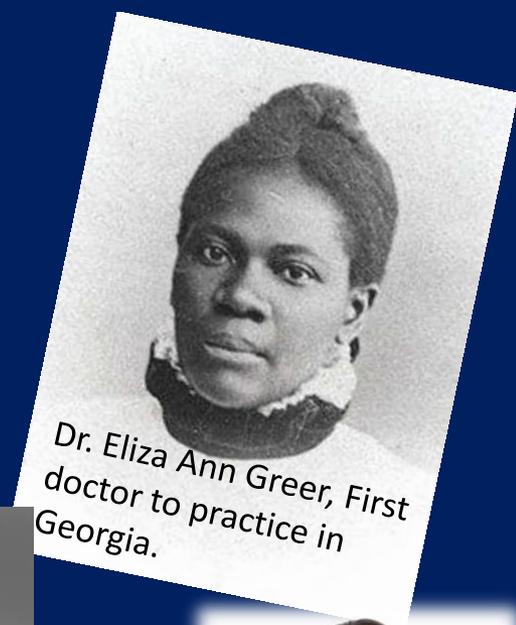
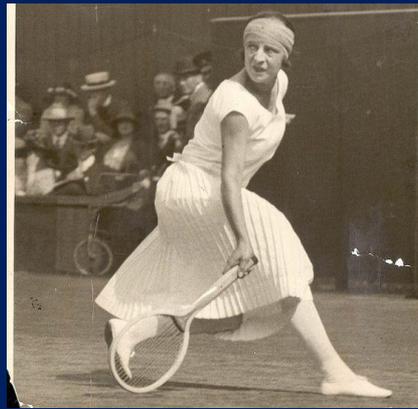


ALL THE LIGHT WE NEED

Sisters of Charity
Leavenworth

Nancy Schreck OSF





Dr. Eliza Ann Greer, First doctor to practice in Georgia.



In the pioneer tradition!





From the
story “My
favorite
Aunt.”

By: Graham
Schreck-Poggio
Age 6

For private use only



Challenging times for religious life!

- Challenging times for our world – the planet, our nations, our cities, our families, our neighborhoods, our workplaces, our churches, on and on....
- Keep ourselves real about what is happening.



The approach is to join a conversation with the great cycles of existence -- cycles that terrify us even as they call on the best of us.

All good work should have an edge of life and death to it... absent the edge we drown in numbness.



Signs of “collapse” in your world.





The institutions and the world we live in are at a crossroads. This historical moment is redefining what it means to be in relationship with each other... on every level. Mark Clark

Partner conversation “Signs of Collapse”



- What is the gift of collapse?
- It strips us of who we think we are so that who we really are may be clearly revealed.



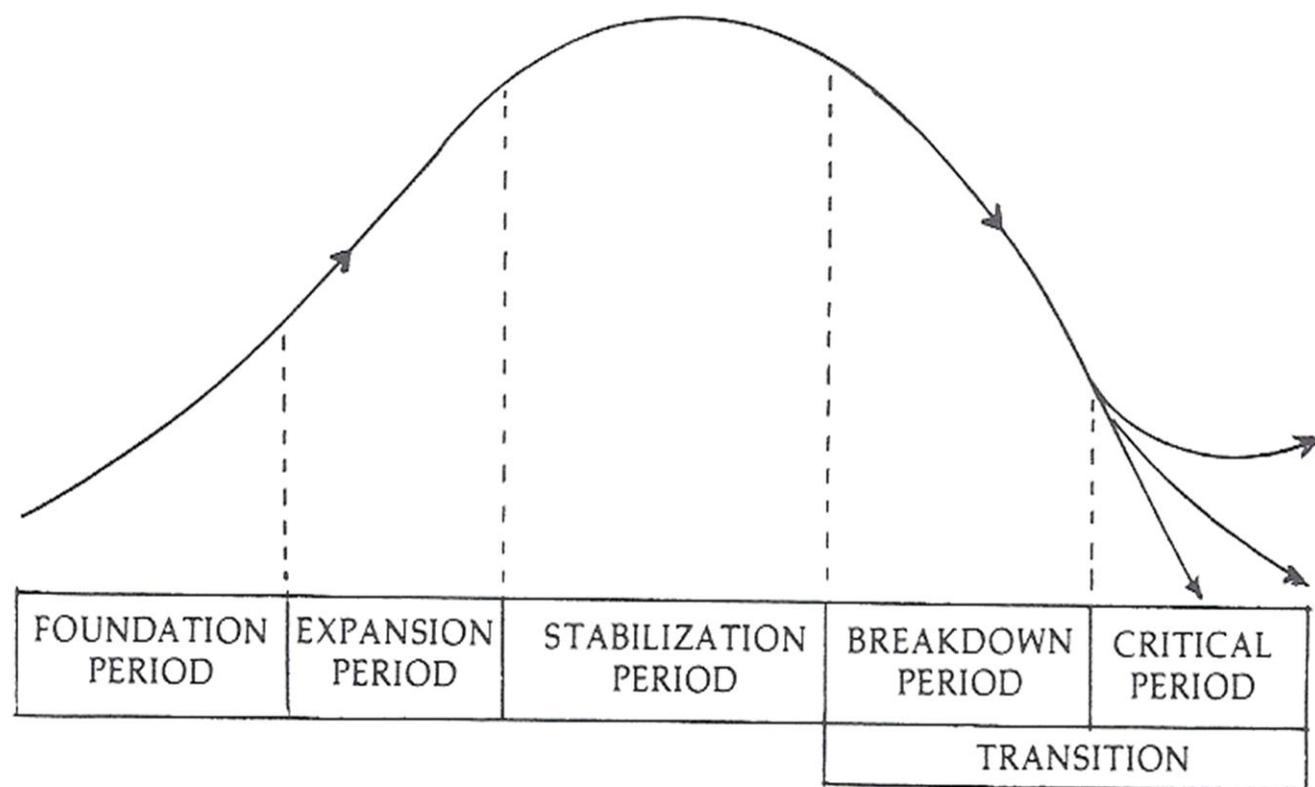
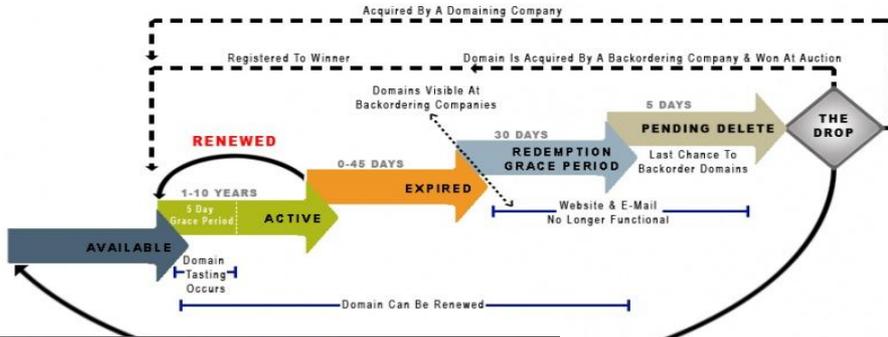


FIGURE 2.2: Life Cycle of a Religious Community

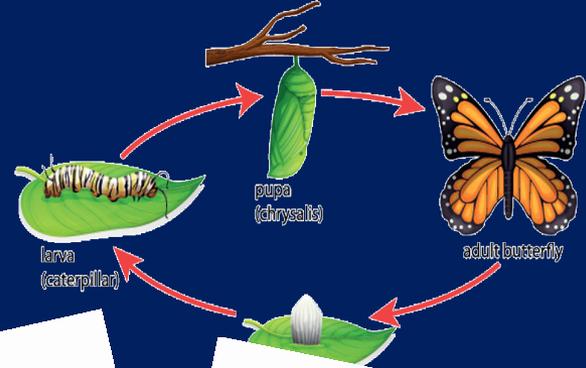
- Somebody should tell us, right at the start of our lives, that we are dying. Then we might live life to the limit, every minute of every day. Do it! I say. Whatever you want to do, do it now! — Pope Paul VI —



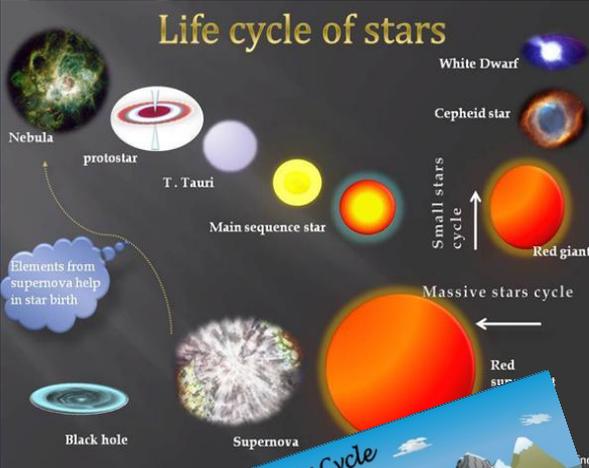
LIFE CYCLE OF A DOMAIN NAME



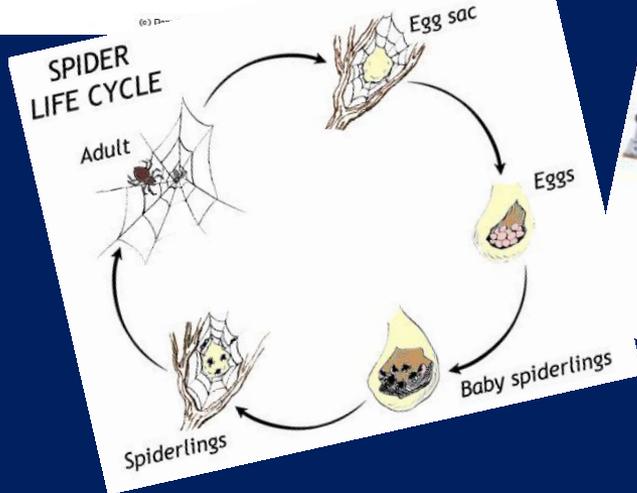
Life Cycle of a Monarch Butterfly



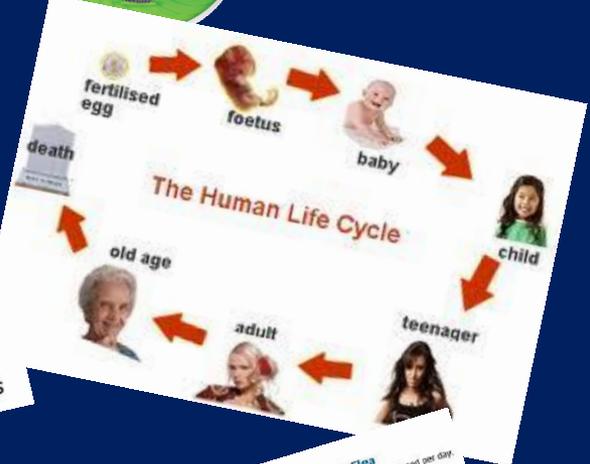
Life cycle of stars



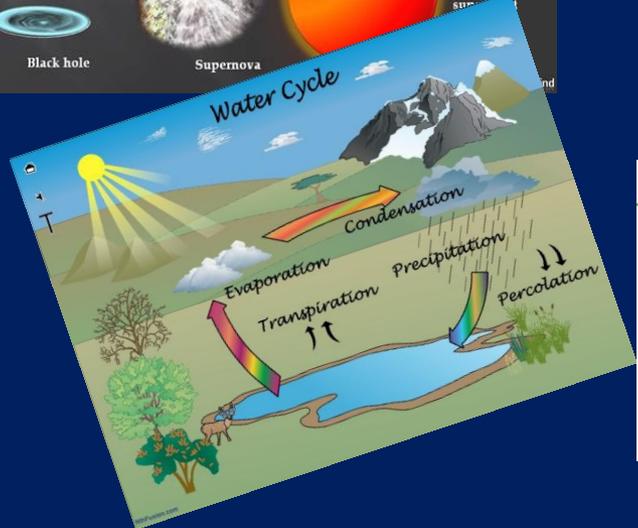
SPIDER LIFE CYCLE



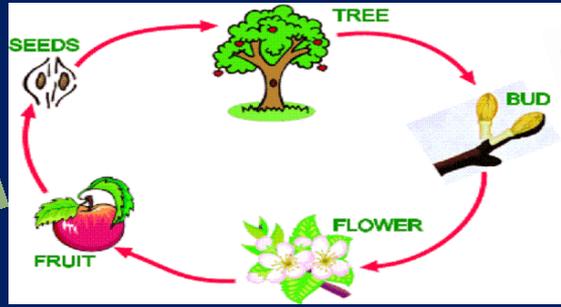
The Human Life Cycle



Water Cycle

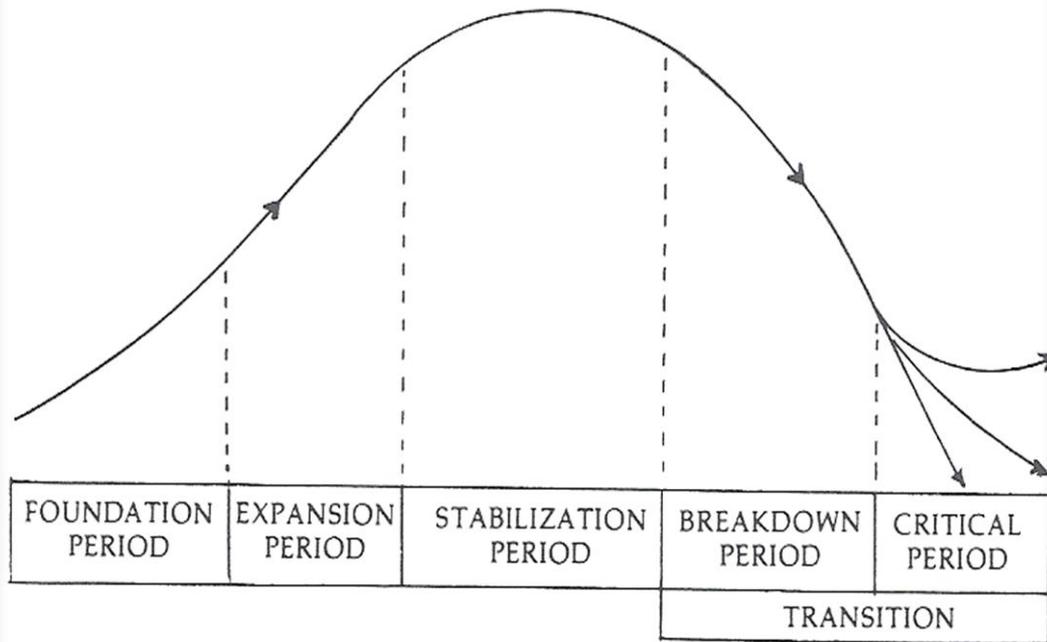


SEEDS TREE BUD FLOWER FRUIT



Flea Life Cycle





Very difficult



FIGURE 2.2: Life Cycle of a Religious Community

THINK
BIG

The image features the words "THINK" and "BIG" in a stylized font. "THINK" is in a dark red, serif font at the top. "BIG" is in a large, blue, 3D block font below it. A yellow-to-white gradient is behind the letters. Two black ants are present: one is sitting on the top of the letter 'B' in "BIG", and the other is standing at the base of the letter 'I', appearing to push or support it. The entire scene is set against a white background with a dark blue border.

- Not for ourselves alone.
- Wisdom to offer to the larger world... in a time of limits.



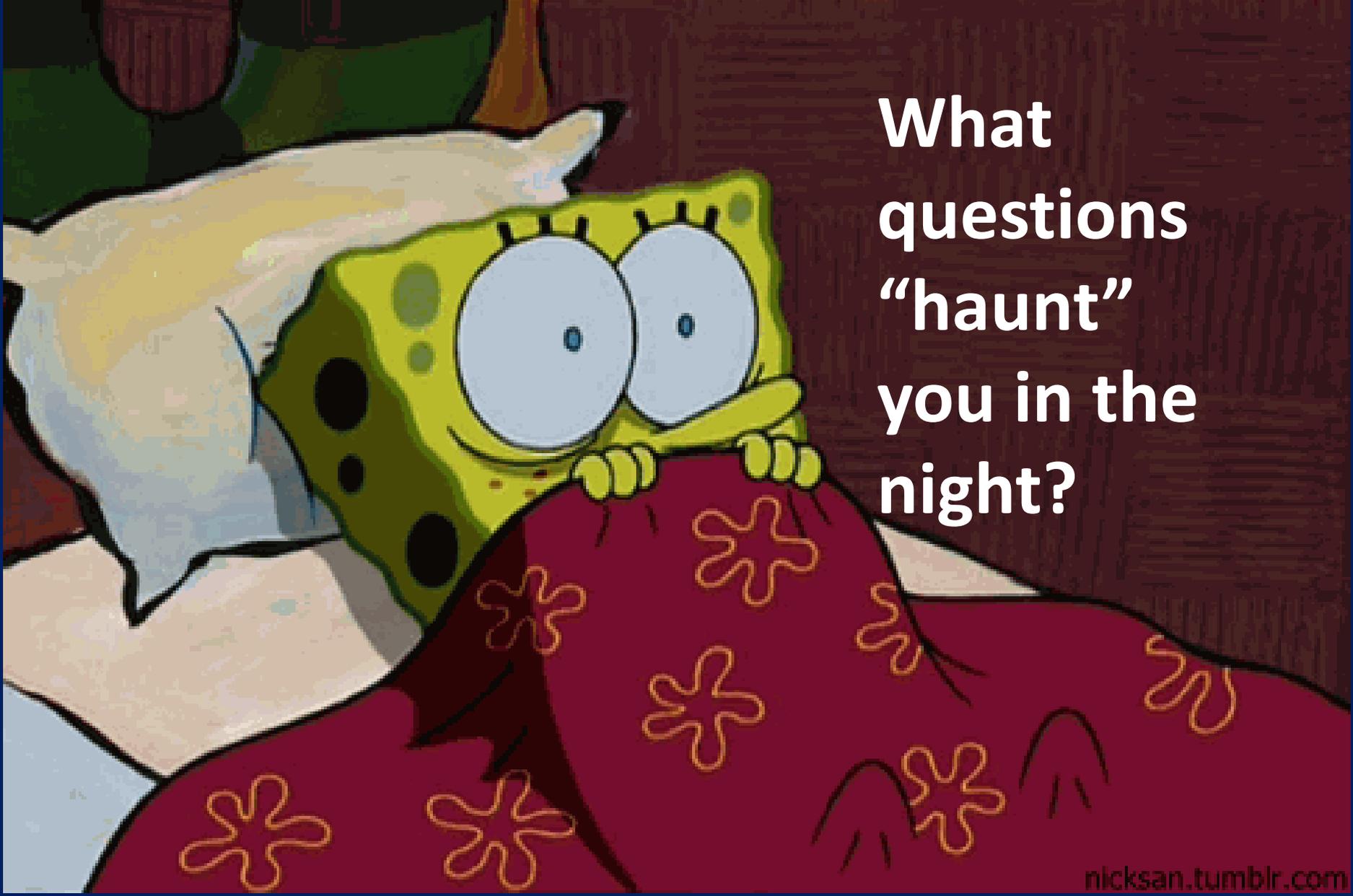
“Any intelligent fool
can make things bigger,
more complex, and
more violent. It takes
a touch of genius - and
a lot of courage - to
move in the opposite
direction.”  Einstein



Between the dusk and dawn is a
middle space called night.



**Are You Afraid
of the
Dark?**



What
questions
“haunt”
you in the
night?

Not darkness as evil or forbidding,
but dark in the way that the
canopy of a forest filters out light.



Lunar spirituality



Moon like consciousness and sunlight
like consciousness. (Jung)



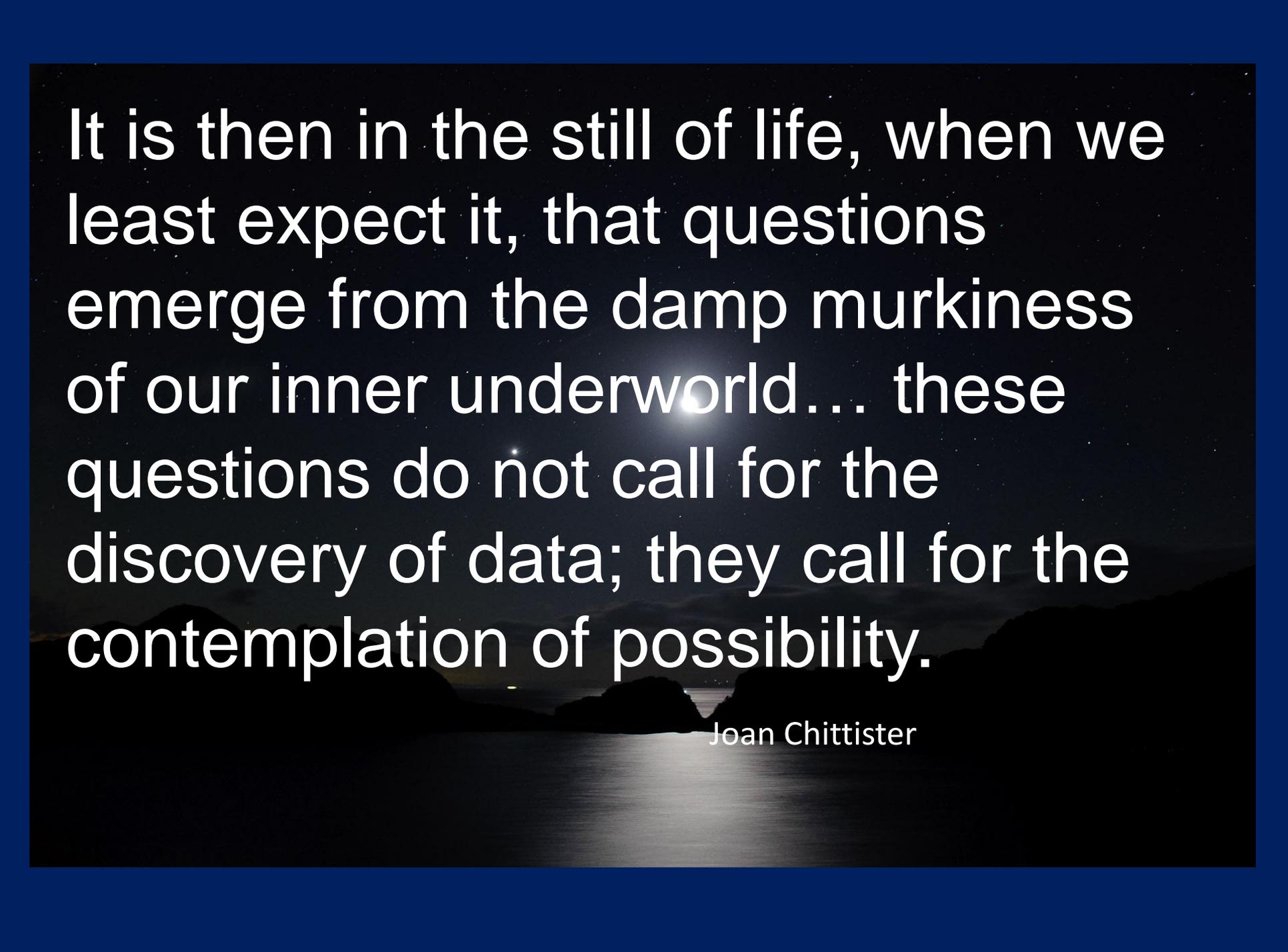
We need
both ways
of seeing.



There is a part of the
soul that stirs at night,
in the dark and
soundless times of day,
when our defenses are
down and our daylight
distractions no longer
serve to protect us from
ourselves.

Joan Chittister





It is then in the still of life, when we least expect it, that questions emerge from the damp murkiness of our inner underworld... these questions do not call for the discovery of data; they call for the contemplation of possibility.

Joan Chittister



" The words are not a
memo but a poem - that
utters the unutterable
and thinks the unthinkable -
we would not speak this way in the
sober light of day.
But this is the haunting of the night
when we make compelling but illicit
connections."

(Brueggeman)

"The night is that long season of vulnerability when the ideological assurances and surveillance of dominant culture no longer protect us and we descend to the full reality of our bodies."

Brueggemann

In fact, you could say that learning to shift to seeing with your spiritual awareness is a lot like learning to see in the dark. At first everything is totally black. But if you are patient and don't grab for the flashlight, little by little you begin to discover that you can pick out shadows and shapes and in some mysterious way "see.."

Cynthia Bourgeat

'The life of faith is not simply something we have, but a journey that has its bright stretches and dark tunnels, its open horizons and tortuous, uncertain paths.





You, darkness that I
come from,
I love you more than all
the fires that fence
in the world.
For the fires make a
circle of light for
everyone
And then no one inside
learns of you.



**But the darkness pulls in
everything**

**Shapes and fire, animals
and myself.**

**How easily it gathers them
Powers and people.**

**And it is possible a great
energy is moving near
me.**

I have faith in nights.

Rilke

**Reflect on a moment when light
and darkness seemed
indistinguishable and what this
moment has taught you?**

Contemplative Pause

Sharing





*Light
and
Darkness*

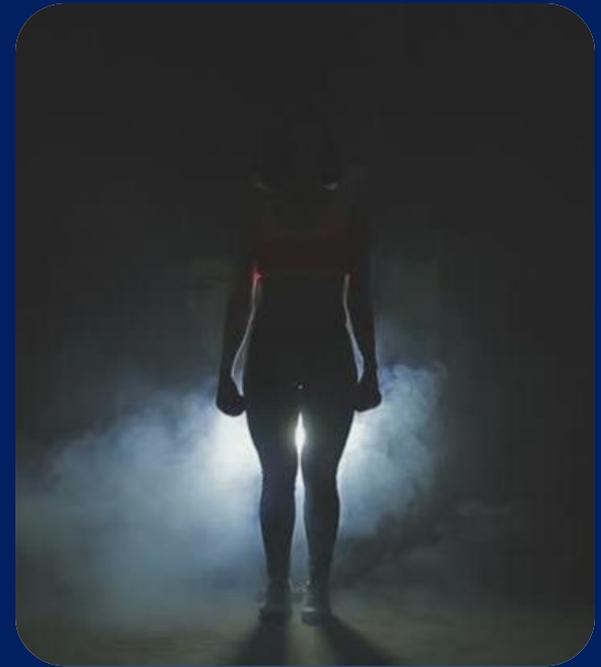
Endarkenment

Enlightenment



- If a “man” wishes to be sure of the road “he” treads on, “he” must close “his” eyes and walk in the dark.

John of the Cross





O God my God
The night has
values
that the day
has never
dreamed of.

Thomas Merton



The most religious
places in the world
have the darkest
shadow. Jung

If the soul is to mature it
must go through darkness
and beyond it.

John Tarrant – Jungian Therapist.



Pause for Questions / conversation



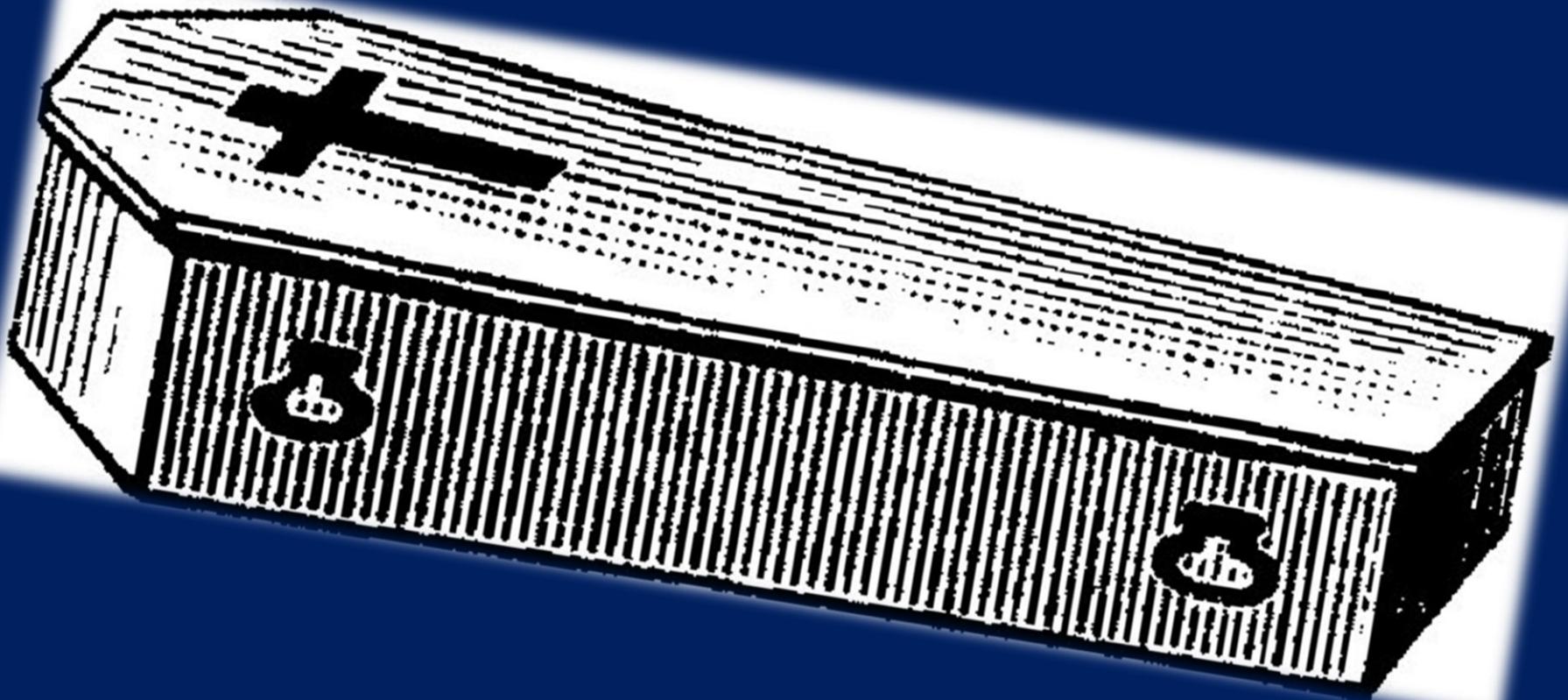


Wisdom from the Night

“Let go of what no longer assists us in mission.”

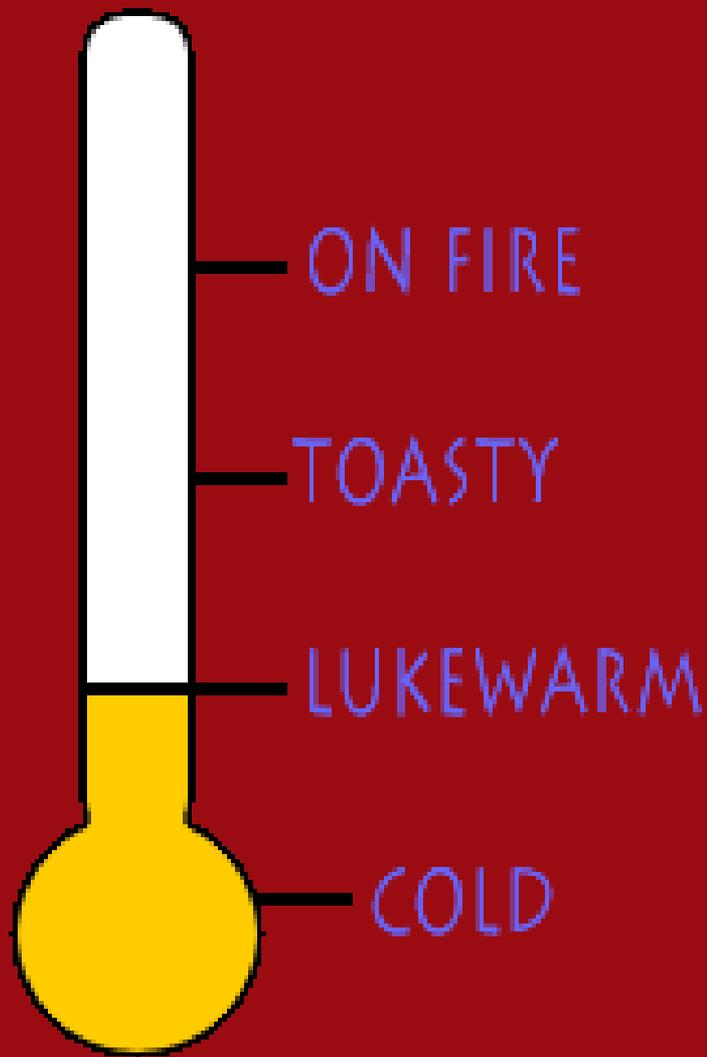


Discern the elements of “suicidal behavior” ... discern how to bring them into conscious choice making.



Danger –
“trust” can
mask
other
things.





Vision -

Need acquire a fiery passion/belief,
like the early members.

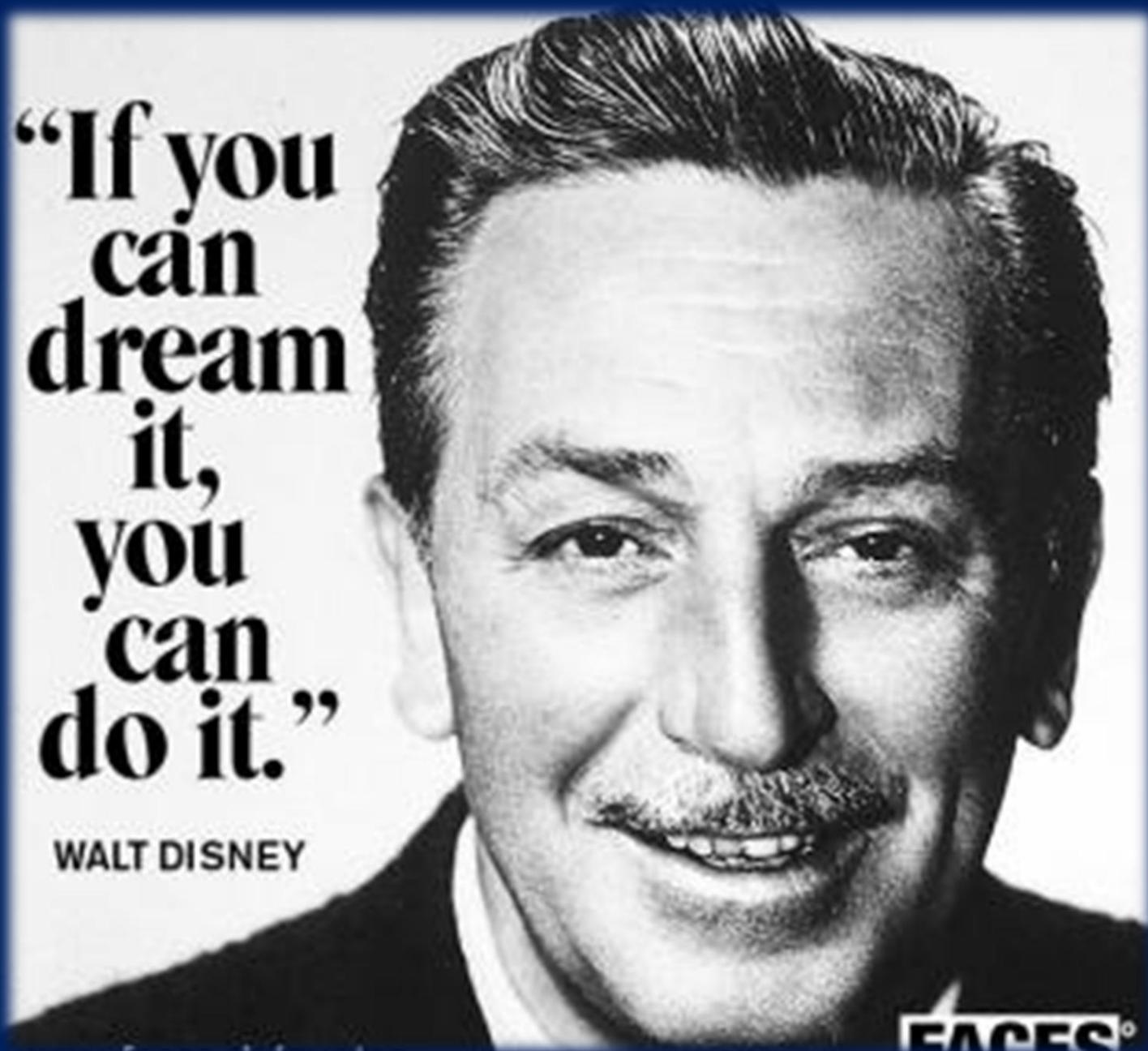
Mother Alexia: *Out of love for you,
no land shall be too far for me. No
sacrifice for my vocation too hard.
You alone are sufficient.*

(Also said: – “impossible is a word
I do not know.”)



**“If you
can
dream
it,
you
can
do it.”**

WALT DISNEY



FACES®

My concern - drift



**Stop doing what is easy and
focus on what is necessary!**



Immunity to Change Change Fatigue



Deal with resistance...



**ALL CHANGE
MEETS
RESISTANCE...**

IF THERE IS NO
RESISTANCE,
THERE IS NO CHANGE.



...bring forward those who want a future to create new expressions.





It's natural to want to be comfortable.

**Leave
the
comfort
zones of
the
familiar**



Mildred Binns Young* – on communal life among first generation of Quakers who experienced suffering as a result of living their Christian life.

Speaks about the fact that under these “all but annihilating persecutions” Quakers drew people to them as they never have since.

“Their necessities kept them together – such necessities as the need to care for members who had been imprisoned and for their stranded children; the need to share what few animals and tools were left after the tax collectors had confiscated most of them; the need to petition authorities for relief from injustice.”



“So, a Friends meeting, without any theories of communalism, had in effect something like it.”



Mildred Binns Young
(What Doth the Lord Require of Thee
Pamphlet.)

Name the excessively independent lifestyles



Fear of regression...



What are our neglected conversations...



Move from desire to action

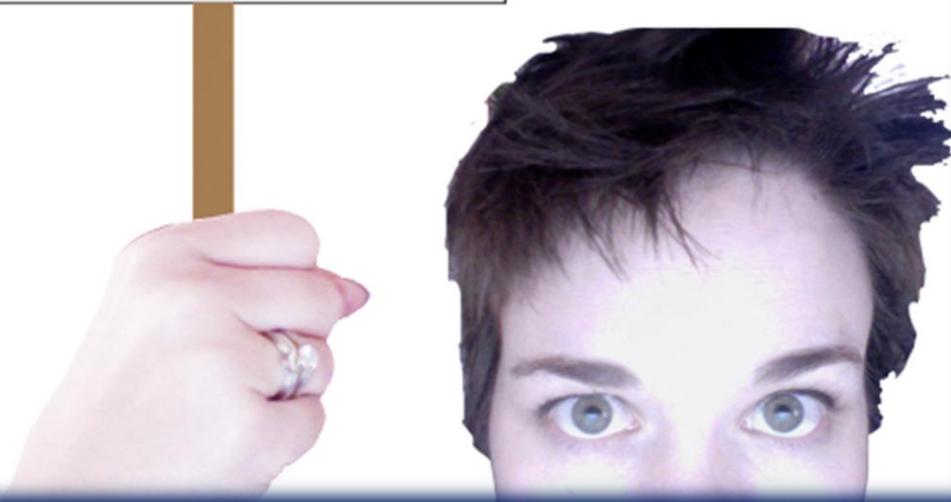


**We
think
insight
is
enough.**

The Real Vocation Crisis



**I am living
in the
Status Quo**



Comfortable
relationship
with status
quo

Cannot be business as usual..



Lulled themselves to sleep...



Time to wake up ...



Walter Brueggeman

- It is clear that the church **needs no more custodians** to keep it running the way it has been. It now needs no more pastors or leaders who will conduct business as usual.
- Because we are **in an emergency situation** in our society where the gospel matters decisively.

“We do not lose heart!” Paul

- We will not be talked out of our identity and our purpose, our vocation and our vision. We do not lose heart because the work is rooted in God’s own holiness and driven by God’s own spirit, and there is enough in that to keep to this odd purpose.

Brueggemann

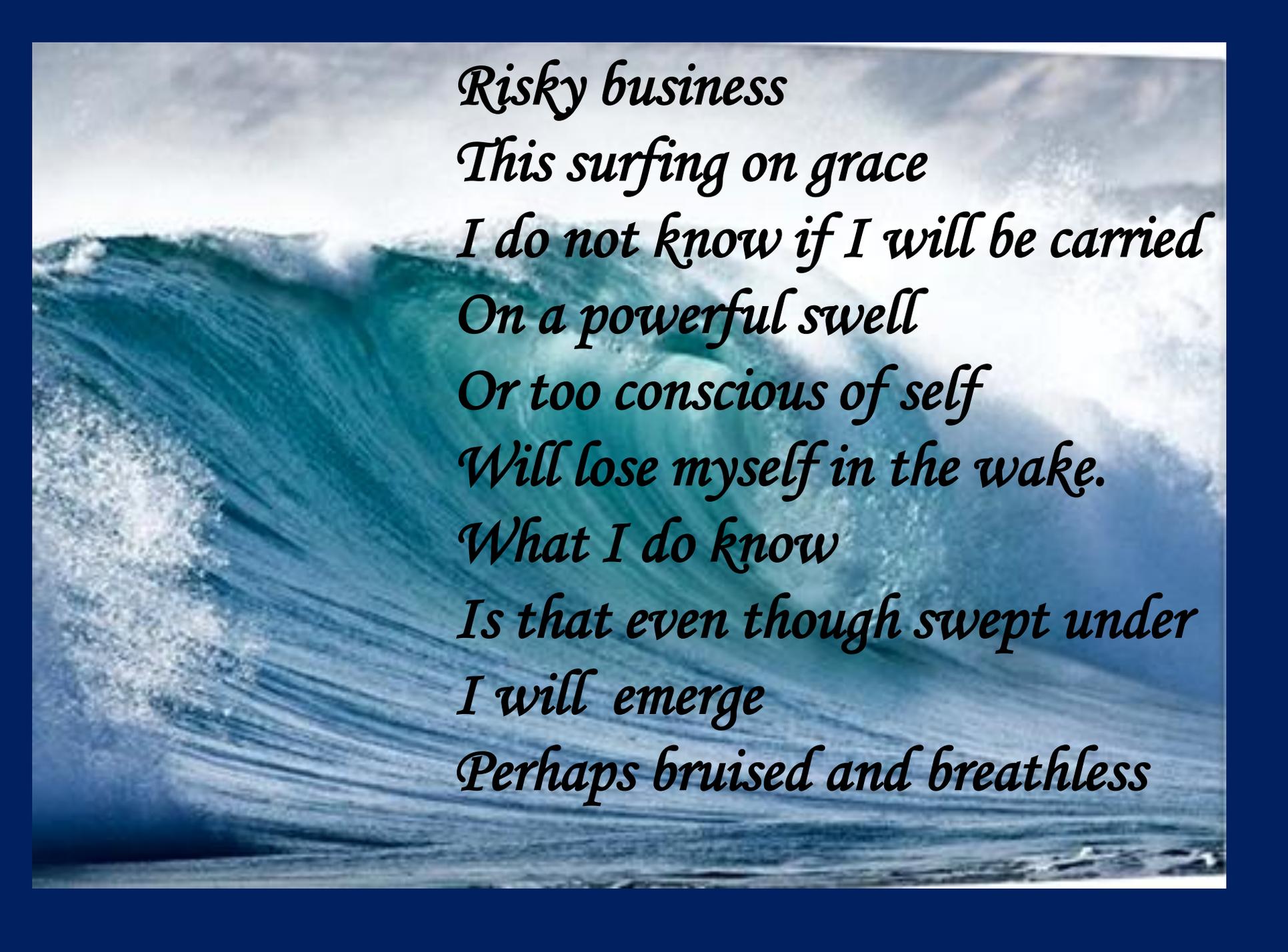


Time for reflection

What might be some additional “suicidal” behaviors for “your Congregation”?



Sharing...

A large, powerful blue wave is crashing over a sandy beach. The water is a deep, vibrant blue, and the white foam of the wave is visible as it breaks. The sky is a pale, overcast blue. The overall scene is dynamic and captures the raw power of the ocean.

*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*

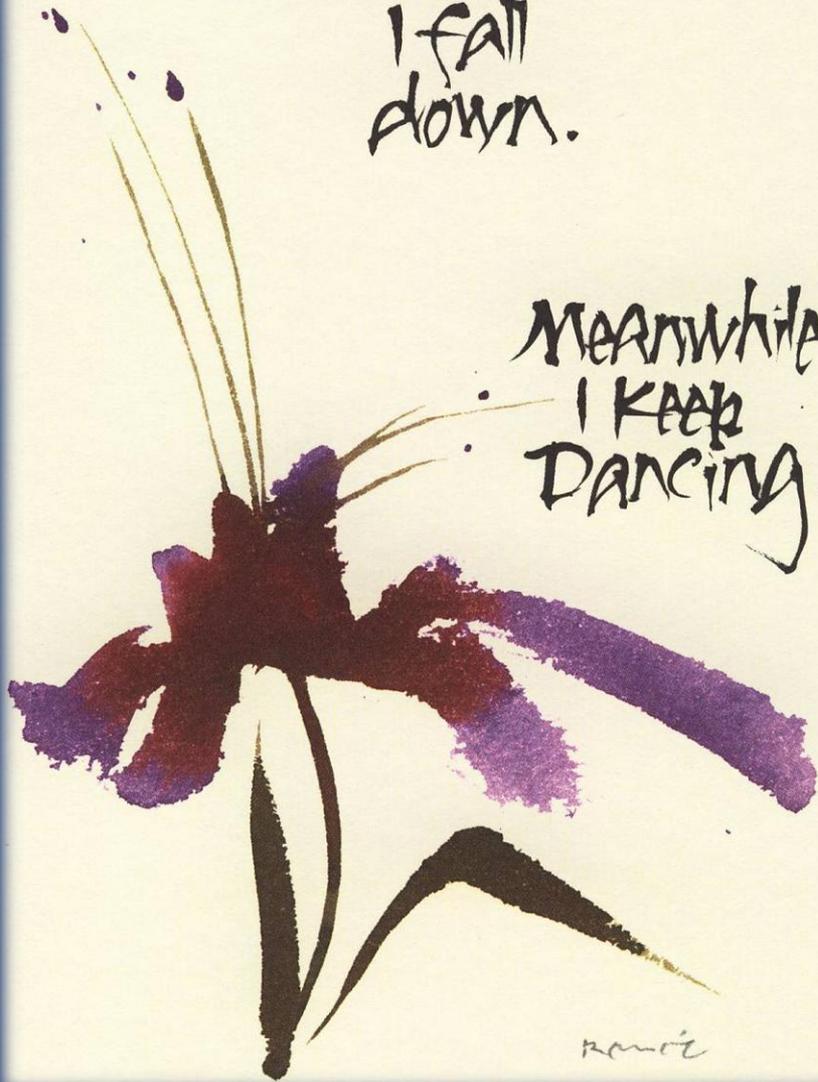
A photograph of a surfer riding a large, curling wave. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, and the wave is breaking into white foam. The surfer is positioned in the center of the wave's barrel. The sky is blue with some light clouds. In the background, there is a coastline with some vegetation.

*To find grace afloat
Ready again to carry me
Safely home.*

Jean Meier

I GET UP.
I WALK.
I FALL
DOWN.

MEANWHILE,
I KEEP
DANCING.



ronie

Break and Part Two

- **Having said this but not because :**
- The expression of Religious life as we know it is over.
- Nothing new: religious life is evolving, as it has done since the beginning. The form is over but the life is not over.
- The life-form is changing radically. This particular expression is completing.
- The old is passing away... our job is to recognize that this is happening.
- Anything new disturbs



“Amen, amen I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” Jn 12:24



- *Problem –
the old is not
old enough to
be gone, and
the new is
not yet new
enough to be
seen!*

Joseph Stiflung – German Planner - SSSF: Three key questions:

- **1. How will you end well?**







*Some of us
think holding
on makes us
strong, but
sometimes it
is letting go.*

- Herman Hesse -

**We cannot live the afternoon
of life according to the
program of life's morning, for
what was great in the
morning will be little at
evening, and what in the
morning was true will in the
evening have become a lie.**

(Jung)

2. How will you deal with the land and buildings – other assets/debts?



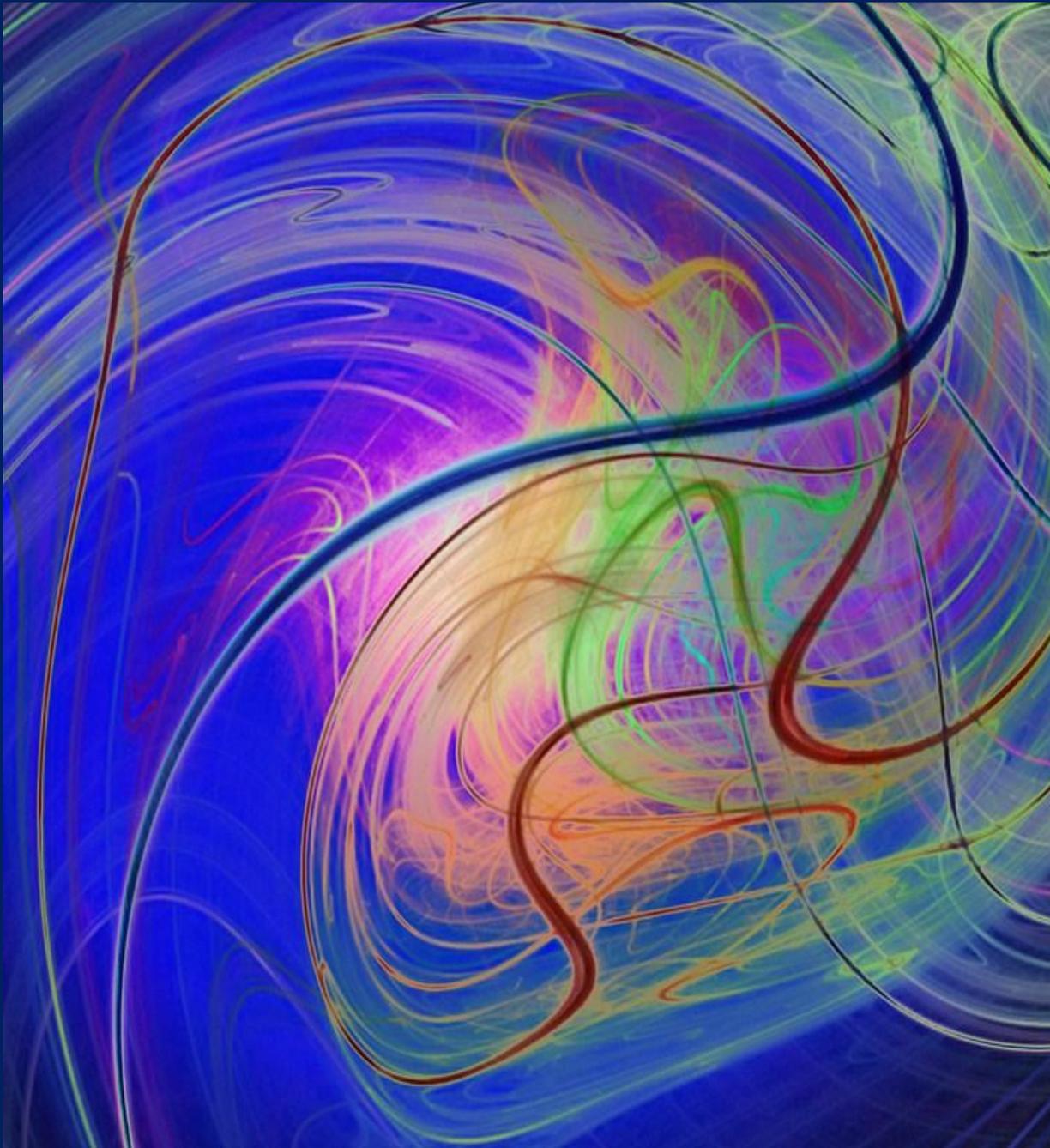


P

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A

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**3. How will
you create
a space
where
something
new can
emerge?**

- I believe that we are living religious life in a liminal space. In which our real work, the work of all of us living this life is to assist passing narratives about ourselves, to pass in order to open space for what is emerging to arrive. This is hard work, long work and undefined work.

– Mary Pellegrino

- *What would SCL look like if we deliberately created “a space for the new to emerge?”*
- *...or - what does it look like as we do this? (if you feel this is already taking place?)*



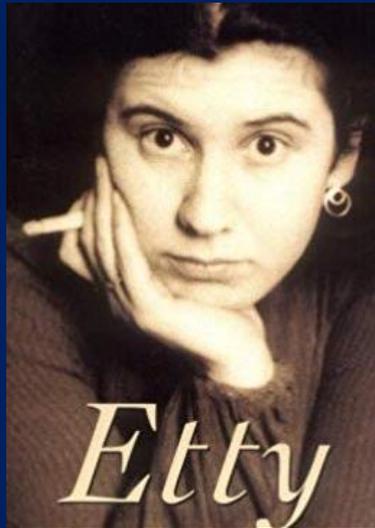
O'Marchu

- Our call: to remain radically open to the possibility of the creative Spirit bringing us into the something new that is emerging:
- This means
- Letting go of what has served us well in the past
- Diligently attending to the acute needs of our time (send to the margins)
- Trusting radically in God's providential care.

I feel as if I were the guardian of a precious slice of life, with all the responsibility that entails. There are moments when I feel like giving up or giving in, but I soon rally again and do my duty as I see it; too keep the spark of life inside me ablaze.

Etty Hillesom





- *And if God does not help me to go on, then I shall have to help God.*

Etty

- We now live side by side with our destiny or whatever you want to call it, we rub shoulders with it daily, and nothing is how we learned it from our books.

Religious are called to create new prototypes of religious life that in the future will be taken for granted.

Mark Clark



//

**What God does first and best is
trust us
with our moment in history."**



Walter Brueggeman



Part Three
The Middle
Space that is
Dawn

I t looks weird --believe it or not, you can read it:

**I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod
aulaclty uesdnatnrd waht I was
rdanieg.**

**The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan
mnid Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at
Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it
deosn't mttar in waht oredr the
ltteers in a wrod are,**

- the only important thing is that the first and last letter be in the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without a problem.. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole.
- Amzanig huh?

*While shifting demographics and a rapidly changing world are compelling communities to adapt, it is ultimately **the lure and love of God that is impelling them to transform.***

Ted Dunn



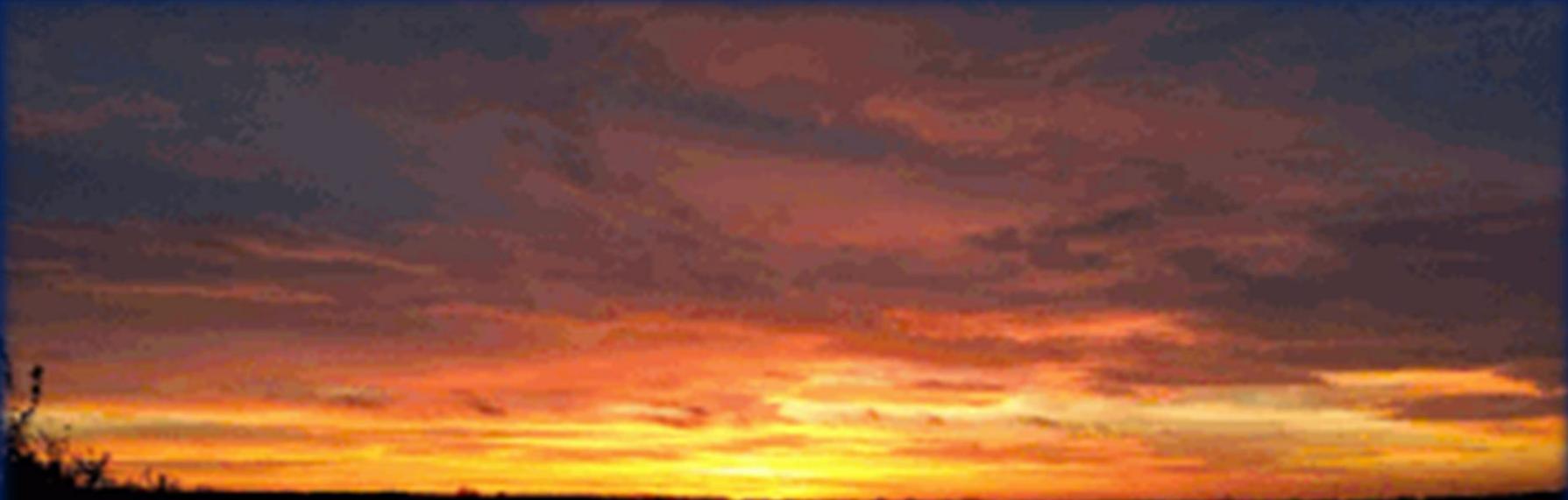


When it is dark enough,
you can see the stars.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

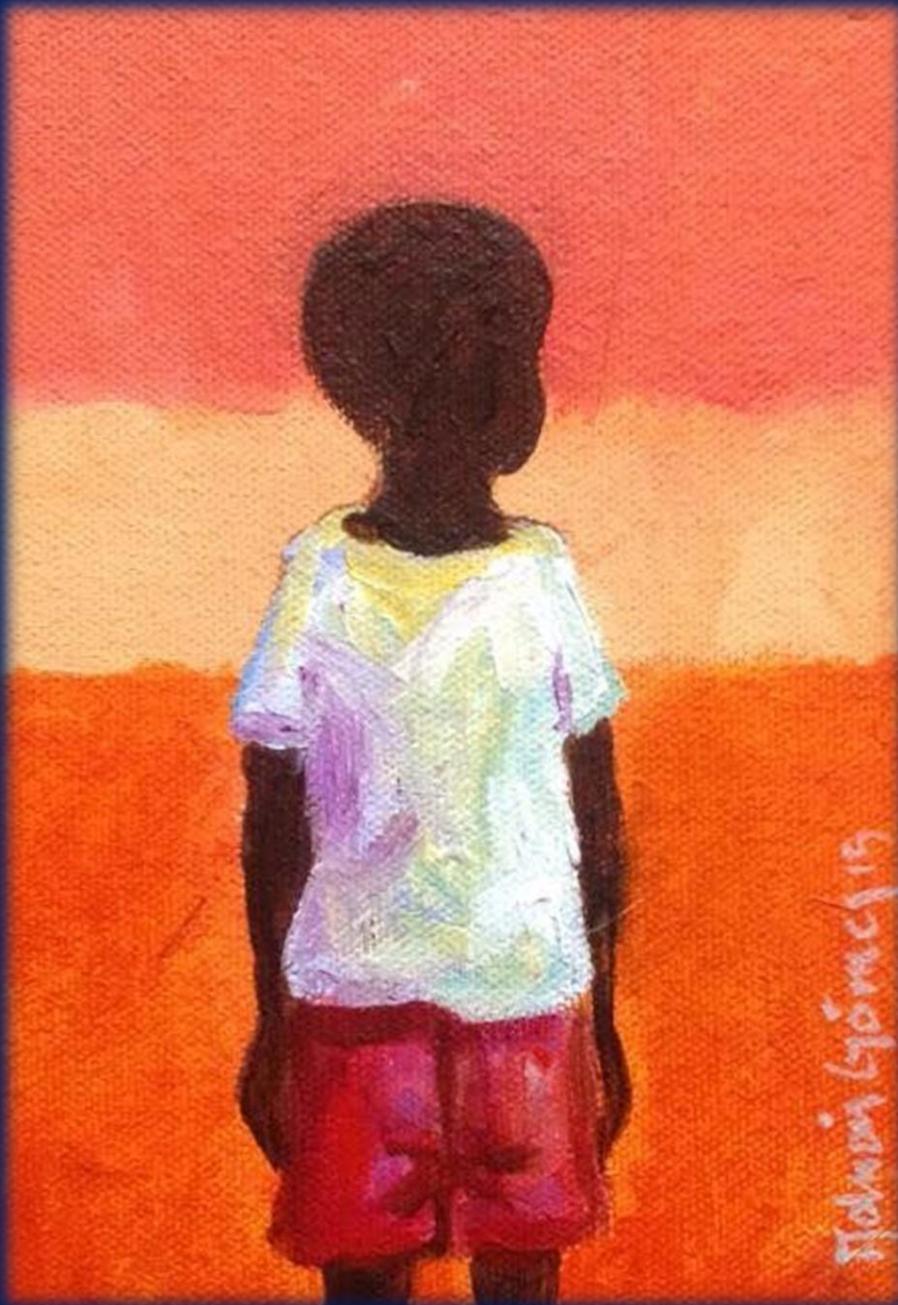
Claiming who we are!

Simply Spiritual Living.org



**The coming of the dawn is the
rising up of an inner light.**

Paula D'Arcy



“We stood
in the
place of
death and
Heard the
Living Call
our Name.”

Jan Richardson - LCWR

Barbara McAfee - Jewels

“Every time I go
into the darkness, I
return with fistfuls
of jewels”





*Isaiah says: "I will
give you the
treasures of
darkness and
riches hidden in
secret places so
that you may
know that it is I
the God of Israel,
who calls you by
your name."*

Is. 45:3 .

Moving to new levels of identity

Relates to the
charism of
religious life
itself ---
after shedding
layers of
accumulated
“stuff!”



When things fall apart they make a lot of noise. When things come together they do so quietly and slowly so we often miss them.



Otto Scharmer –Leading from the Emerging Future.

- At the beginning of the 21st C.
probably for the first time in human history the living presence of the abyss – that is the simultaneous existence of one world that is dying and another one that is being born is a widely shared experience for millions of people across cultures, sectors and generations.

- *So what is required of us is a deeper quality of listening, of paying attention to the more subtle aspects of our experience and of connecting with the sources of stillness.*



Scharmer

- *...Must happen, not only on an individual level but also on the collective level.*



- So there is a process of dying and letting go of old social structures that no longer are adequate or no longer work and simultaneously a planting of seeds of the new in the most subtle aspects of our experience. These beginnings are very small.



- **Our task is to ask beautiful question even in unbeautiful situations.**

A beautiful question: - David Whyte

- Puts you in relationship to the horizon of your life
- And helps you know what steps you have to take on the ground beneath your feet.
- It always holds an invitation.
- These are questions that have have no right to go away.



- What does it mean to live religious life in 2018,2020,2050
- We've not done this before!



Maryknoll – What is the “field afar?”

Top 10 languages that will be spoken by the youth of 2050

??????



Top 10 languages that will be spoken by the youth of 2050

- **10. Malay** (Indonesia, Malaysia)
- **9. Japanese**
- **8. Russian**
- **7. Bengali** (So. Asia, Bangladesh)
- **6. Portuguese**
- **5. Spanish**
- **4. English**

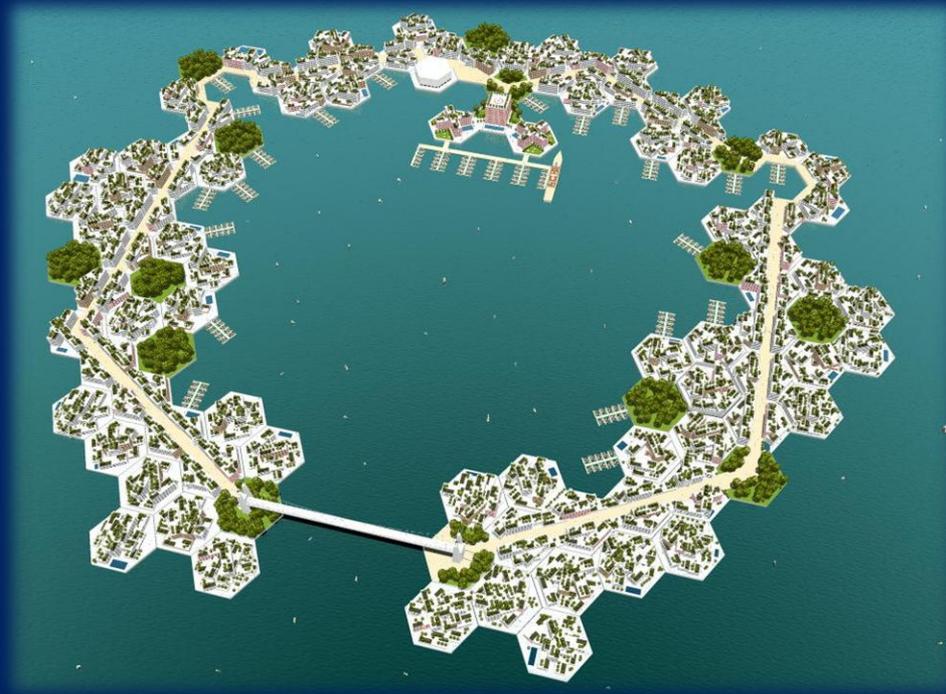
Top Three languages

- 3. Arabic
- 2. Hindi
- 1. Chinese



I am a citizen of a country that
does not yet exist.

Dr. Vincent Harding.



“Religious nones”

WE ARE
1-4♥



Nuns and Nones

A STORY AND SOME DATA

“Nuns and Nones”

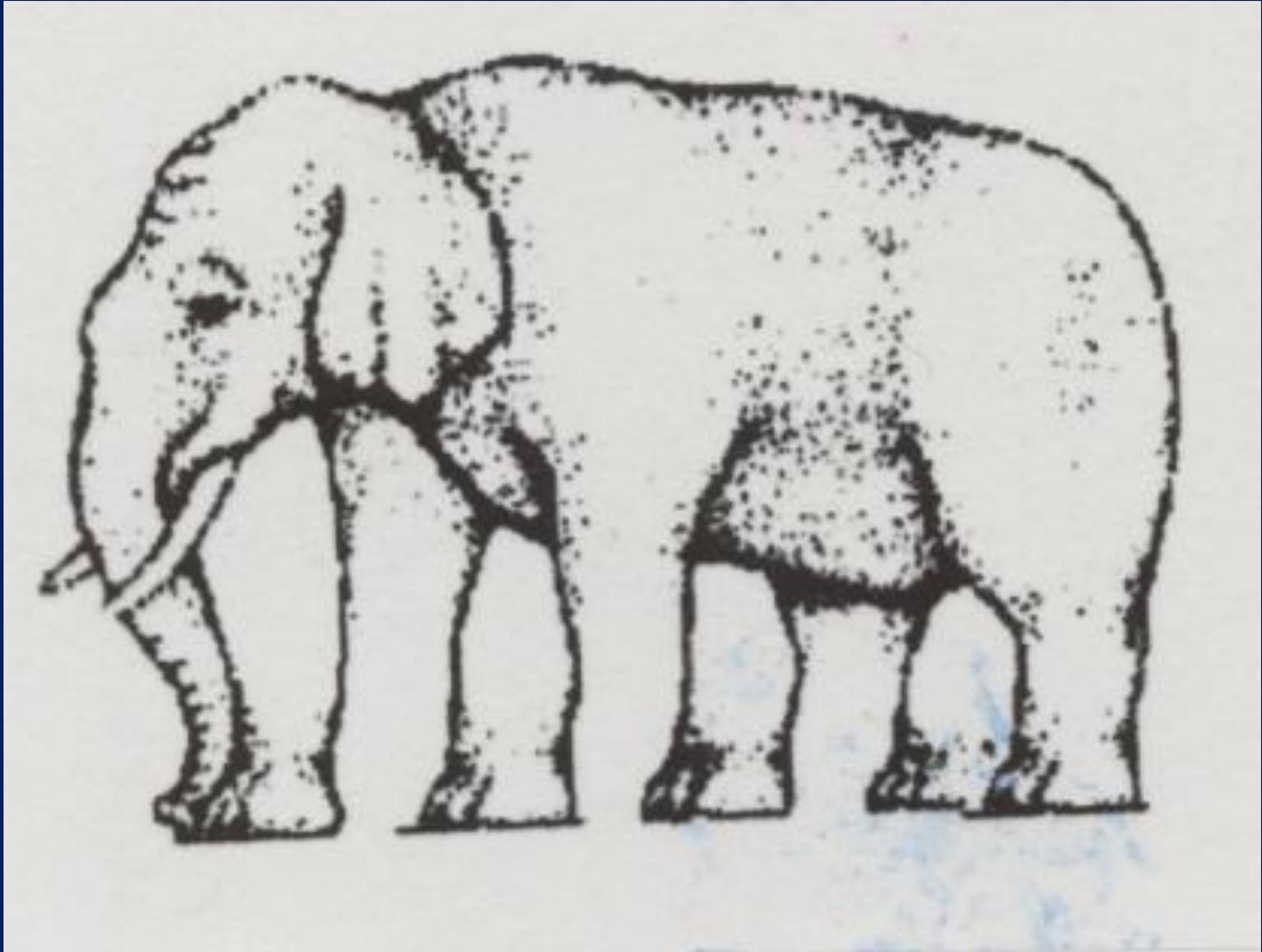


Harvard Divinity School Experience –Nov.2016

- How do we “midwife” religious life into a future that is unfolding, even now?
 - How do we encourage our members to hold on to what is needed and to let go of what is not essential so we are free to climb?
- Mary Whited

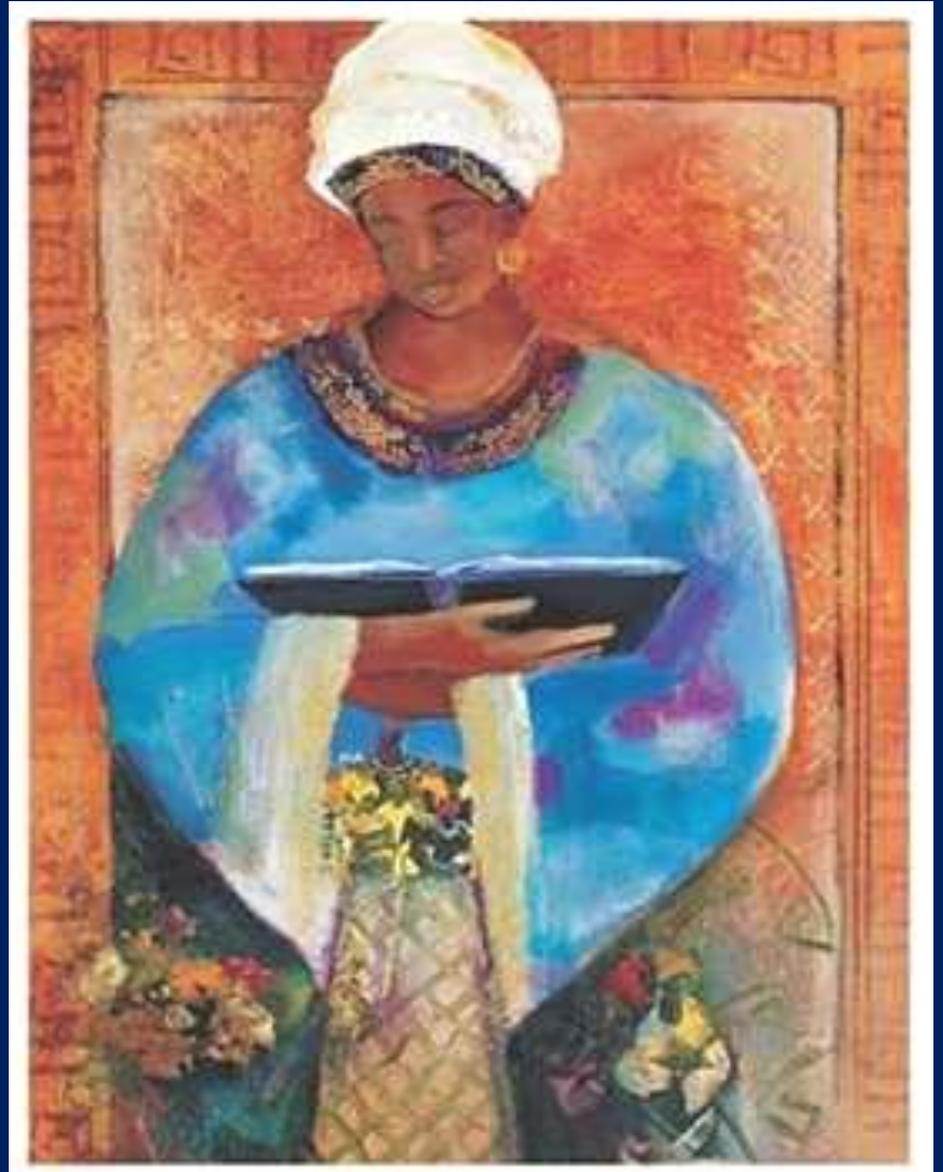


How many legs does this elephant have?



“It is not the
answers
that show
us the way
but the
questions”

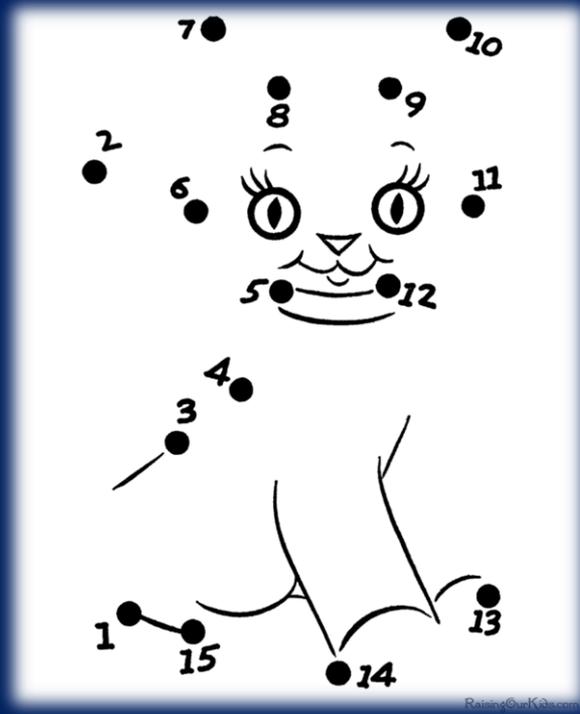
Rilke



"Is there anything more painful than realizing you did not know the right questions to ask at the only time on earth you would have the opportunity to do so."

Alice Walker: The way Forward is with a Broken Heart.





“During those times when I am not sure what is happening in my life – when I am unable to envision it, I recall a dot to dot picture - a gift from a four year old. The child had created the picture by moving her pencil from dot to dot, one at a time. It comforts me to know that when I can’t see the whole picture all I really need to see is the next dot.”

Mysticism and Prophecy

“Mysticism and
prophecy
belong to the
genetic codes
of our identity
and our
mission for the
Kingdom of
God.”



- True prophets arise and remain authentic through a special mystical experience of God which marks, sustains, and consoles them moments of crisis.

- Bruno Secondin

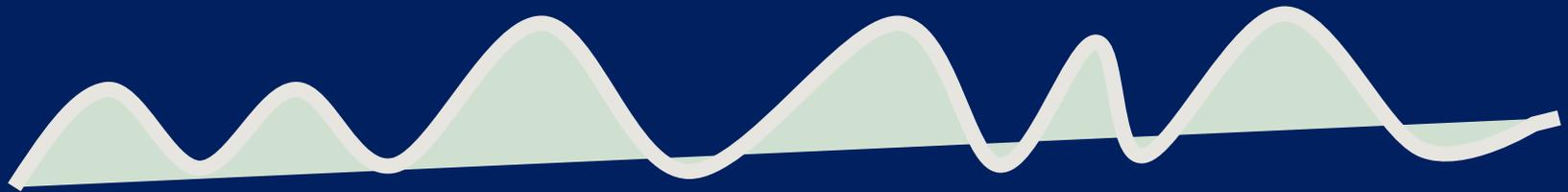


- An authentic mysticism, as an encounter with the living God, lover of life, cannot but nourish and express itself in bold and liberating prophetic action.



- Our religious families were born out of a mystical intuition which nourished and provoked an evangelical response within a historical situation.
- ***They have always been guided by an operative action for the good of suffering and humiliated men and women. This intuition and passion are nourished in a heart-to-heart dialog with the heart of God and in familiarity with their contemporaries.***

- Every time a new form of religious life emerged in history it had these characteristics.



- **Therefore we can conclude that religious life is a mystical- prophetic life form.**

Mystic



“A person who is deeply aware of the powerful presence of the Divine Spirit; someone who seeks, above all, the knowledge and love of God and who experiences to an strong degree the profoundly personal encounter with the energy of divine life.”

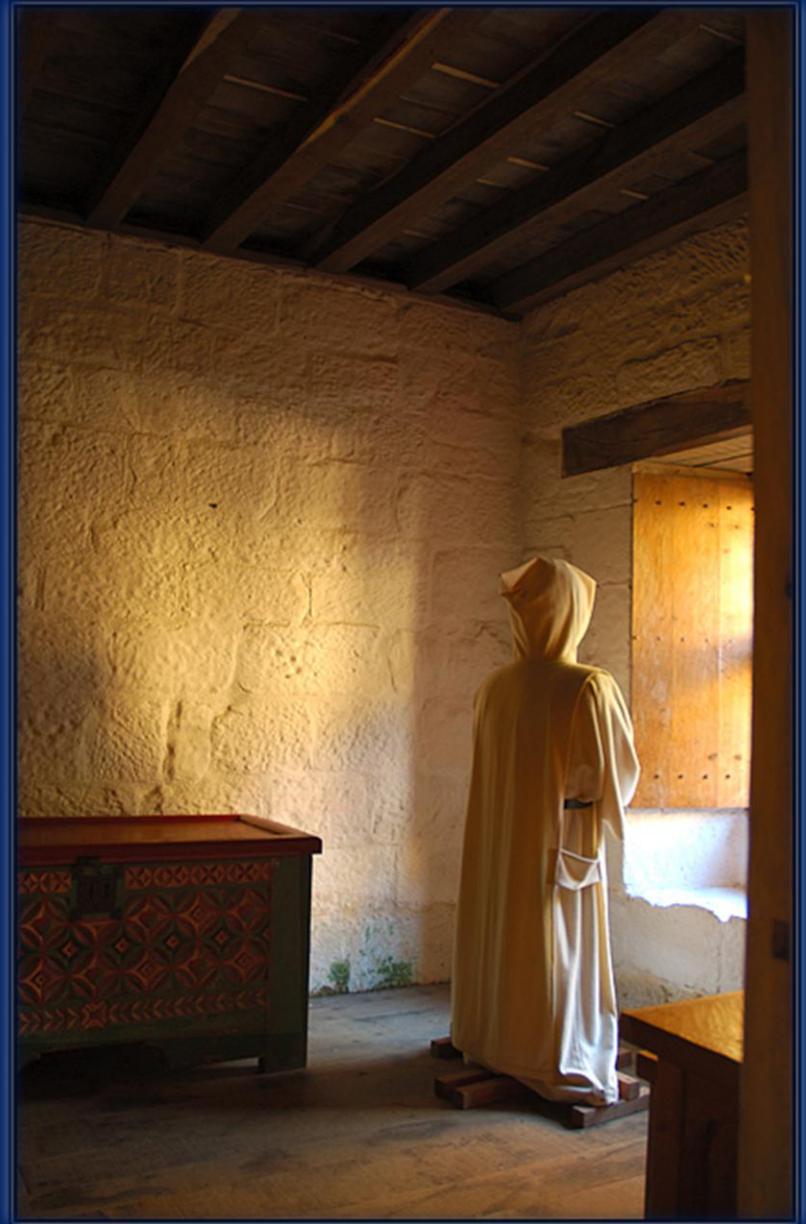
Ursula King



What is a mystic?

*Someone who has
mastered
abandon.*

*Someone who is
mad for mystery,
who seeks out
uncertainty and
picks doubt for a
dance partner*





A mystic is someone
who lights the candle
and cries for joy,
Crazy in love with No
One.

A mystic doesn't argue
about God
defend God,
crusade for God

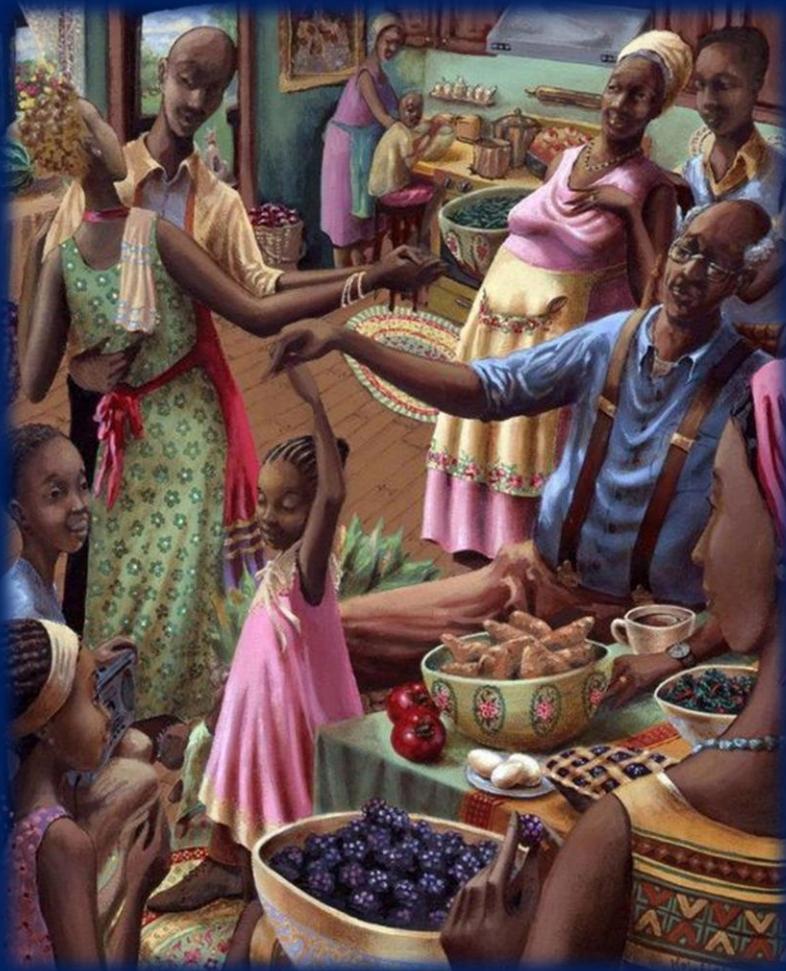
*A mystic is a
burning bush,*

*A spark of the
Holy Bonfire,*

*The one in the
corner*

*who is laughing
at Nothing*





*Don't look for
bruised knees
Bowed heads,
Hands clasped or
beating breasts.
Don't listen for mea
culpa
talk of sin, right or
wrong*

*If you're looking for a
mystic*

*Look in the forest, not a
church.*

*Look for someone with an
apron on, with work
boots and gloves*

*Look for someone who's
pitching in, helping out,
someone doing something
to set this world aright.*



*A mystic makes
breakfast
of the Great
Beloved
and all day long
metabolizes
Love.*

Jan Phillips



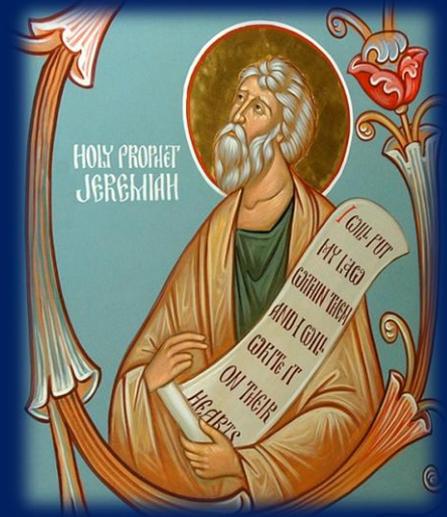
Prophet: someone who is

- Immersed in the life of the people in a particular time and place
- Interprets that situation in the light of God's dream for humanity.



- **Holding to a vision of how it will be** is the business of prophetic faith. It is a key mark of Israel's prophets that **they held to a vision of an alternative world in season and out of season.** And they could hold to such a deep and abiding hope precisely because they understood that the new alternative to come was not to be derived from the present circumstance.

Brueggeman



- The prophets were more than social critics. **They were holders to a vision rooted in nothing other than God's promise.** In the very midst of the hopelessness of defeat and inescapable judgment, they continue to articulate an alternative vision for the future. Brueggeman



- *Indeed their emotional life was very much in response to **the ache they saw in the world around them.** But they never confused present possibilities with divine impossibility.*

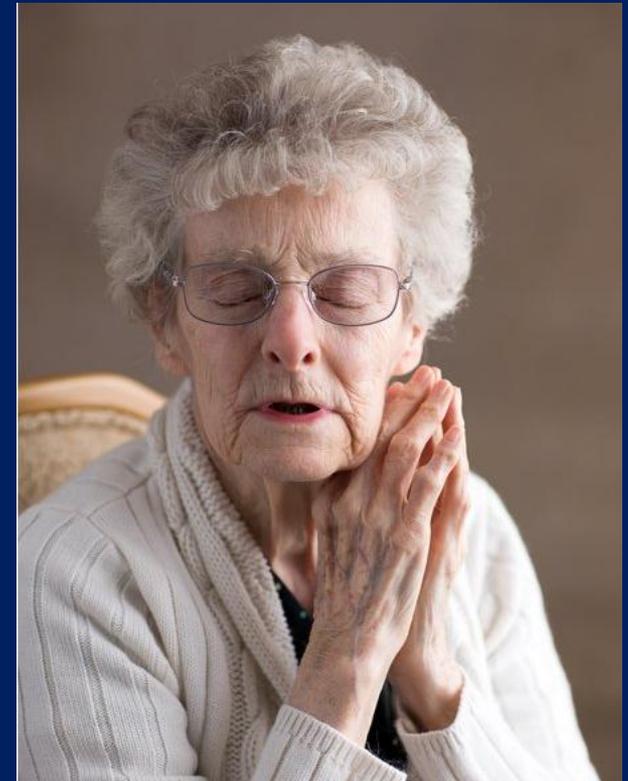
Brueggeman



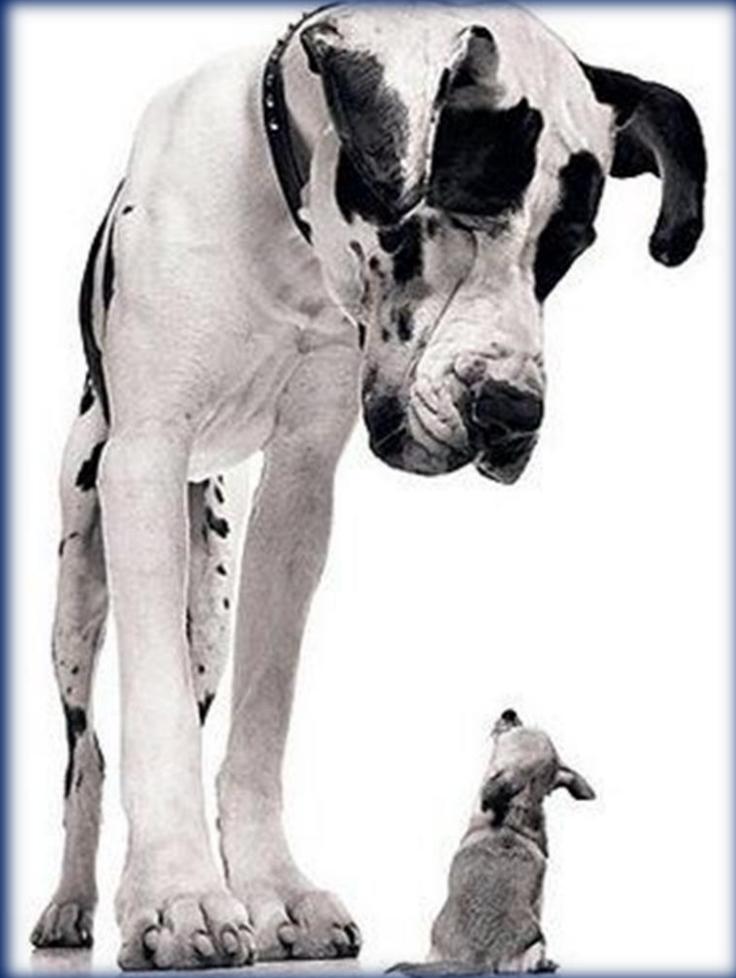
What kind of energy
are we "putting into
the universe?"



*What are the
gifts we now
have to give...*



*We don't need
youth or numbers
for this role...*



*"If the inner work
is puny, the
outer work will
never be great
and if the inner
work is great the
outer work will
never be puny."*

Eckhart

*A half hour meditation is essential –
except when you are very busy,
then a full hour is needed.*

Francis de Sales



Mystical- Prophetic Twins who need each other



Pause for reflection



Does the mystical – prophetic identity describe you?

Does it describe the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth?

Time for reflection.

- Resonance
- Resistance
- Resolve



*“Let us be a light for each other
and not lose heart.*

Remember, we were made for these times.”





*“There is no use trying,” said Alice.
“One can’t believe in impossible
things.”*

*“I dare say you haven’t had much
practice,” said the queen.*

*“When I was your age, I always did
it for half an hour a day. Why
sometimes I believed as many as six
impossible things before breakfast.*

Lewis Carroll – Alice in Wonderland

Abigail Adams to her son, John

- “There are times in which a genius would wish to live. It is not in the still calm of life, or the repose of a pacific station that great characters are formed. The habits of a vigorous mind are formed in contending with difficulties.”
- ***“Great necessities call out great virtue. When a mind is raised and animated by scenes that engage the heart, then those qualities which would otherwise lay dormant wake into life and form the character of the hero and statesman.”***

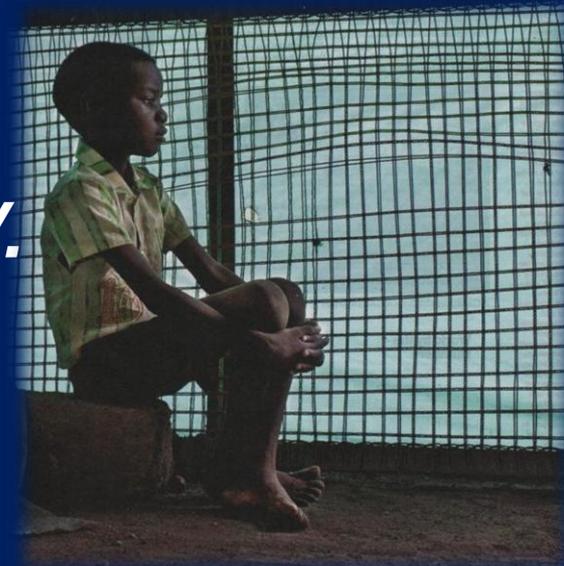
Lou Duva – Boxing Promoter

*It's not a matter of life
and death –*

*It's more important
than that.*

*I thought that my voyage had come to
an end*

*at the last limit of my power ---
that the path before me was closed,
that the provisions were exhausted
and the time come to take
shelter in a silent obscurity.*



*But I find that Your will knows
no end in me.*

*And when old words die out on the
tongue, new melodies break forth from
the heart; and where
the old tracks are lost
new country is
revealed with its
wonders. (Br. Phillip Pinto)*



I wish that I could show you (R)
whenever you are lonely or
walking in the dark. I wish that I
could show you ® the
astounding light of your being.



Experience the joy of
becoming a Sister

