

Mark Zirnsak

From: Gail [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 13 August 2020 4:41 PM
To: Mark Zirnsak
Subject: Climate Consultation
Attachments: Soul.docx

Hi Mark,

Thank you and your team for putting together such a comprehensive document for reflection and discussion. The Consultation Paper has been a most challenging read and creative opportunity to engage in the many, many issues raised of such critical importance in today's world.

I have been part of MUC's Social Justice group re this consultation and also took part in the zoom event held for MUC and wider community.

I would like to offer an additional personal contribution to the Consultation findings. I believe responses are being received until the end of August.

An area that is of deep significance for me [and no doubt for countless others] is that which captures a heart/soul response in a mystical relationship with the natural world.

The climate situation *does have emergency status* because :

“What does it profit a man if he should gain the whole world but lose his *soul*?”

I am struggling to express the inexpressible. I believe the role of the Synod in addressing climate change must include the deepest and most personal response that lies in the hearts and minds of people, along with the plethora of information regarding scientific, technological, economic, political, social, spiritual findings etc. Climate facts and 'soul responses' are intertwined yet I fear the facts may take precedence or even obliterate unwittingly, that which lies deepest in giving voice to our concerns and responses.

Of course the existential threat the world faces must address the crisis with the best leaders at the helm yet those very leaders will hopefully hear the prophetic and heart-felt voices of their people.

I believe Synod could have an intentional, powerful and inspiring role in facilitating a cultivation and “expression of the heart” as we face the immense challenges before us. Ultimately such expressions will hopefully underpin and drive the integrity of the “iron-clad” facts that will flow in, to shape Synod's action.

I offer the poem attached.

Every good wish,
Gail.

Soul -

Elusive and mysterious -
sister of awe, mother of wonder.

Deep calling to deep -
haunting, hungering, homeless.

You wander across the years
searching our restless hearts -
yearning to abide within,
a new vision to impart.

Soul -

Solitude and silence -
twin pathways to your home.

Inspire us to walk the world
gently, reverently, humbly.

Bedrock of life,
stillness through time -
calmness in our mounting strife,
truth in our error.

Soul -

Urgency is everything
as life hangs in the balance,
fragile as a spider's web
all fraught with poison chalice.
Hold us in the tendrils
of your ever-gracious care
that we might enfold with gladness
a shared one-ness offered there.

Soul –

Ground of our gratitude,
source of our joy.

Our primal roots

lie bare before your whispering plea –

“listen, watch and wait -

the hour is late,

the day is almost spent.

Beg your complacency, abate.”

Soul –

Phosphorescent friend,

light in our threatening darkness,

illuminate the recesses,

the shadows of our lives -

that we befriend with courage

and discover yet anew

how justice, peace and freedom

are strong strands of hope in you.

Gail Pritchard