

Message from Cecile Paquette – English Canadian Region

The 2009 Forum was an experience of life: life for the congregation, for the regions, and for each one of us. It was an explosion of energy, zeal and hope. There was no doubt that the Spirit hovered over the group, a source of wisdom, truth and inspiration. There are many things that I could reflect on: the facilitators, the presentations, group work, mingling with everyone from around the world... I know the forum is a challenge for me and for the congregation. To dare to risk, to go forward in the unknown, living our identity in the work of resurrection that we are called to, in the diversity of who we are, fulfilling together what we cannot do alone. Basile Moreau's vision and hope for Holy Cross was vibrant and present throughout the week as it was expressed through each one present.

There was one highlight for me which came totally unexpectedly. The acknowledgment that the sisters from Peru gave me at the end of Saturday was beyond me. It was obvious that my life and my presence at the forum touched something deep within them for them to recognize me the way they did. I know it reached deep within my heart and my soul. I live my life as fully as I can within my limitations, yet I challenge myself or rather the Spirit challenges me and calls me forth in ways I would not necessarily choose myself.

When everyone stood, I was again overwhelmed, for I live my life simply as I am called to do. It did not seem and does not seem extraordinary to me, because I try to live my life totally in the hands of Someone greater than me. I try to live in trust, hope and audacity knowing that I can only do and be what the Spirit of life in the Universe calls me to and sustains me in, on a daily basis. I also know that without the help I receive from those around me, especially Annette, I would not be able to be where I am and do what I do. I experience, an inter-dependency in many ways, because I cannot do it alone. It is truly the spirit of Holy Cross, its charism, the work of resurrection to which we are all called together.

My gratitude and deep affection, I wish to express especially to the Peruvian sisters who recognized me in such a gentle and loving way. I do remember them and hold them deeply in my heart and prayer. I wish to thank the Congregation as well for the opportunity to live my life as I have been called. All this to say, a simple thank you, from the bottom of my heart.



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