RECONCILIATION

A Four-Part Webinar Series on the Mission and Ministry of Reconciliation

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Introductions

A Service of the United States Catholic Mission Association

Sr. Suzanne Giblin, CSJ

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THE LONG JOURNEY

Two followers of Jesus were fleeing Jerusalem and going to Emmaus. On their journey they shared their fear, hopelessness and confusion about the death of Jesus.
Jesus joined them on the long walk, listening, asking questions, and offering insights.
When they reached their destination, Jesus acted as if he were going on. The travelers said, “Stay with us.” And he did.
They continued their conversation at table and recognized Jesus as they broke bread together. Suddenly Jesus vanished.
What just happened?
Where did he go?
??????
Then, they remembered what he had said to them.
And they knew something new and good had happened within them because this stranger had accompanied them.
They ran to tell the others...
...Who shared similar stories of New Life!
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ELEMENTS OF THE JOURNEY

• Victim tells the story.
• Telling and retelling the story may lead to healing.
• Healing allows:
  • a change of heart,
  • seeing with a new perspective,
  • the possibility to forgive (not forget) and, with God’s grace, to reconcile.
THE VICTIM NEEDS…

• To tell (and retell) the story,
• To be listened to and heard,
• To experience safety and trust,
• To make sense of and give meaning to the event,
• To begin to see the event from God’s perspective.
THE ACCOMPANIER NEEDS...

• To listen non-judgmentally,
• To listen with patience,
• To hold the story as a sacred confidence,
• To ask questions that invite the victim to go deeper into the story, naming and exploring the feelings of the victim,
• To keep the focus on the victim, not the perpetrator.
IN RECONCILIATION
THE EXPERIENCE OF ACCOMPANIMENT
IS TRANSFORMATIVE
FOR BOTH THE VICTIM
AND THE ACCOMPANIER.
Accompaniment, forgiveness and reconciliation are all God’s work.

Reconciliation is always a journey.

Accompaniment is a process by which God’s presence is realized on the journey toward reconciliation.

God’s Spirit empowers both the reconciler and the reconciled to continue the ministry of reconciliation.
Invest in reconciliation

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