

March 30, 2019 Collaboration working group meeting

Collaboration Working Group is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: collaboration

Time: Mar 20, 2019 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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<https://zoom.us/j/769410102>

ATTENDING: Patty, Faith, Sandra

Faith: Process Louisville and Birmingham. What parts of those calls to we want to keep in front of us. What came to me from Birmingham, what Patty said about wanting to do a retreat for them I want to be a part? They need to know the Passionists won't abandon them. We are in the long haul with you, we are in it –

Sandra: I think it is a tentative thing, the Province is there financially, no one will say we set aside that amount of cash, we are staying. We put our energies toward this mission. It is boggling to me that we have so much need in that area, why do we look to outreach, let's bolster and strengthen us first. Save us first and then save others – you've been with us for 80 years. I would love to see us take more serious commitment.

Faith: feels doable – Since Birmingham is just a mission diocese, if they say they don't have a priest to send over, we can make Dcn. Pete an administrator. We come in on a regular basis and have priests who rotate regularly. The diocese should be ok with that. It feels like there is a creative solution, especially now that they have an ordained Dcn. who knows the community and situation, faith and civic community. It feels like at Chapter this needs to be challenged.

Sandra: we have a loving presence there to do the work, they need support.

Faith: ownership felt belittling to me, they are looking for someone to say we care for you, not about the brick and mortar.

Sandra: there is a parallel – the vowed from Birmingham – they feel they could walk away anytime, the same fear that you have not committed to us, from both sides of the coin.

Sandra: do the funds we give them go through the Diocese or to Holy Family?

Faith: those are canonical things that we can't control, but we do have control to do everything we can, we are not abandoning you. We won't walk away. I heard the pain and hurt in the conversation, almost desperation.

Sandra: Mac and Peter seemed pretty upbeat, great energy; Trudi is committed and is looking for the reciprocated.

Faith: we heard that from Danelle as well. No one hears.

Sandra: I am very struck, good call to hear everything they had to say, but my bottom line, they need to hear that they are important, we won't abandon them, and we will keep working toward that mission. What is that roadblock? As far as Louisville, everyone was candid, Br. John was prophetic and telling the truth, he was heartfelt and honest; one of the things I enjoyed was hearing Br. John's enthusiasm and how Dee Dee came back from retreat so excited.

Patty: why Birmingham isn't a Mission. The need is here in the states.

Sandra: the proposals and those available are slim.

Faith: things in the world are moving fast; people in the margins are always changing. Any single issue you have two margins, when you choose to go after immigration – sending people to the border for two years – by the time we are ready to do that, it will be too late.

Sandra: Birmingham has had the issue since they were there; Alabama for more than 60 years has battled this.

Faith: they said bring a retreat to us. We can all contribute to Birmingham to do a mission retreat.

Sandra: they have talked so much – they just want to be heard. I'm making the proposal for outreach, I'm preparing the proposal, we have to hold people accountable and Birmingham needs attention. We need to get our own house in order, so much we can do for them. Why can't we raise money for Birmingham before we go to Haiti? Education is a big deal. We didn't get into direct outreach.

Faith: laity formed the direct outreach and made sure it happens.

Sandra: those are my two things: Louisville has so much talent, Eric said we can walk away at any time; John the laity are now our students that we want to form; Birmingham is a mission that is ripe.

Faith: how do we tap into what we heard on these two calls, to create something to bring to our presentation at Chapter that can be heard and processed? Both pieces of Birmingham wants to be heard, and Br. John saying grieving needs to be acknowledged, and laity are the students – Dee Dee renewed him.

Sandra: Louisville mentioned in small group dinner is great but you don't get to share with spiritual life. There is nothing keeping our communities from doing that. Julia saying they watch Wheel of Fortune together and then they go their separate ways; faith sharing, Liturgy of the Hours, mass once a week – is life-giving to them. Going through RCIA, the small groups was a big deal. When I think of all those men in Louisville who could do formation, why can't we go there and get that wisdom from them?

Faith: as we continue to meet between now and chapter, we need to look at what we will do at Chapter. Each working group will get two hours for presentation process, whatever you want to do – near the end of the call, the need for small group stuff, and possibly we could whittle that down to an hour and a half, and end with small group processing. What we need to do is start looking at what are the pearls of wisdom we have gleaned through the conversations, what nonessentials do we want to share that will be heard and received, a willingness, what do we want them to chew on.

Sandra: when you talk about Birmingham, I think you will see eyes roll, present it in a way that they will hear it. RBG kept going to the Supreme Court, but they didn't hear it until they heard sex discrimination,

then she could present the other cases. It struck me that we do this so they get. How can we make them hear it. She was so adept at that. How do we do this so they don't tune out.

Patty: proposal to be specific?

Faith: incorporating Eric's statement that laity can leave whenever they want, that fear is the same fear Birmingham is experiencing – will the Passionists leave? The vowed, how much do we invest in the laity when they can leave when they want? That may even tie into the grieving

Sandra: they have to lay those burdens down. The weariness in conjunction with the grieving. Graphs, etc. are frightening. Need a graph of laity involvement, etc.

Faith: in Birmingham the nuns aren't there like they once were. They don't have that other community, they've closed schools, the numbers in the pews are dwindling, they have one Passionist for two parishes, Fr. Alex there but not connected.

Sandra: Patricia, Nelson sounds like they have two.

Faith: the two parishes are the only two I know of that are Passionists. We have a parish without a priest, and a priest in another parish. Could be feeding into their insecurity. How do we present that so the Passionists feel it differently?

Patty: has Birmingham ever verbalized their needs?

Faith: The first chapter that laity could stay in the room during voting, Birmingham had a good number of people present, but the Passionists shut down when Birmingham started. Someone said they had wanted to be a Passionist priest but were turned down because they were black. Trudi wanted to be a sister but wasn't invited. Trudi sharing about the frustration of racism being rampant, let's move off of that and move on. Whenever Birmingham speaks you feel the shift in the room and everyone tunes them out. Presenting in a different way than before. Our conversations have brought me a deeper lens, we need those kinds of conversations. Maybe through community conversations could address that the vowed feels the laity can walk – how deep is your commitment if that is their fear. Make parallels and say how the Birmingham group feels.

Sandra: we've closed a prep seminary school. Birmingham doesn't want to close another school – another parallel for them. Safety and education for those children, they might resonate with when they close those schools. Kentucky or St. Louis closing? Children want basic education through the Catholic school, public education is horrific – get statistics. The pain that would cause closing the school, not that they are prepared to close it.

Patty: partnering with Birmingham for support to present at Chapter.

Sandra: Claire may have some insight on this as well.

Faith: we are modelling collaboration, we hear the story and it changed our hearts. Can the laity drive the mission?

Sandra: the charism is at the heart of those suffering today. It is not a deviation from anything we are doing, or should be doing. It doesn't seem like a deviation.

Faith: with creative thinking you wouldn't have to throw so much money there, but for education grants should be available – Cristo Rey is a creative response to education on a high school level, funding comes from businesses that take in the interns, how do you model that for a middle school. Something that proves that if you support these kids they stay in school and become productive members of society. There must be ways of getting teachers who would intern there for room and board – intern for a year and get room and board while gaining experience. There has to be some ways to think outside of the box.

Sandra: Hugo is doing that in Haiti – teaching life skills so they can help each other build homes. He lived in a hospital and is helping the community, the children learn life skills.

Faith: have people teaching sewing, mechanics, etc. Give them safe place to be in the summer. There has to be ways to make that happen.

Sandra: Students at CTU who could do a summer emergence program.

Faith: that feels like a good fit for Michael Cunningham – he is so connected, his thought process around Birmingham could be helpful. We have enough from these two conversations we can carry forward into our conversations for chapter. However we support Birmingham, Br. John M. and the students, how do we share the charism, how does that enliven them, how do we do that. That fear and grief, how do we do that?

Patty: What is grieving?

Faith: none of them would have envisioned 59 Priests, mostly over 70 years of age. We can talk about laity, but what does it mean for the vowed – where does this go. They have to name it and grieve it in order for it to be transformed. If the elephant in the room, nothing will ever be done. No one grieves well, but we are a ritual people as a people of faith, get some ritualization to what am I missing, what is the most difficult thing for you in 2019?

Sandra: Br. John saying I don't know if I can call it grief, to me, what do we need to let go for the resurrection. It may be a letting go if they don't understand grief.

Faith: Surrender, ex., we don't have all the guys to take care of anymore.

Sandra: Alfredo said I never expected the community to look this way.

Faith: Kurt has also asked why he would want to invite men to join them. The younger guys are articulating it more than the younger ones, they don't want to name it because of fear.

Sandra: pre-chapter at Louisville, those coming into our order have to be in sync, being attracted to the Passionist charism initially, in the pre-chapter bullets.

Faith: we celebrated everything we had done, celebrate the elephant in the room, now what is the fear and ritualize it and it is out of the way and we move forward.

Sandra: big changes, they have seen big changes.

Faith: this may be one of the biggest, having to share their charism and mission with laity, not to come in and help them, but to come in and be with them. That is a huge shift. What does that mean for them? I can only imagine – I think of my sister, bucket listing at 53, trying to live but knowing that I don't have time to live. That is a grief that is necessary there, but it is similar to these guys – 10 guys to carry this thing forward. That has to be difficult, heavy, overwhelming, but if you can think that we are not alone, we have laity who believe they are Passionists. We want to be family, not in laws or step children. Then I heard some ohs – we find the language that will help them see from a different place. Sandra – we have to do this with Birmingham.

Sandra: vocations from both sides. We need to be with Birmingham.