



Chapter Circles

Our Evolving Experience of Mission - Chapter Circle 2

Preparation:

1. Video Charles Eisenstein: <https://youtu.be/2mNboLb2Suc>

In this 13 minute video, Eisenstein shows a way to approach seismic shifts. He uses as an example, the Amazon forest burning to explain to us how the actual event—forest fires (or climate change, or migration, or globalization or technology) is not helpful (can be a trap) for most of us. We easily divert from focusing on what is more helpful, i.e. to SEE the conditions that cause the seismic shifts to occur. The event (the fire) gets our attention and then reflexively we become enraged ... which leads to blame and eventually to the violence that perpetrated the event in the first place.

As we grow in awareness of interdependence, we realize that to blame the “other” is to blame ourselves because we are not separate despite appearances. Nor, therefore, is the other a thing. Assuming the earth is a thing, a material to be used has resulted in our destroying her. Hence, to change our habitual perceptions is to evoke reverence—love, which is our charism. When Eisenstein refers to our contribution to changing the “morphic field” around us, he is simply using the scientific term for what we’ve known as the Spirit within and without all. This presentation emphasizes the power of all our thoughts, prayers and actions—big or small—to substantially change our world. Every act has cosmic significance.

2. Paragraph: Teresa Maya, CCVI

Comunión “En Salida”:1 An Apostolic Call for our time in Religious Life
LCWR Presidential Address August 2018,

S. Teresa Maya, CCVI

Why now? Hope in Communion

We have been called to leadership during extraordinary times! The much anticipated “change of epoch” is upon us in full force. Just thinking of the events of the last year confirms that we need to understand the “why” of our leadership in light of the times we live. I remain stunned by how the forces of nature and world events have shaken us. We have been blown away and drenched by devastating hurricanes; scorched by fires that rage even today, and have experienced violence at inconceivable levels. We have seen our young people rise in desperation, and witnessed the next level of struggle for the rightful dignity of women. A refugee crisis has shaken the ethical grounding of this nation. Our Church is still experiencing the after-shocks of the moral earthquake of the abuse crisis. We have watched international alliances fall apart and entire societies the world over clamor for change. This has not been a year to stay at home!

3. Poem: John Donohue

The world is not decided by action alone. It is decided more by consciousness and spirit; they are the secret sources of all action and behavior.

The spirit of a time is an incredibly subtle, yet hugely powerful force. And it is comprised of the mentality and spirit of all individuals together.

Therefore, the way you look at things is not simply a private matter. Your outlook actually and concretely affects what goes on.

When you give in to helplessness, you collude with despair and add to it.

When you take back your power and choose to see the possibilities for healing and transformation, your creativity awakens and flows to become an active force of renewal and encouragement in the world.

In this way, even in your own hidden life, you can become a powerful agent of transformation.

John O'Donohue, Irish poet and philosopher

Excerpt from the books: *Benedictus* (Europe) / *To Bless the Space Between Us* (US)

<https://johnodonohue.com>

Three Movements

1. Creating the Sacred Space: Song: (listen) “So Great a Love”

In our times, that is the 21st century, we are faced with 4 seismic shifts: Climate change, Globalization, Mass migration and Technology.

In this session, we will engage in a contemplative dialogue with the desire to deepen our understanding of how these shifts affect us individually

and how they impact our mission as Sisters of Charity. We don't want to elicit information about these shifts; rather we want to share our personal experiences of these shifts.

Silence (5 minutes)

2. Spending time with a question that matters (40 min)

As you ponder or have done so before now, how has the enormity of these shifts made us feel, think or act? They may strike us negatively, positively or in a range of ways.

Sharing

Now, in the light of what we have identified as our personal responses (above) and after hearing the sharing from each other, how do these feelings and efforts influence our view of mission as Sisters of Charity. Here we are reminded of the video of Charles Eisenstein and in answering this second question, we are invited to consider the similarities and applications he suggests to our own reality.

Sharing

Listening to the sense of the Group (20 min)

We are now invited to articulate where we have felt the movement of the Spirit of God within ourselves and within the group as a whole. Based on this conversation, what would we say is emerging at this time?

Silence before responses

From our conversation what do we want to share with our sisters?

We end with gratitude.

After an opportunity has been given for participants to express gratitude, the facilitator may wish to conclude with a poem or song of gratitude.

Facilitator arranges the next call with the group.