

It was like looking into a mirror and hearing an outsider voice saying to me “Look. This is your congregational reality. This is what Sisters say about the quality of your lives together”. It was sobering to begin to learn to honour the chaos in my own life!

I began to realize that this order and chaos are mirrored in each of our lives and across the congregation. I found it comforting to remember that we are not separate from the rest of the world; that we are embedded in the larger system and the boundary of our Mercy congregation must not be drawn too tightly.

I sometimes wondered how we got through so much work! I was due in no small measure to the professional input of our facilitator, Paula Downey. Through her own belief in the workings of systems we began to internalize “yes we can” in the times (e.g. preparing for the Interprovincial days) when the task seemed huge. It was also due to our growing ability to work in a focused way together.

I see the task of the remaining time as gradually disengaging from the focus on this group and being part of local conversations. I see these as the new seeds of respect and appreciation of difference among us. Can we go forward together? Yes we can by the grace of God!

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