

Small Group Contributions after Session 5 – May 27

Confirming the priorities

Group 1

First, we all had the sense that the 3 proposed priorities are coherent with our discernment process and that they capture the desires of our small group also. It seems to be what the CRC has always been but is also different because it is rooted in today's very different reality.

This said, we want to mention a few points:

- We reiterate "The CRC is us". It must be a "facilitator". We should not expect it to do for us what we must take responsibility for. Much of the orientation it will take relies on the kind of leadership in the CRC.
- We see the importance of involving people in our reflection without giving them our structure. Who do we invite to the table when we talk about being prophetic? These voices should help us to understand our complex world and discern how to respond. They might not be those who think like us, be religious or believers.
- The religious are complementary to the hierarchy of the Church and what we bring is sometimes different and can be prophetic.
- Together we are more positive, wiser, we feel bolder and on stable ground (French 'assurance').

Group 2

Like the other meetings, consensus was fairly easy because in the end, the facilitators had done a tremendous amount of work to help us arrive at these consensuses. The synthesis of priorities was very well done. At the beginning, we weren't sure if we could find the "boldness". Funnily enough, we found it with every idea that was retained.

What was retained

- 1) This discernment process that was grounded and soaked in prayer and the Spirit is a process to remember for the CRC. The proof: 200 people were able to hold the same priorities and gave life, energy and future to the CRC. The Spirit was truly at work. This process is the boldness of the Apostles, so well expressed in the text of the Word of God given for this meeting. (Acts) This process, in itself, was bold and courageous and let us congratulate the CRC for believing in it.
- 2) The second priority leaves room for everyone to find their way. The reading of the signs of the times allows this flexibility to each one to go at his or her own pace. We must be bold to name realities that show our vulnerabilities. Our vulnerabilities are touchstones to better advance in and with the Spirit. We have a heritage of hope to bequeath, a rich heritage of "living

together". To bequeath a heritage and to name that we are in an era of legacies, and less of great projects, is the audacity of our founders.

3) Priority # 3 has found an open discussion. It is the most difficult to achieve and so important for the CRC and for all of us because it finds all its relevance in the audacity of naming concerns where we do not necessarily find consensus, but that we must have the courage not only to name but to denounce and to take concrete actions to be that prophetic voice.

Thank you for the colossal work in gathering all our ideas.

Group 3

We quietly and joyfully confirm the 3 priorities presented.

In our exchange, we emphasized certain elements that are already present but where we feel that Christ is calling us to "more", where the Spirit is pushing us to "more". In this, we recognize a growing holy audacity! These elements are: the invitation to extend the conversation to others, to the other who is different, in an inclusive way, in truth and without becoming weary; and to allow ourselves to be reached in our vulnerability - that which disturbs and disturbs us - to dare to live it. This is only possible in Christ.

From there, we will be able to see and discern what is being born, and share it, knowing that everything is linked, that we are interdependent. This is a call for us, members of the CRC, in this land of Canada to give it to the world.

Group 4

As a group we can confirm all three priorities for the CRC.

We provide these additional three points:

- 1) The MINDMAP provides the context in which we need to consider the three priorities.
- 2) The experience of ENCOUNTER leads to BOLDNESS as reflected in Acts 4 and to which we are called as religious and as the CRC.
- 3) Choosing to be COLLABORATIVE and to ACT TOGETHER to be a PROPHETIC VOICE to a world that is experiencing a seismic shift requires ongoing dependence on the HOLY SPIRIT to DISCERN what is happening around us and to be willing to face discomfort and uncertainty to help bring about life for the world.

Group 5

Overall, we have consensus that the 3 priorities are very good, however we would like to see #3 expanded to helping and encourage new possibilities as living out the priorities with boldness. We need to look at the woundedness, loneliness and broken-hearted among our Congregations. We appreciated the process and are grateful for the intercongregational process. the idea of putting in "fresh love with mature love". However, how do we bring new life to these priorities with fresh eyes - new life with new meaning. We have to be the prophetic voice for consecrated life and make statements for religious. Also, the richness of the small group Session #4 needs to continue to be explored and together we can be involved in something for the common good.

Group 6

We offer that to be "A" prophetic voice as the priority and the other two as ways in which the CRC can amplify our prophetic voices.

What is the prophecy to which we are being called? We suggest the following:

The need for increased awareness of the seismic shift emerging in theological foundations today with attention to cosmology, creation theology/spirituality, integral ecology, and deep incarnation; the need to truly embrace the voices and the leadership of women in our church; the need to grow in a real understanding of vulnerability and solidarity.

The call to be prophetic is radically different in a post pandemic reality (the signs of the times) and that will guide us in who we invite into the spaces of encounter (often the most surprising and unexpected partners).

Group 7

Our group strongly affirms and supports the three priorities which have surfaced from the work undertaken since January. They are consistent with the fruit of our ongoing prayer and discussion. Interrelated to one another they provide a roadmap for CRC going forward.

The process undertaken has been one which has facilitated trust among us, a sense of belonging to CRC and an awareness of the potential among Canadian religious.

Group 8

Yes, our group does agree.

We had quite a conversation about Priority #3

We spoke about the prophetic being a way of living that has many expressions and so the phrase Consecrated Life being a prophetic presence in the world felt richer even than called to be the prophetic voice of religious life. We expressed that we are ready for the apostolic energy

of holy boldness. We are more than a group of individuals working for a good cause. Our presence is a communal presence.

ARE THERE MORE DETAILS WE CAN ADD?

Our group felt a need to reach toward the future more now. We are ready to launch together and used language such as, "What are grounded possibilities for us as a group? How might "appreciative inquiry" help us? What might the "adjacent possible" be for us as a collective that expresses our holy boldness? The example of our investments was one concrete example offered along with the questions we raise.

We want to explore what newer shape of what religious life might look like.

Group 9

1. Can the group confirm the 3 priorities for CRC? Unanimously, yes.
2. Are there details we want to share to help the CRC with the priorities?
Oneness. Boldness. Prophetic.
 - How much responsibility can we undertake as congregations in our areas? We need help at the grass roots level. What kind of structures can be created for us to be involved?
 - Be a bold prophetic voice for integral ecology.
 - Provide space and time for us to be "shaken" into "one".
 - The CRC staff to give leadership in carrying out these priorities and then we can exercise good followership with collaboration.
 - CRC to call the members in our areas to speak together in oneness on important issues.

Group 10

We confirm/affirm the 3 priorities that have emerged from the process over these last months. They provide a framework for forward movement and can be fleshed out regionally/nationally and/or both. The priorities take into account the reality of religious life in a Canadian context.

Another way of saying this... On the Emmaus walk of religious life in Canada, the priorities offer signposts along the road of how to be together on the walk; what we are to talk about; who we are to engage as we walk along; why we are on the road - that is, to be there (boldly and courageously) for the earth on which we walk and for all her struggling inhabitants on the road.

One suggestion named for Priority #3 - Use the model of SHARE to engage CRC on the pressing issues in religious life and in the country.

Group 11

The dream of the CRC: a place to meet around the Table, to listen, discern and act together in what will be born and be the voice of the voiceless.

Group 12

1. The Word of God: the sap of our reflections, our compass at the heart of all our discernments. Importance of updating it. "All with one heart... Acts: vision for the CRC
2. Preamble: We are the CRC! This expression is strong and makes us part of this organization. It invites us to bear witness to who we are. At the end of the sentence that starts with "Remain...", the phrase "in a spirit of collegiality" should be added
3. Priorities: Confirmation of the three. In the 3rd priority, a sub-theme should be added: 'To be the voice of the voiceless' 'To be a voice on social, ecclesial and ecological issues'.

Acknowledgement: We greatly appreciated the discernment process applied in the exemplary and effective work of your animation team. A process to be remembered at all levels of the CRC. THANK YOU!

Group 13

We wholeheartedly endorse the three priorities that have been identified for "the CRC that we are". We hear the voice of those brothers and sisters with whom we have been walking, praying and discerning for months. We recognize and feel the action and the fruits of the Spirit, the only one who can still and always lead us to the side of life, hope and holy audacity.

The road to Emmaus is an extraordinary place of encounter, of resurrection and of surprises. It must continue to guide and teach us, both as CRC and in each of our community settings. It is this same path of re-reading that we must patiently take (like Jesus) with each of our sisters and brothers by going to meet them, listen to them and accompany them in their vulnerability and their own history. It is there - and it will always be there - that Christ will meet us, help us to give meaning to what does not seem to have any, and launch us on the side of what is life-giving.

We are called to walk the road ahead together, religious men and women, but not alone: with others, with "the real world". And it will no longer be through immense works managed by us, but through a million small gestures of encounter, of listening, of compassion and of solidarity: these gestures of the Gospel alone are capable of bringing about the Kingdom.

Group 14

We recognize that these three priorities accurately reflect our discussions as well as the discernment that CRC members have made over the past several months. We gladly endorse them.

In relation to these priorities,

1. We want the spaces for reflection and exchange to

- address current issues in society
- serve to name/explore what we, consecrated persons, have to say to society on current issues

2. we ask the following questions:

- Under what conditions are we prophetic?
- How can we be prophetic?

We greatly appreciated Alain Ambeault's report and thank him for this valuable document.

Group 15

We are not afraid to say that the convergence between the identified priorities and our own is... total!

The choice of the basic text (Acts of the Apostles) could not have been better adapted to what we are experiencing. This excerpt inspired our first round of discussions and confirmed the accuracy of the three priorities chosen for a living CRC adapted to the current reality.

Group 16

- We confirm the 3 priorities in which we recognize ourselves.
- The Executive and the staff of the CRC office have the roadmap to implement these priorities with the collaboration of the religious congregations.
- We wish to keep in mind "that the encounter with Christ is in the depths of our vulnerabilities".

Group 17

The Acts of the Apostles (Acts 4) reminds us that "with great power the Apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus... Not one of them was destitute..." Like them, we recognize in the witness of religious life in Canada a presence of the Holy Spirit. The consistency of the CRC's 2021 discernment process is a manifestation of his presence.

We are therefore at peace with the choice of the three named priorities. Better still, we are in joy, because in our vulnerabilities, the fact of pooling our resources is already a sign of the Kingdom. The sign will be all the stronger if we share our resources with the poorest.

To quote a well-known actor of our modern culture, Charlie Brown: "One day we're all going to die Snoopy. "And Snoopy replied, "Yes, but every other day we will live! ".

Group 18

Word:

- The elders and scribes were surprised, ...so are we by the convergence of priorities
- The assurance of the apostles with which they testified...
- The unifying work that the Spirit was doing...

We have entered into this process and we are witnesses of the strength with which the Spirit works. Together, we trust in this push of the Spirit.

Appreciation for the tremendous work of the leadership team. ...The openness to the collaboration of young lay people.

The approach is clear; we feel that the synthesis is honest and we are surprised by the great convergence. We see by these priorities that the process has been lived together. We seem to be moving from an attitude of "surviving on our own", to working together, to collaboration, to more daring. The priorities selected give a clear mandate to the management team. However, we also see the importance of "continuous formation", resourcing, ... for example, the deepening of the new encyclicals, the great problems around immigration, etc.

The importance of helping each other to see what is being born. We see the CRC as the place where we can bring our questions and that there will be an assured reception. Also, new questions could open new paths.

Group 19

1. We see these priorities as blessing, are enthusiastic about living them and are happily open to what is emerging in CRC. They represent the fruit of our work in small group and we want to live them with boldness so that we can go out to others and bring the Good News.
2. Suggested additions to the priorities:

For priority #1, we suggest adding at the end, "always guided by the Spirit."

For priority #3, we suggest adding from the mind map, the elements listed under BE PROPHETIC, 'Witnesses of Christ's presence among us Bearers of hope, especially at peripheries'

Our rationale for these suggestions is that we, CRC, must remain grounded in God's call, be Christ's presence in our world, listen to the Spirit, and go out toward others in boldness. Being prophetic requires an encounter with God and inspiration from the Holy Spirit. These give soul to the prophetic mission.

We suggest that the objective, "To be the presence of Christ in our world" be a prelude to the priorities.

3. We would like to see a reference to contemplative listening in the priorities.

Group 20

We confirm the three priorities.

We would like the emphasis to be on the prophetic stance and the signs of the times with a deeper focus on issues coming out of the pandemic.

We affirm the priorities as a call to be radical coming from a deep spiritual connection.

Group 21

We can certainly support the 3 Priorities identified from all the input. We especially believe in on-going encounters, networking and collaboration among us as well as with various other groupings outside of Church.

We hope that CRC will continue to be the prophetic voice of consecrated life across Canada and will network with other conferences throughout the world.

We hope that CRC and Religious Congregations will urge and encourage other peoples to be prophetic.

We recognize that actions and living out of these priorities are identified in short form Gathered by Themes (4 pages) as well as in Priorities (11 pages).

We would suggest that there could be gatherings (in person/internet) around themes of interest.

We believe that the process used thus far has accomplished its end. We hope that there could be other processes sought to further the living out of the possibilities.

Group 22

We congratulate the staff of the CRC for your excellent job of capturing the priorities that were expressed.

We identified with the scripture passage (Acts 4:13-35) : "They spoke with one voice;"; "No one claimed private ownership..." We celebrate that the concepts named were common, not having any particular charism or agenda dominating. We have achieved a powerful, collective voice with which to move forward.

Details to flesh out:

1. It is going to be important that the CRC has sufficient staff, paid just wages, and required funding to bring to birth these priorities.
2. Since most of the membership of the CRC are WOMEN, can the importance of recognizing this important role in the Church be addressed?

Under "networking" we suggest 2 prongs:

- a) First among Religious;
- b) Expanding to include clergy, so that we come to a sense collaboration and support for each other, since we have the common love to Christ which impels us to share the Gospel.
We would encourage seminarians to have regular encounters with women, as teachers, spiritual directors, collaborators so that the next generation of priests learn a different model of Church.

Group 23

1) We confirm these priorities because we find at the heart of them the importance of relationship, the vulnerability in our witness, our hope in our reality as messengers of the Gospel

2) We believe this to be an effort in collaboration with all the people in our circles of engagement.

3) We are emboldened by the Spirit present among us and all around us in our daily encounters and this gives us hope.

Group 25

As we affirm the priorities, we encourage a structure that will engage all of us because CRC is us!

(Group 26 did not submit a report)

Group 27

1. The whole group is in thanksgiving for the space of meeting and communion that the preparation for the general assembly has allowed us to live. Thanks to this experience, we can say: We are the CRC.

2. Two biblical texts were particularly inspiring for us.

The Emmaus story gives meaning to our journey together. We are on a journey with Jesus. And after the General Assembly, we will continue our journey together in the Spirit.

The Acts of the Apostles calls us to share our experiences, our values, our vision for the future.

3. We confirm the three priorities and have put particular emphasis on each of them.

A) Space, meeting, collaboration, networking....

The experience has already begun through the CRC process since January. This priority will become a strength that will allow the other two priorities to be put into action

B) ...Listen to the signs of the times...

Listening to the needs, being a collective voice, giving ourselves common projects.

E.g.: The suffering related to the pandemic... the cries of the world

C)Prophetic voice...

Can we say like Peter and John "we cannot be silent about what we have seen and heard".

Denounce, Propose, Announce

Group 28

We agree with the priorities and in the order established.

The 1st priority To offer a space for meeting... seems to us a whole program, encompasses a lot and is perhaps the most important for the next two years.

The 2nd priority To allow members to listen to the Signs of the Times... is also important for a reflection on the essentials of religious life. Community life in terms of "quality time" and

interpersonal relationships, silence and sleep are often disrupted by the use of cell phones, the internet, social networks among both young and old. How to save a balance? We must also learn to name the new contexts, the impact on our daily life, to name and welcome the new without comparing it to the good old days. Could the CRC help in this sense?

Common projects... Apostolic common projects already exist; common projects for the elderly could be developed.

The 3rd priority To carry the prophetic voice of consecrated life... This has always been the strong point of the CRC and should continue for a greater visibility of religious life in Canada. How to be prophetic in our age? We should insist on BEING and not DOING.

Group 29

Biblical references :

The text of the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 4, 13 ff) and the story of the healing of the blind man Bartimaeus have inspired our entire journey since January 2021.

Today, we "see" the fruits of our journey!

And the prayer this morning, May 27, inspiring and much appreciated.

The preamble of the priorities is energizing and inspiring.

All the members of the group agree with the 3 priorities,

They arouse in us peace, joy and thanksgiving.

We recognize ourselves in them and we feel connected to them.

Since January 2021, we have been living an experience of deep faith and discernment in order to see and act together.

We feel a momentum in the priorities, even "a holy audacity"!

We believe that the convergence experienced in our group and in the journey of all the members of the CRC is a sign of the presence of the Spirit. He accompanies us, He is at work!

We could compare the CRC to a symphony where different musical instruments are used to create harmony. The diversity of our charisms reveals the richness of consecrated life.

The process has allowed us to live in greater solidarity with the members of the CRC.

Like the first believers following the testimonies of the apostles Peter and John, a deep communion inhabits us:

One heart! One heart! One soul!

Group 30

There is a lot of consistency in priorities. The CRC allows us to witness to who we are. The biblical text tells us that for the apostles it was impossible to remain silent... and that they witnessed with one heart... We discern in it a call to advance together in this path of "following Christ" and of giving witness to the Resurrection.

A growing "holy boldness" is a new expression that means for us to dare to go forward, to leave our comfort zone. This expression is demanding for us because we no longer feel the dynamism of our 20 years and we must assume our vulnerability. We ask to continue to present conferences or training on Zoom or other means of communication. We remain in an attitude of discernment to what is being born at this historical moment of the profound transformation of consecrated life in Canada.

Group 31

We confirm that the three priorities reflect the CRC. They are the strength of the CRC, and we are the CRC that can only have an impact on the major issues of our society if we are united in our diversity, and in communion and collaboration.

It is an abundant grace of the Holy Spirit that has brought us to such agreement.

The phrase from the Word of God that challenges us today is: "having one heart and one soul". We see in this our strength to be together as CRC.

It is the third priority that gives us a new impetus, but we find that the other two are necessary so that the prophetic voice of consecrated life can boldly be the voice of the voiceless. Our witness bears fruit only if we are the presence of Christ in our environment.

Group 32

We recognize and wish that the CRC continues to be a space for meeting, networking, collaboration and discernment. Through the meetings, we experience the strength of communion so that the CRC becomes the prophetic VOICE of Religious Life in Canada.

More and more we can say in solidarity that "WE are the CRC". It is more real and more alive.

In addition to allowing members to listen to the signs of the times, let the CRC increasingly take a leadership role in discerning what is being born.

Group 33

We fully recognize ourselves in the 3 priorities presented. We have a joy in seeing the unification that is taking place in the mission of the CRC through the emergence of these priorities. The Word spoke of assurance: these priorities give clear guidelines, which gives assurance. An image emerged: the CRC is the pooling of the different Words of God that are the charisms of

the different communities which, put together, make a page of the Gospel. The priorities are a way to embody the "one heart and one soul".

We are pleased that the idea of vulnerability has been retained because it is part of a reality that should not be hidden. It is beautiful to note that this has not prevented us from naming the ideal that we wish to pursue. Two elements to keep in balance: reality/vulnerability and ideal.

We experienced a real moment of spiritual joy as we highlighted how far we have come since January. We recognize that we have lived the Word: forming one heart and one soul, putting everything in common (our ideas), experiencing that abundant grace rests on us. We enjoy the joy of being together again, because that is also what the CRC is all about: making communion possible by getting to know each other, by forging personal links.

In closing, we wanted to express that, regarding the promotion of common projects, we are in agreement, but some reservations were expressed in order to avoid adding constraints to the already present loads.

Group 34

"As for us, it is impossible for us to remain silent about what we have seen and heard".

Starting from God's call to religious life discerned along our journey and the priorities identified we feel confirmed in our experience lived in small groups and in plenary. We experienced a place for our different charisms

- In the 1st priority we feel confirmed by the expressions: meeting, together, discernment
- The 2nd priority seems to us to be of great importance: listening, the Signs of the Times, seeing what is being born, etc.
- The 3rd priority is for us of capital importance and we would like to add some words to enrich it:

The CRC must be the voice of the voiceless but also an important voice regarding the current issues of society, of the Church.

The very existence of consecrated life is in itself prophetic

The CRC must be a path

Group 35

The biblical text shows the importance of listening to the Other and to others and of sharing in order to act with strength together.

The Spirit was truly at work.

1- The group recognizes the coherence between the priorities and the reflections made by the groups since the beginning.

2- The sub-themes appear to us as means of action and are important.

To priority 3: As a sub-theme, we propose

To continue writing to denounce injustices and support social causes, which cannot be done individually.

3- The three priorities are in line with the mindmap.

Group 36

*We agree with the three priorities: they reflect the whole approach and we recognize ourselves in them. We feel very good about it and it gives us hope. One question remains: How will this be done? We see it as a call to how we are going to get involved.

*We are the CRC". As a result of our journey, we feel much more deeply that we are part of the CRC. It is no longer an entity outside of us. It calls us to invest ourselves as a member of this body. This space of encounter is good for us. The solidarity that we have experienced is to be continued.

*The third objective on the prophetic voice could be more developed. We have not talked much about the aspect of discernment, for example. The Spirit calls us to go further, to be converted.