

The Gifts of Leadership
LCWR Conference March 15- 18, 2012
Mundelein, Illinois

As leaders of a variety of religious communities represented at this conference, together we recognized ourselves as contemplative women living in an age of changing consciousness and world-wide chaos.

We experienced the call of God to listen deeply for the “something new” which in creative love, God is seeking to bring about in us and through us. We heard the Spirit prompting us to a greater depth of prayer and to the practice of listening from the deepest space of our souls. In this light we asked: What might be emerging for religious life.

Through contemplative silence and sharing we began to see that at this moment God may be asking us to serve as a bridge over which others can be led to new levels of understanding and experience. Our radical commitment to Gospel living urges us to be for others that kind of instrument of God.

Even more, we sensed our role as prophetic bearers of the wisdom being born through diminishment and aging that seeks to find and share the gifts found in freedom from ego-bound living and from letting go of the structures, buildings, and other realities that may be encumbering our response at this moment in the human story before God.

We recognized the pain in our realities, and yet, we shared our belief that such letting go will allow us to see and respond to the needs of the future. We acknowledged that we stand on the shoulders of our foremothers, and bearing the gifts of our charisms, we, like them, are called to choose to risk in meeting the challenges of our time.

Further, we recognize that through a many-layered collaboration and a spirit of solidarity and integrity, we can better claim the treasures of faith and service that are ours and share these more effectively with the People of God.

Written by workshop participant Therese Ann Quigney, SSFCR