

## Reflection on Compassion

The first word that came into my mind on reading the invitation from the CLT was “**Compassion**”.

From the Congregational Conversation, Chapter 2010, a Statement of Purpose emerged:

In a world dominated by the abuse of power and wealth we, the Daughters of Mary and Joseph, are called to be women immersed in the compassionate love of God.

The transformative power of God’s compassion forges in us a new consciousness, propelling us to claim a prophetic stance:

- by living in deep communion with each other
- in becoming catalysts for the empowerment of those disempowered within our society
- in caring for our endangered planet”



This was accompanied by a beautiful illustration of a circle of our world, with water pouring into a jar, and then pouring out at the bottom of the jar in an ever abundant stream. The word “DMJs – Let God’s Compassion Flow” Encircled the jar.

We saw our purpose in the English Region in the following statement:

As women of hope and integrity our purpose is to deepen our relationship with Christ in prayer and contemplation, so that we may respond with compassion to the spiritual needs and fragmentation of our society in England today. We reach out especially to those “to whom society says ‘there is no place for you here’”.

Compassion is so much more relevant in our world today, with all its suffering, loneliness, fear, inhumanity and injustice. For months my prayer/reflection includes so many general and specific needs as world events unfold. Each one is my brother and sister (our medal) and I am continually being invited, called, compelled to “hold each one in my heart” and prayer.

The Spirit of the Congregation at the beginning of our Constitutions has taken on a new meaning and become more alive, as it reminds me that I (we) am called to reflect the merciful love of God and to live with an unlimited love of Christ, the Church and all my brothers and sisters.

In Scripture: Matthew 5:7 and 48; Mark 10:43-45; Philippians 2:5; John 15:12; Matthew 10:25a; 1 Peter 3:8

Constitution 10: I am consecrated to a life of prayer to be a sign of hope in the world today

Constitution 29: my call to be an instrument of the merciful love of God

Constitution 34: to share with Christ in His mission of incarnating the merciful love of God in the world

Constitution 39: reflecting the love of God through our mercy, patience and tenderness

Constitution 42: to be living signs of the love and mercy of God in the world

All of these are a constant challenge. I do not have far to look. The reality is there on my doorstep, my parish, my area of ministry. I am called to be there, with and for, giving, receiving, sharing the love, light and life of Christ.

Prayer has become even more a necessity and privilege, especially as I become more limited physically. But there is still plenty of life, commitment and Enthusiasm in me!

Deirdre Slade (English Region)