

## Engagement Team Notes

March 26, 2024

Present: Karen Olson Johnson, Lois Mineau, Joan Mitchell, Mary Louise Menikheim, Catherine McComas-Bussa, Irene O'Neill, Kate O'Connell

Guests: Anne Hannahan, Carmen Shaughnessy Johnson, Anita S. Duckor

Carmen, Anne and Anita joined to talk:

- Party to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Consocium is being planned for evening of Friday, August 2 – wanted to see whether the Engagement Team (ET) had any plans for doing something like Emergence from last year
- Week of August 5 is being held open for Chapter meetings, so the August 2 celebration could be a great beginning of that work
- ET has n't planned anything for summer
- Appreciated letting ET know, and letting Relationship and Association know too – it's nice to know what's being planned, to help with coordination as needed
- ET encouraged the people planning the Consocium party to go ahead and make it happen!
- Encouraged announcing this at the April 13 Community Assembly
- Blessings in the work!

Meeting agenda:

- Share perspectives from last Thursday
- Next steps for Common-Table Proposal
- How to hold change
- Other
  - Add dates/identities to items posted to Forum for Community-Based Leadership
  - Name ET committee members
  - Talk about communication system
  - Include full sign-in at meetings, since not everyone who is coming is listed in the Directory
  - Getting things posted on the Forum

## Takeaways from Thursday's meeting:

- Note: What people think on a given day shouldn't be called "data" – instead, for example, feedback from people on Thursday should be called what it is – initial responses to the Common-Table Proposal
- What we think will change, as we talk and listen to each other
- Many perspectives in the room – yet they may not be as far away as appeared to be the case
- There was fear, discomfort and misunderstanding in the room
- There is a need to explain more what is being proposed
- Several people said in the February meeting that the commissions and so forth should be suspended, but people reacted to those words on paper as if it meant dismantling them
  - The Common-Table Proposal said that the engagement groups "can include those already formed such as Justice working groups, Pathfinders," etc. but that seemed to have gotten lost
- This isn't about dismantling so much as evolving
- Some of the responses seemed to reflect a lack of trust – people didn't know what had gone into the Common-Table Proposal or that this group has been meeting weekly
- Appreciated Barbara Kellett's thank-you for the work!
- Does it matter whether it's called Common Table or Community Assembly? No and yes.
  - No, because the Common Table idea is intended to be like the Community Assembly in many ways, such as table conversations.
  - Yes, because this is more than same-old, same-old – it is calling people forward to share on a more regular basis, as the ancestors in Le Puy, how the CSJ Mission is moving in our lives.
  - The Common Table is meant to bring us together and connect with each other in prayer and support for work on a regular basis.
- The "wheels" to make changes happen are relationships
- This process is about holding change – change can happen only at the speed of trust

- The CSJ Community has made huge decisions by listening to challenges and even dissent in the community, in a respectful way that made the decisions better – allowing for time, listening and communications was very important
- It's a gift to be in community and hear from each other
- “We will not be perfect”
- We have to examine what we think we know
- The Charism and Mission will lead us wherever we, as a community, need to go
- The people in the room are the people in the room, but what about the people who are not in the room?
- At some point, we will need to connect with those who are not here – who have left, to invite them back in, in whatever way might work for them, so we can learn more about how the Charism and Mission are living in the world

#### Initial thoughts about April 13 Community Assembly

- There is energy around ways of connecting
- Diagramming the Common-Table Proposal – use art
- Tell the story of how we've gotten here, maybe like a storyboard
- Let people know the story so they know their parts in it
- Everything that has been done by each person in this community has been of value and has led to where we are now
- We want to cultivate a community of gratitude for the work each of us is doing – alone and together
- We want to continue the conversation and discern the movement to the next place
- What do we want to be sure we're including?
- What do we want to say/hear about the community?

#### Discussion of other items

- There's an urgency to get the Table comments uploaded to the Forum
- Kate will send notes and information from Mary Louise to [bridgette@parenteaugraves](mailto:bridgette@parenteaugraves)

- However, there also needs to be more communication with leaders to make sure they see this information, whether email, Rapid Relay, Forum
- Someone will need to communicate with Province leadership and other leaders in the CSJ Community
- Will need to update Forum with dates, names, etc. of information that is posted
- Immediate steps:
  - Kate will send her notes to ET
  - Mary Louise will send the Table notes to ET
  - Then Kate will send her meeting notes and Table information from Mary Louise to Parenteau Graves

Next meeting:

- Tuesday, April 2, 5:00, CV Family Dining Room
- Before then: Review table notes from Mary Louise
- Come with ideas for April 13 Community Assembly

Submitted by Kate O'Connell