

Living into “Sacred is the Call”

‘Living Simply in the Spirit of Gospel Values’

Opening the space for conversation, the words of Elizabeth Johnson CSJ in *The Quest for the Living God* speak to our work:

“... the profound incomprehensibility of God coupled with the hunger of the human heart in changing historical cultures actually *requires* that there be an ongoing history of the quest for the living God that can never be concluded. Historically new attempts at articulation are to be expected and even welcomed.”

The *Agrégée* commitment is a covenant relationship with mission lived in the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. It is a way of living the charism of unifying love, gift of the Spirit for the sake of the church and the world, and embracing the mission, love of God and the dear neighbor without distinction. The essence of *Agrégée* is a graced and free attachment – to the mission, to the congregation, and to each other

(From *Sacred is the Call*, adapted 2020)

The *Agrégée* commitment, *living simply in the spirit of Gospel values*, adheres to a directive of the 2019 CSJ Congregational Acts of Chapter. It is discerned through the lens of Pope Francis’ encyclical letter, *Laudato Si’*, to ground our movement as we strive for “the more”.

There are three principles that ground and guide us as we live and grow into living simply within the spirit of Gospel values:

- I. Living simply is a spiritual act ... a spiritual way of being
Our core values are informed by the spirit of the Gospel values:
 - Humility: for the human to know our place in creation
 - Gratitude: what needs to be expressed
 - Inclusion: all are welcome who are drawn to the charism

- Healing: avoiding waste, preserving nature, doing justice, repairing the world, attending to personal wellness
- Community: (Koinonia) we help one another stay on the path
- Rest and Renewal: God’s idea for our well-being; individual and communal prayer practice, and our annual retreat

II. Living simply is experiential ... a lifelong call animated by love and informed by Laudato Si’:

Be-Attitudes for Our Common Home (as articulated by Lin Neil, CSJ)

- Happy are those who know they are one with the Earth Community
- Happy are those who work for the common good
- Happy are those whose hearts hear the cry of Earth and the cry of the poor
- Happy are those who are open to lifestyle changes for the sake of Earth and her poor
- Happy are those willing to engage in ecological conversion
- Happy are those who embrace Sabbath time, who see God in all things
- Consider yourself to be the 7th Be-Attitude – a blessing for all

III. Living simply is a relationship ... relationship is the threshold and pathway to living “Sacred is the Call”:

- Live in communion: in relationship in communities of families, CSJ Community, Earth, and dear neighbor
- Remember: commitment and intention to be faithful witnesses honor authentically the CSJs who have passed before us
- Animate: in our practices, how do we become united to love?

<<*>>