

Interculturality: Challenges and Promise?

Intercultural Living: An Experience of the Paschal Mystery

On May 14 and 15, 2015, the CRC Theological Commission welcomed four people to a meeting that took the form of a conversation which was also somewhat of an experimental exercise. In the fall of 2014, these guests had been asked to share an intercultural experience. What they had in common was that they were all members of different religious institutes and they had all lived in cultures other than the ones into which they had been born:

Pierre Tran Minh Bach, CSSR, contributed the experience of his Vietnam–Canada displacement and his ministry among the lepers of Haiti.

Jeanne Bashige, SFHELMET, a Sister of the Holy Family of Helmet from Congo (on a mission to Canada), spoke of her childhood in a country marked by the multi-ethnicity of its population, with over 200 ethnic groups and 450 local languages, as well as its colonial history; she also recalled a five-year mission to study in Belgium.

Alba Letelier, SP, shared about her journey from Chile to Egypt and, later, to Canada.

Idara Otu, MSP, went from Nigeria to South Sudan, then to Canada; he highlighted the role of cultural values in Africa and especially the centrality of the sacred in the lives of Africans.

At the end of the meeting, each of the four guests agreed to write a text that was intended to echo the session on *intercultural living*. These presentations form the first part of this Bulletin. In the second part, you will find a more theological reflection on the theme: *Consecrated Life and Intercultural Living*. This second part of this Bulletin will allow us to consider:

- that the eschatological dimension of consecrated life can be nourished by intercultural living (Brother Antoine Emmanuel, FMJ);
- that our humanization is always enriched by the meeting of the stranger in us, in others, in the Other (Sr. Carmelle Bisson, AMJ);
- that interculturality calls on us to respect the stages of being, of begetting, of being gone, and of the "returning home, different" (Sister Patricia Brady, OSB);
- that the charism is rooted at the heart of intercultural living (Sister Gaétane Guillemette, NDPS);
- That the Scriptures can be a school on intercultural living – Pentateuch and the Pauline Corpus (Brother Louis Riverin, FMJ).

As always, the Commission will be pleased to welcome feedback from this reflection on intercultural living as experienced through consecrated life. It would also greatly appreciate hearing about any initiatives that this issue of the CRC Bulletin might have given rise to in the various communities.

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