

Feedback for the Promise Groups Community Days, October 20, 2020

Radical Hospitality

General Comments

- We have made progress toward becoming anti-racist and have more work to do. Keep animating us with resources and action steps!
- We talked about the need to re-invent ourselves with regard to radical hospitality. With the virus, it is not possible to be physically present and give emotional support.
- Stories were shared regarding creative ways to be present to others and walk with them in new and creative ways.
- Thank you and carry on

Questions

- You have dealt with racism.....do you have another topic in mind to attend to?
- Any interest in addressing the topic of white supremacy, its history and how it reflects deep prejudice?

Suggestions

- Suggest My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies by Resmaa Menakem for small group discussion. The book is a call to action for all of us to recognize that racism is not about the head, but about the body, and introduces an alternative view of what we can do to grow beyond our entrenched racialized divide.
- We encourage the promise group to sponsor workshops for sisters and associates on racism.
- Many people have done individual interior work; a next step is a community conversation/workshop to look at community structures and systems for bias/racism within them such as personnel, hiring, scheduling, boards and formation.
- We would also like encouragement and suggestions for small daily actions in addition to the planned community workshop.
- We encourage the promise group to continue to share resources--some that may even be able to be used in parish to help others reach beyond their comfort level and learn about racism and bias.

- We appreciate the regular summaries from each group, as well as the resources recommended by them. Their work has made us more aware of the need for actions for anti-racism. A conference, "Crossroads to Anti-Racism" (?), held in Chicago moved participants to action. For example, Dr. Donna Ewy will give a talk at the national level on "Racial Disparities in End of Life Care" on Oct. 15 at 4:00 p.m. (Donna asks for our prayers.) Both Nano Nagle and Catherine McCauley addressed the needs of the times. We suggest that the Promise Group for Radical Hospitality focus on anti-racism. Little pieces or responses to the Chicago Conference could be shared with all; along with Youtube videos on racism.
- Our discussion clearly indicated that our personal interactions with people of color were the most influential. We encourage you to encourage us all to seek out people of color to listen and learn from however we can. Sometimes reading and listening to videos or TED Talks is the best we can do, so we suggest reading or listening to minority sources. But, personal interaction is even better. Form relationships as best we can.
- We support the workshop that was planned. Perhaps there are some booklets that we can also use to help us. We also are interested in TED Talks

Questions related to Radical Hospitality Promise Group

1. How might radical hospitality and non-violence move toward collaborative efforts? Does it eventually mean merging or sharing of a joint goal?
2. Might the Radical Hospitality PG form a second sub group to focus specifically on Radical Hospitality in its broadest sense and also continue with the work of the present sub group focusing on racism/anti-racism?
3. In light of the next year and going forward, is it appropriate or is there reason for each Promise Group to survey its members to know if individuals who are in each groups wish to continue in the group in which they are participating or if they wish to transition to the wisdom group? Does this include Conveners? Or, are there alternatives?

Non-Violence

General Comments

- The topic of non-violence is very apropos given our current political climate.
- Family political conversations can be particularly difficult.
- We are challenged to find good ways to respond from a place of love rather than out of anger, outrage and/or frustration. We are called to hone skills of non-violent response.
- We are called to recognize the violence within ourselves and explore the ways we do violence to ourselves because that impacts how we respond to others.
- This calls us to deep listening, committed reflection and prayer.
- Violence destroys community.
- A contemplative style of sharing is an important and positive step toward fostering non-violent conversation.
- The image of the hands, one indicating stop the violence and the other extended in love and welcome, are good to keep in mind as we navigate difficult conversations and situations.
- We are very grateful for the resources on non-violence provided by this group and look forward to the workshop on non-violence.
- Invitation to address violence in speech, gun control, the political arena, gangs, black-on-black violence, white supremacy.
- Liked Carrie's idea of praying in the parish or community on election day
- We are coming to more self-awareness of what we say and do and how we are trying to become more nonviolent toward others and ourselves. The book *The Nonviolent Life* by John Dear has been a good aid in this regard, very well accepted and appreciated. We hope that we will keep getting a deeper awareness.
- It is still an ongoing process- a continuous journey of opening.
- A process of keep trying to get our message across in nonviolent ways. Realizing how “constructive criticism” plays a valuable part. Daily knowing we are making a difference.
- Important to hear the voices of those oppressed.
- We hope the training session that was postponed happens soon- if virtually or in person because there are so many issues that need addressing.

Questions

- Because of the close link between anti-racism and non-violence and the fullness of everyone's life, is there a way for the groups to work together?
- How can we be non-violent in our work on anti-racism?
- How do racism and all -isms cause violence to each of us (as a white person or as a person of color or people different than ourselves)?

- How do we reflect on the connection between non-violence and all the issues of today (COVID, increase in poverty, violence, etc.)?
- Could something be set up virtually for further conversations like if you read something and want to share with others?
- We appreciate your encouragement with various materials. Can you offer materials that specifically help us be less reactive and more proactive when we feel challenges/threats to our perspective?

Suggestions

- We encourage the Promise Group to have the workshop by Alan Heisterkamp.
- We encourage all sisters and associates to access [Non-Violence Resources and Reflections](#) booklet on our community website.
- We encourage:
 - ✓ Offer a 'segment' of the Non-Violence workshop for the community (small groups or large group)
 - ✓ The [Non-Violence Resources and Reflections](#) booklet is a rich resource. To encourage the on-going use of these reflections/resources, perhaps the Promise Group could suggest one article, YouTube video, etc. per month; encourage us to invite others into conversation.
- Both Radical Hospitality and Nonviolence require a lot of discipline. Pay attention to how we talk about others. Be aware of our language.
- Get involved with a committee or group in your area like Interfaith Peace Coalition.
- Name where evil is and rebuke it. Some people have no concept of nonviolence.
- Be patient with us.
- Continue to provide calming presence for us.
- Remind us to share with others what is going on inside us (self-care).
- Continue to deepen understanding of impact of violent language; how we weaponize language
 - demeaning
 - labeling
 - aggression
 - evasion of truth
 - exhibiting power over
 - destroying, etc. relationship
- Keep sharing resources. Tell the community of other specific TED Talks, YouTube, etc. and offer/start discussion groups on topics.
- Perhaps use the Radical Hospitality section of the Community Notes to share a resource and a brief message. Sharing even little things may be important/helpful (e.g. Lidia's experience in S. Carolina at a cultural event).
- We might have a specific time to pray and chapel for peace.

Questions related to Non-violence Promise Group

1. Have you considered offering the April 2020 workshop virtually?
2. Might the Non-violence PG offer a virtual webinar or speaker for the congregation (Sisters and Associates) and others on the topic of learning how to respond and interact with those who have different views and experiences from our own? Or are there sufficient ideas in the resources and reflections booklet?

Governance and Communication

General Comments

- Be open to change and trust that each step is in the hands of the Holy Spirit.
- We are not sure if there are any directives from Canon Law about Associate participation in Chapter. We thought it might be that they can participate in discussions, but not voting.
- We value and appreciate Associate participation and input as much as possible, as they are so aware of world needs.
- We appreciate self-nomination for Delegates and possibly for the Chapter Preparation Committee Members, also.
- Reference made to power point image by Sophia with the pyramid and web structures. We feel that we are moving more through partnerships in the web structure.
- Appreciated looking at other communities; thoroughness.
- Associate contribution/wisdom is critical to us.
- Keep on doing what you are doing; continue conversation with Sisters/Associates
- Shared stories: e.g. Tim Moothart's sharing during the Presentation Lantern Center virtual fundraiser about his call to service.
- Keep in mind our demographics which are constantly changing and the implications those changes might have.
- Every Sister who is able and chooses to needs to have a voice.
- As Nano did, have trust in the Holy Spirit.
- We believe that associates are a resource that we need to continue in our mission and we believe that associates long to be part of the mission.
- We are glad this promise group addressed the Associates' request for more info about what is chapter.
- The sisters in our group were unanimous and strong: we simply must include Presentation People in modes of participation, including in Chapter. "Just *do* this!" was the clear message. ["Equity" "A level playing field"] They saw it as a viability issue and as simply smart to use this expertise. They noted "workarounds" for canonical issues; and, the possibility of offering expense recompense or perhaps stipends for this help arose.
- The associate in this group felt that, while overwhelmingly many Presentation People would be happy to assist; this invitation to participate should come from the sisters rather than come as an expectation from the Presentation People themselves.

Questions

- What is the role of this PG and the role of the chapter preparation committee?
- Could we invite the associates to dream with us about new models?
- How will the demographics of our community shape chapter?
- As religious life's lived experiences continue to evolve, as ecclesial women, how will our constitutions and canon law evolve?
- How will associates continue to evolve on local and national levels? What is the relationship between our associates and other PBVM associates and associates of other communities? Invitation to imagine new partnership relationships
- How will participative decision making in regard to embracing and responding to our reality, mission, charism, needs, call, and crossing borders help all to forever seek and open new vibrant paths?
- What are the underpinnings of spirituality, theology, social analysis, partnerships, relationships, listening sessions that will energize new visions?
- We wondered if the number on the leadership team could be smaller?
- Do the Associates need to have their own kind of governance?
- How much has to go to Rome and what does not need to go to Rome for us to do it (particularly in regard to the collaboration/participation with the Associates)?
- What are the other communities saying about involvement of Associates—more specific information needed?
- Some of us would like to know more about associate groups. Who are they? What are they doing? Could the Promise Group inform us more besides just write up about associates in ministry notes? Associates are a valuable resource especially as we age and grow smaller in number. Besides participating in community days, could they have a role in chapter? (What does canon law say about this?)

Suggestions

- Have an hour zoom call once in a while so that we can catch up on the information, rather than just paper reports via community notes.
- Have educational sessions with employees about governance and chapter.
- Suggest re-reading Chapter 6 of *Conversations at the Well* by Sophia for all of us as we discern.
- Explore: in the past, Associates were included in Chapter.
 - Were they observers?
 - Did they actively participate?
 - How were they invited?
 - Who were the Associate participants (contact them for feedback)
- Identify current lived experiences of partnership; continue seeking out new partnerships, all to further mission, charism; make a difference

- It is time to move beyond working with only associates and address current issues that address new models of governance in light of changing demographics. Examples are new models for choosing delegates and new ideas for choosing leadership in light of smaller pool of candidates.
- Continue dialogues about chapter with associates.
- New models: imagine it, ask questions, figure it out, get it done, build on those who have gone before us.
- Imagine new forms based on collaboration and networking. See Sophia's last chapters on two team concept.
- Address where new visions come from and how visions become real
- Continue to explore and develop the role of associates in Chapter preparation and Chapter participation
- Continue to reinforce the necessity of transparency and co-responsibility of leaders and members. There is a need for both to clearly express what they need to know.
- Invite us to participate in the process.
- We would like to see the results of your research from other communities.
- Maybe this promise group could meet with the Associates to get feedback as to how much they have a desire for more involvement/participation.

Questions related to Governance and Communication

1. Do Sisters as a whole know what the Associates think or wish regarding fuller participation by Associates in Chapter?
2. As the Promise Group continues to educate Associates on "the meaning, participation and outcomes of a chapter, how do Sisters see Associates in relation to these ideas and realities?
3. Do the Associates desire to become more self-determining about how they wish to continue in carrying out the mission? Might they consider formulating their own structures of governance, finance, formation and communication to fully take on those responsibilities in the spirit of Nano Nagle and in relationship to the vowed members of the congregation?

Partnership and Relationships

General Comments

- Appreciated the desire to have a plan (if we don't decide someone else will for us)
- We liked that the plan will have some flexibility, for example as our demographics unfold or we have a buyer.
- We have grown wiser from our experience of moving more than once and we consider this a strength.
- We affirm the attention to ritual and spirituality.
- How we have changed: There has been movement from fear/suspicion, nervousness toward trust.
- Need to focus on “opening doors” more than “closing doors” and focus on the grace of letting go. May partnerships not be lost in new relationships.
- We appreciate the endless hours spent on Research, the phased plans, planning teams, consultants, facilitator, communication team, ritual/spirituality team, and ad hoc teams.
- We are aware that this is a difficult task and that, “We’re all in this together.”
- We appreciate your efforts to keep us informed and we place our TRUST in all of you. Thanks for all you are doing for all of us.
- Please continue to keep us updated. We are all in this together.
- We want to continue to be respectful of our properties showing good stewardship.
- We affirm that the care of our Sisters and continuation of our ministries are central to all of these decisions about property.
- Consultants need to have a passion for the mission of Jesus and the charism of Nano
- We trust the process and want to be informed and engaged as much as possible.
- This is the time to plan.
- Care for one another is so important.
- There will always be questions so the need to keep addressing what is happening and communicating the details is ongoing.
- We appreciate the organization that is happening and the ongoing evolution of the promise group. We affirm the planning groups and the many important things that are being addressed. It is important that all the leadership team be involved in this promise group.
- We commend this PG for assuming this responsibility and doing a wonderful job communicating to us! We ask that they continue to keep us informed.
- We appreciate Elena’s circle of sharing when each person could express her thoughts or pass without discussion. It seems a more positive way to deepen our dialogue than the “debate style” of our culture.
- We prefer to die here at Mt. Loretto rather than in a nursing home, but many of us are approaching a time when we have more needs for care at the same time.
- We appreciated the spirituality, rituals, blessings that accompanied the changes in the transition.

- Coalition building includes:
 - Local government
 - Business community,
 - Philanthropic groups
 - Not for Profit sector

Questions

- Message to promise group: There is a strong desire for regular communication in regard to what's happening. What happens when leadership changes---how does the work continue, or will it start over with a new process? In addition, recognizing that this group is focusing on properties, we need to be sure there is ongoing focus on partnerships and continuation of mission
- Are the previous studies done in the past, such as soil, etc., being incorporated into this step?
- How will mission be the overall umbrella when we talk about the footprint that we leave?
- Do you have a timeline?
- Is this a place where Jesus would like to stop – like he did at the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus?
- We understand more the need for consultants. How much property do we need as we ponder “Small is Beautiful” and simple living?
- How do we make sure we are communicating clearly? What values do we hold that all understand?

Suggestions

- When there is concrete suggestions for use of the Mt. Loretta building, please communicate to the community and ask for input.
- Clarify name of this group and what intends to address; seems to have had various names over time
- Keep communicating about our changing reality (that of sisters and associates); and the impact of changes as felt by both.
- Keep helping us to learn about the complexities of assessing options for responding to our changing reality in regard to demographics, needs, possibilities of partnerships, and expanding involvement in mission and charism as vision, energy, and vibrancy; whatever we do should engender great energy, spirit and ownership.
- Remember and call on our foremothers; become more acquainted with their journeys, especially during their times of difficulty, courage, and imagination for opening new paths; perhaps through ritual and spirituality team efforts.
- Would like to see a visual of the flow chart of the organization of promise group/consultants/leadership. This could name exactly what the committee is responsible for.

- Make a list of the promise group members and post it for easy access so anyone with a question/concern can ask anyone on the list at any time (perhaps particularly important for Sisters at Mt. Loretto to have access to this list).
- Breakout Group 11 affirmed the formation of a Property Group. They ask the Property Group to solicit and consider the input of the younger demographic in decision making.
- We ask this Promise Group to intensify the commitment to develop partnerships as vital to developing resources for mission. This promise group is responsible for more than property.

Questions related to Partnerships and Resources

1. Does the Promise Group have data or feedback from the congregation on the mission aspects of the property for which a consultant will be hired or is that part of the process that we will undertake with the consultant? How will it include input from the current vowed members?
2. Will/would the congregation be able to view other resources you found helpful in the process from 2019-2020?
3. Will the Ad Hoc groups for Communication and Ritual and Spirituality be open to members other than from the Partnerships and Resources PG?