Collaboration Working Group Minutes

Zoom Meeting - January 23, 2019

Attending: Faith, Claire, Keith, Elizabeth, Fr. Phil, Fr. Alex, Fr. Alfredo

* Faith opened with prayer.
* Reflections on Pre-Chapter
  + Working Groups provided good potential forward direction ideas
  + Mark Clarke was very good – spot on, interested in HCP, good material for future
  + 70 participants or more each day
  + Good level of interest, excitement, passion from the participants
  + Moon landing analogy pertinent to HCP
  + *“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”*
  + Mark Clarke “What If?” process was very effective
* We have the sense we are all going for something greater with this process. While we are moving in the right directions, we must remember there are going to be challenges along the way – with life’s reality, with one another, etc. and we must be committed enough to work through them.
  + Martin Luther King Jr *“We must use time creatively - and forever realize that the time is always hope to do great things.”*
  + Nelson Mandela *“We must use time wisely and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right.”*
* We were challenged to answer the question – “how do you handle your own eco system?”
* Certain people are feeling we are talking too much and not moving to concrete solutions in a timely way.
* Our building blocks are our own local communities.
* Our core is very clear – our Charism.
* With provincial leadership there is a sense that there is no conflict among the vowed members – there are no discernable camps among the vowed. How could there be no conflict? Does it mean conflict is being suppressed by members?
* The truth may be that HCP to date has not had to make hard choices in the past because we have figured a way to maintain the ministries. Have we reached the point now where we cannot maintain them and we will have to make hard choices?
* There is not a local of sharing about what life is like in the local communities, however, stories surface which reveal communities may not be providing what members need to feel enriched by their local life. Are they like ships who merely pass in the night?
* Some vowed members think that the lay members who are paid staff are not truly invested in this process “for the long haul” -- that once they are not paid any longer they will be gone.
* Vowed members are not as concerned about vocations as are lay members – possibly because lay members are concerned for their job security.
* Some participants in the Pre-Chapter Zoom conference were not recognized by local staff – how is it that they were included?
* CWG needs to plan to get together with the other WG to meld ideas and set parameters – will try to move our conclusions along so that activity will be more fruitful.
* Lay members need to form a HCP Laity Group with defined authority in order to move this discussion along and give laity a platform from which to have their voice heard.
* The HCP Passionist women are going to a retreat in Whitesville, KY – this is the first time anything of this type has been sanctioned and financed by the Province. It is an example of the “lived experience” we have been talking about.
* We need to be proactive and radical (boat with anchor/eagle with tied leg)
* Could we add one or two “consultors” from our lay family when the new Provincial Council is elected, and allow them to participate in the work of the council?
* Can we get beyond the canonical barriers – it’s time for us to wrestle with it.
* Keith – provide the radical language in the national finance group’s mission. I couldn’t get it all.
* In personal sharing, CWG members shared that they wrestle with conflict that is present and they constantly hold their tension around the workings of HCP. They try to stay positive and see what they can do to make it better. There is concern for the future in the area of provincial leadership – where are the leaders of the future going to come from.
* Vowed and lay members are capable of doing great things for the province, i.e. making a personal commitment and following through with extraordinary efforts. They will do so if their needs are also being met in their work and working relationships. If their needs aren’t met, it is human nature to pull back and not put out the 110% passion and effort we see from the HCP family. HCP will suffer with its human resources operating at less than optimum commitment and effort.
* We are the place where we need to accomplish things in a different way from the past.
* If we do experience a resurgence of passion, vision, mission, etc, will that help us draw more lay and vowed people to our table?
* Is there present in the vowed members a fear that if they let go of too much to the lay that they will no longer be needed? Fear of “letting go of being necessary” is a factor which can paralyze collaboration.
* We need to work for the point in the future when everyone experiences the feeling they are critical to the work of HCP.