

Chapter 2020 - Feedback

Sisters of Charity - Halifax

Monday Question 1

How do we want Spirit to work in us personally and as a Congregation over the next six years?

Table 1

We want the Spirit to fill us with greater love for Earth and for all who are alienated or oppressed that we may feel their pain and seek ways to change their reality.

We also ask for greater trust in our own wisdom as elders enabling us to face uncertainty, even as we experience our vulnerabilities.

Table 2

We believe that the Spirit will blow us/move us in the present and in the future. We are called to be open to the needs around us and allow the Spirit to help us respond in ways we are able, being attentive to those around us and their needs. We are called to let go, listen, be grateful and trust that the breath of God will be with us always.

Table 3

We are continually evolving as individuals and as a Congregation and we want to keep that process alive. The spiral is a perfect symbol.

Covid-19 has created shifts in our thinking and in our acting. These shifts have opened our eyes to the reality of our world in so many areas.

Table 4

Pope Francis' Laudato Si and Fratelli Tutti are moving us to only what is essential in our lives as we continue to use the gifts that are ours through our charism. As we move to divest ourselves, communally and personally, we can seed the future to confront the issues of our time.

Table 5

We recognize our diversity not only and how we think and how we live our mission but also in our own humanity at this moment. Our health and our vulnerability can be both a gift and a stumbling block as we age. Some days we may be able to conquer the world and other days we're not sure how we couldn't get out of bed!

Chapter 2020 - Feedback

Sisters of Charity - Halifax

We want to live with Holy abandonment As individuals and collectively. We recognize that The spirit meets us in every moment of our life and is often in the unexpected.

We want to be able to say what we mean and mean what we say I gain both as individuals and communities.

Table 6

We want Spirit to

- help us to make the difficult decisions that we know are before us
- that we come to know what is essential in our life together
- be with us as we move into what we feel will be very uncertain times
- help us to trust in each other, recognize our need for each other
- to recognize our charism in a 21st century way.

Table 7

We listen to the Spirit together which evokes in us a deepening trust and POSITIVE attitude and live out of this stance. It's about: joyful witness to love; our becoming more genuine and freer with each other and our world.

So we go out and We Change our World!

Table 8

We need to ask the Spirit to open our eyes and make us more aware of the real needs, big and small, around us so that we see what we, personally can do to help.

Needs are big and small. Some needs are too big at times for us as individuals and we may need Congregational support and input.

There are social structures that are unjust and need to be confronted by both individual and congregational actions.

Collaboration is essential!

Table 9

We changed the word "want" to "invite" in the question which spoke more of not being in control but inviting God's

Chapter 2020 - Feedback

Sisters of Charity - Halifax

spirit to open me / us to the evolving desire of God for us. Evolving is a living word, moving and becoming. We see our selves in this evolution, not ending but becoming what God has in store for us and growing in our understanding of God.

The depth of our shared relationships grounds us in the Mission of Charity which has no boundaries and is ours to live and share freely.

The signs of the times compel us to be aware, open and responsive to living the experience of God as mystery and in the reality of our world, it's needs and desires.

This Covid time has shown us what is essential in our lives and what we truly need to live the deeper Mission of Love. As elders we can hold on to these essentials as more than enough in our desire to live Charity.

Table 10

The Spirit is alive and well. We hope to be open to the Spirit when she calls and urges us forward. Personally, we hope to be brave and expectant. Collectively, we hope to move as one with compassion and love.

Table 11

To continue to listen to the Spirit by

- continuing to use the contemplative dialogue process
- continuing to use technology/zoom to connect us, and provide a fertile field for insight, motivation, action
- going deeper into one or more issues through zoom groupwork, e.g interconnectedness (F.Tutti encyclical), racism (books - several suggested); equality (e.g. church)
- Probing how to keep our unity while we hold differing opinions

Table 12

We want the Spirit to help us go ever more deeply into relationship.

We want to be deepen relationships among each other, and with ever widening circles of people who long for change. In this process, we want to be particularly aware of the issues of racial justice and healing the planet. We trust that as the Spirit moves us into deeper relationship, the motivation for healing and action will also grow.

Chapter 2020 - Feedback

Sisters of Charity - Halifax

Table 13

We want the Spirit to lead us to greater simplicity.

...To live a simpler life as individuals and as a congregation.

...To create many opportunities to continue to share deeply, to grow in trust, to take risks, to say it, to do it, and to say "Can you help me" To learn to appreciate the diversity.

This also relates to growing in shared leadership.

To help us grow in the awareness of "We all are the same flesh."(Fratelli Tutti)

To be in touch with what we all have in common. To reach out to one another and let what is going on inside of them and let that get inside of us.

To accept what our own state of health/wellness is and do what you can. To grow in mindfulness.

Table 14

We want Spirit to keep us open to the truth that we are complicit in the injustices we are called to address. Be courageous in truth telling and speaking out.

Table 15

COVID has shone a light on what is essential; important that we continue to remember what we're learning about who and what is essential. We've learned we can't take anything for granted and this leaves us feeling vulnerable. The challenge is to respond in trust not fear; our relationships with one another will make that possible.

Table 16

We acknowledged our need to trust Spirit to help us be less afraid, to do our best in the gift of the present moment during this vulnerable time of pandemic and other crises, to reach out to each other in community and to grow deeper together in mission through contemplative dialogue. There is desire to live deeply into the energy and legacy of charity that defines and renews us so as to evoke ripple effects in our immediate worlds and beyond, and to rise to this occasion (of pandemic, climate crisis and refugees, racial inequalities) with depth and creativity with eyes looking out (not just 'in' at ourselves), enabled to respond with creative love to the needs right before us one small act of love at a time.

Chapter 2020 - Feedback

Sisters of Charity - Halifax

Table 17

We were dismayed with the question since we thought we had addressed it during the circles and tables. Are we going to refine the question further this week from the 16 or 17 issues that surfaced earlier? Listening is a key element. We see racism as central to the many other issues surfacing.