those relationships that allow us to share with others our mission and charism in response to the critical needs of our world and our earth. This month we had a perfect example of how the collaboration of groups throughout the world miraculously rescued the soccer team in Thailand. **One rescuer even gave his life for this mission.** Witnessing this concerted effort of many people to complete a monstrous task **should challenge us.** Cele spoke of the mustard bush as a nuisance yesterday in her reflection. Jesus tells us “If you had the faith of a mustard seed, you would be able to ... (There are endless possibilities)” May we have the faith and vision to renew and recreate our works and our witness by uniting with others to further the mission to which Jesus has called each of us as SCLs.

Question: What needs to be our guiding force when we consider deepening our relationships and maximizing our collaboration?