**Engagement Team Notes**

April 9, 2024

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

**Opening Prayer**: Group prayed the Table prayer

**ET Conversation:**

* What we’re really talking about is a 21st Century Le Puy table – we come together, tell each other where the Charism and Mission have been leading us, help each other as needed, be connected in Spirit, and go back out in the world
* The Spirit is leading us to do real ministry within and beyond our walls – we don’t know what each other does
* We don’t all have to do what each other is doing, but we may have ideas/thoughts and prayers to share and support each other, such as the Le Puy women who didn’t all know how to make lace, but someone knew and was able to teach, and that teaching went beyond the walls to help young women in France
* Further, it is important to know where the Spirit is leading us in our lives, in varying ways
* We don’t need consultants – we have wisdom here in this community that we haven’t tapped
* We don’t even need formal ministries – in fact, many ministries have been let go of over time for other people to lead, such as The Bridge
* We don’t need a lot of structure to bring us together, but we do need to be together
* Spend a year coming together, being together, developing trust
* This is the “Little Design” way of circles going out and coming back in
* Hedgerow had an image of a table at the center, a circle, with lines coming out, reflecting blossoming, flowing through to the cell, in and out, dendrites.
* It looks like an eye, how we watch and witness the Spirit’s movement in us and each other
* We have to have the capacity to go farther than we can imagine
* In holding change, it isn’t something we plan because it is beyond our imagination
* Example - Grandmothers Circles started, didn’t know at first how to become a 501(C)3? But someone did and that happened. Needed money, how to get? Made jewelry! Worked with people who had that knowledge. We don’t all have to do one thing but we may be able to contribute a little.
* La Familia de San Jose in Chili – women there are coming together, living even beyond having a Sister with them. Consociates in Kenya are also living the Mission and supporting each other.
* We are moving too fast to try to define a CbLG structure – let’s just start to live into the now.
* We are living outside of trust and need to live into trust – for each other, for the CSJ Community, all of us with varied gifts and characters – we need each other
* Trust comes from being heard and recognized
* We can learn a lot from listening to people who have a different perspective or even disagree with us – that’s what I’ve learned in Circles
* People may be thinking of the Common Table working the way the Community Assembly does now, without realizing that we’re actually talking about going back to our roots, the way the women did in Le Puy – so it seems like it would be helpful to invite people into this experience just by having the experience
* Why did the women gather in Le Puy? Because they saw a need, they came together, and out of that gathering something happened
* Understand how we feed each other
* Need reflection time, as we used to have in Province Assemblies, back when we had red, yellow, green cards. People with red cards needed to speak to why they could not accept a proposal, yellow could speak; it was interesting how, over time, cards changed from red to yellow or yellow to green – not all had to be green – and the proposals became richer (e.g. the Mass and blessing at Bethany during that transition to Carondelet Village)
* Also helps to have more than one experience – have people be in more than one table during the sharing time
* Possible questions – can offer many and let the ones that resonate be the ones that people choose to answer
  + What unmet needs are you serving, what would help you?
  + Where are you being moved?
  + How is the Mission moving in you and around you?
  + What is sparking in you? What is energizing you?
  + Your vocation sits in the middle of the world’s deep need and your deep gladness – where is your deep gladness?
  + Where is your energy pulling you?
  + Where is life calling you now?
  + What’s tender in your heart right now?
  + How has the Spirit moved in you today, this week?
  + How have you lived the Mission today, this week?
  + How is the Mission living in you now?
  + How is our commitment to Mission moving through us into the world?
* Saturday:
  + Begin with gathering song (**Karen** will work with Lori)
  + **Lois** will tell the story about sitting at Le Puy – remember the stories of our CSJ and other grandmothers
  + Sharing at table – don’t need leaders or note-takers – just share responses to reflection questions
  + Switch to new table/Zoom room after ~30 mins, while playing Stand By Me or other movement song
  + End with We Shall Be Known by Thrive Choir
  + **Catherine** sent lyrics to that song to **Joan**, who will print off the lyrics to have on table and **Karen** will share lyrics with Lori
  + No door prizes; not sharing in the large group

**Next meeting:**

* Tuesday, April 23, 5:00, CV Family Dining Room
* Come with reflections on April 13 Community Assembly

Submitted by Kate O’Connell