



*With one heart  
and one passion,  
let us put our hand  
to the work of resurrection...*

**Ermitage, Pierrefonds July 15, 2011**

After a day's break from the Chapter activities, during the morning prayer we received a message from our Sisters in Edmonton assuring us of their "presence" and their prayers:

*"Sacred Breath of the Universe, stir in us the desire for a New Cosmic Consciousness,  
source of mutual relationships with all Creation."*



Coming from all parts of the Congregation, these messages fill us with the certitude that the strength of the Spirit is at work among us and are a proof of our unity *concretizing our "one heart, one passion"*.

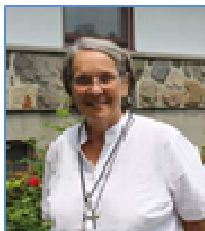
During the morning prayer, respect for the planet is the major theme. We, the Capitulars, reiterate our adherence to the **Declaration on Climate Change** already accepted by the four General Councils at a previous meeting.

The day was spent in reflection and in the work groups to finalize the Chapter Orientation and the Recommendations.

**Saturday, July 16, 2011**

This morning we enter into another phase of the Chapter, the discernment process for the election of our Congregational Leadership Team for the next six years.

In prayer, we are invited to return to Jacob's well, to the Source of peace and freedom of heart, indispensable attitudes for a significant discernment.



Aurore Larkin, sgm

Sister Aurore Larkin, SGM, invited us to be conscious of the fact that though Holy Cross women would be elected to leadership positions, it is the entire Congregation that is called to contribute and to collaborate in the service of leadership. *In your desire to have a participative leadership, you are choosing an open leadership, inclusive and respectful of persons.* Therefore, each member of the Congregation has a role to play.

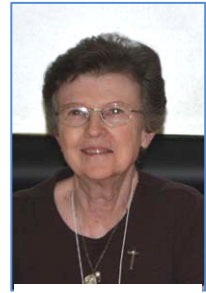
To initiate our discernment, Sister Yvette Bellerose, SSA, led us into a meditation based on Wisdom, inspired by the Book of Proverbs 8:2 *...at the crossroads, Wisdom takes her stand.* We are sharing with you this text which has deeply moved us.

## *A Reflection on Wisdom*

*Proverbs 8:2 "... At the crossroads, wisdom takes her stand..."*

Personal and communal discernments are crossroads. It is at this place named discernment that reflections, ideas, and experiences encounter one another. It is at this place that we are called to decide together the road we are to take.

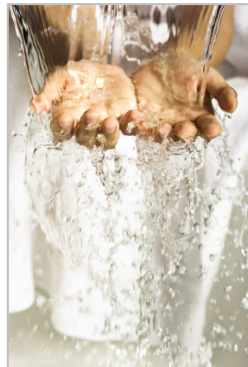
Wisdom awaits us at the crossroads. What does she look like? We know her by experience. Wisdom resides in the heart of this group of discerners ~ in individual hearts and in the heart of the assembly gathered here. We heard her. We saw her. We felt her presence in exchanges with one another, in our small groups, and in plenary sessions. Wisdom inspires trust as she expresses herself gently, simply, tenderly, and with goodness.



Yvette Bellerose

Wisdom is the meeting place between logic and affect; between reason and emotions; between the head and the heart. Wisdom balances intellect and feelings. Wisdom walks the tightrope that we can experience in discerning leaders for today and for tomorrow. Did you ever see a circus performer walk across a tightrope? The person takes a few steps and we hold our breath ~ will he/she make it to the other end? The rope needs a bit of slack; some give to it. And, the person often holds an umbrella or a long pole, a leveling device that facilitates balance.

When we are discerning accept a position of leadership, we tightrope. We may find ourselves light and darkness; energy and fatigue; confusion ... in other words, we may movements of consolation and walking the tightrope. Wisdom is the us, that allows us to trust our own be well.



leaders, or, when we are discerning to can sometimes feel as if we are on a stepping between peace and anxiety; serenity and turmoil; harmony and feel what Ignatian Spirituality calls desolation, or what I am calling umbrella or the long pole that steadies footing; that reminds us that all will

Understanding the common good, seeking truth, focusing on justice ~ these are concerns of wisdom. She knows them in her heart. She nurtures them in the core of her being. Wisdom also wraps her arms around beauty, around creativity, around balance, around harmony, around unity, and around fullness of life. And, wisdom sees far. Wisdom walks toward the *horizon* invoked by Fr. Simon Pedro earlier in this Chapter.

The crossroads we are at today will reveal choices we have for elections ~ who will be the best Sisters to lead us at this time? To whom will we say ~ "Come?" Whose name shall we call out, so that she can say: "Here I am."

Wisdom will be our Guide, our Counselor, and our stabilizer. Wisdom will lead us to call forth the leaders needed for these our times. Wisdom will empower us – the sisters we nominate and the sisters we elect - *to recognize, to contemplate, and to honor* that they are the leaders needed for these our times. We seek out Wisdom in elections. We trust Wisdom in elections. We can be sure that Wisdom will allow herself to be found. In fact, she will find us ~ at the crossroads or on the tightrope.

**Remember to visit the Holy Cross website!**