

Franciscan Federation - Annual Conference 2013
Minutes - July 22, 2013 - morning

Franciscan Life in Evolution

Lynn began the day with a few announcements and gift give-aways.

Lynn invited Ilia and Keith to present some final comments.

Keynote wrap-up: Ilia Delio, OSF and Keith Warner, OFM

- Absolutely important to bring together science and religion upon which all of life is based. Read the book of Nature as well as Scripture - the one word of God.
- Participants: what inspires you toward Open Systems? Wholemaking?
- Be aware of how I resist open thinking for dualism. Can I see God in situations that draw me away to newness, new thinking?
- What will you take home from this message of ours? Responses from the participants: confirmation of where I have been in my own spiritual development but I see a need to be more vocal about it and not fear the repercussions; concept of evolving is confirming re trusting in God; renewed confidence in working with lay partners and those who value our Franciscan value system regardless of faith path but I don't have the vocabulary to express myself (see Ch. 6 of Incredible Wholeness); need for security and planning is so much a part of religious life - see the need for more freedom in structure; how do we shift to being/becoming rather than doing, living with incompleteness (goals not met); entering the deep space of contemplation, be subversive with goodness; God is falling evermore in love with us - recommends Incredible Wholeness; Jesus said what I have done, you will do even more - I see myself more now as a co-creator; life has no finality; you gave me words to express my thoughts and observations; prayer is the technology of the spirit (ID) even though science and technology are very important to us; the language of our prayer lacks vitality and vibrancy; I live with the principle that there is no separateness - science, technology and spirituality - this conference confirms this; living in the Resurrection is vital, a source of joy; wants to establish a house of prayer in Hebron, should it be Franciscan? after this conference I wonder if it should be broader in scope...; Franciscan spirituality can be part of any faith path - be yourself as a Franciscan in who you are, in the way you relate (KW); re liturgy - it works because it is a pattern, making it possible for people to participate but looking at it as a field we see that no two liturgies are the same, my approach to it; Eucharist should send us out empowered to be in deeper relatedness (ID); I see evolution of the Franciscan Intellectual tradition that I will now call the Franciscan wisdom tradition; Pragmatism - should be practical compassion, be concerned and engaged, be goal oriented and have sustainable personhood; I am grounded in pre-Vatican, work-oriented mentality, now I see a need for spending time with the Sabbath; one piece of wholemaking that I want to see is movement on unification of Franciscan family; future of the federation is not being talked about openly, where would we have an opportunity like this, hearing people like Ilia and Keith, if not at a conference like this, the federation has overcome many

challenges, we are called to be and to do something different; taking a step in a new direction is okay, evolutionary, trust to move forward (ID)

Closing remarks:

Be honest and talk about fears of what is to come; then together we can move forward. Have people to walk the journey with you. The only way to have a future is to live it, let's create anew. (ID)

Edna wholeheartedly thanked Ilia and Keith on behalf of all the participants.

Break

Approval of JPIC Resolution

Glenna presented the resolution to the participants for affirmation. By applause, the assembly affirmed the resolution.

She also announced that Hershey chocolate has agreed to buy certified cocoa from slave-free workers. She spoke about this yesterday

Edna recognized Glenna Czachor and Sue Ernster for their many years of service to the Franciscan Federation.

She then made a wonderful thank you to Ann Lyons through song. The Board joined her on stage. They sang an "Ann version" of I Believe in Angels. It was an amusing but very beautiful tribute of gratitude.

Edna said there could be no more fitting symbol than an angel. Ann helped the Federation to come back from the brink. She gave many well-deserved accolades to Ann. There was a litany of accomplishments followed by the bestowing of blessings.

Ann's final remarks;

The image she used for her experience was the Visitation and Mary's Magnificat. She showed how the Good News can be delivered with joy. So many hopes for the future...

What happens between them should happen among us. I have had these feelings and share them with you. The music behind my words is my sincerity.

Ann then spoke her own "Magnificat" regarding her time with the Franciscan Federation.

Edna then gave Ann a gift from the Federation and the assembly sang to her one more time in gratitude.

Thank yous

Edna thanked the many persons who helped make AFC 2013 a great success. She mentioned key people by name and asked them to stand. The participants gave them a great round of applause of gratitude.

With slides, Edna recognized the executive committees of each of the commissions, the JPIC members, the Finance Committee, and the Development Committee. The participants were also thanked for their presence and participation.

Announcement of next Federation: July 18-21, 2014, St. Louis, Kindom Building - theme, Michael Crosby, OFM and Margie WillOSF are the keynoters for the Franciscan Federation.

Closing Ritual and Commissioning Prayer Service

The conference concluded with a ritual that included the sharing of thoughts about "what touched your heart" and "what transformation will you make in your own life."

This was followed by the commissioning of the Board members, the Executive Committee of the commissions and the interim Executive Director, Dianne Kaimann. The commissioning was ended with participants blessing each other at their tables and then praying the Our Father together.

Respectfully submitted,
Sr. Jean M. Cherry, FSSJ
Recording Secretary