

BAPTISTINE PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Bulletin

January 2018

THEME: GREENING THE VOWS by MARGARET SCOTT

Section 2: Chastity and Celibacy: “Broken Hearts that Contain the World

Scripture: “For it is in Christ that the complete being of the God head dwells, embodied, and in him you have been brought to completion. Every power and authority in the universe is subject to him. He is the image of the invisible God; his is the primacy over all created things. In Him everything in heaven and on earth was created...For in him the complete being of God, by God’s own choice, came to dwell.” (Colossians 1: 14-19)

Reflection: Margaret Scott tells us in section 2 that Consecrated Chastity is total commitment of the religious affective energy—caring and sharing—to the Creator God who became incarnate in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

Consecrated Chastity unites us to this Christ who loved and respected nature, empowering us to love and care as He did and to see everything and everyone through His eyes. It is in Christ that the richness of creation resides. He is the omega to which all things are lead. He is the embodiment of love that brings renewal to all wounded by sin.

By our vow of chastity we unite ourselves to this Cosmic Christ. Thus, to live the chaste life is to live on the face of the earth but most importantly to live at the spiritual center of the universe where Jesus Christ resides as Lord. It is to reverence the earth and all its peoples lovingly. It is to allow ourselves to “hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor”, with the same compassion as God does.

Lastly, the author invites us also to see Consecrated Chastity as an embodiment of the spirit and of the body. The reverence with which we welcome and integrate the whole of our being (including our sexuality, emotions, feelings and vulnerability), into falling passionately and completely in love with Christ is key to the way we perceive and treat the world.

Then our living of consecrated chastity should affect every fiber of our being, from the way we see ourselves and others, to how we reverence the sacredness of our own embodiment and that of all God’s creatures; what, who and how much we love others, what we eat and drink, how we mourn and celebrate ... in other words it is everything, it is about living and loving as Jesus Christ lived and loved.

Response Options:

- How do you reverence your body? Are there changes you need to make in your lifestyle to respect it more?
- Do you respect nature? What steps can you take to repair breaks in your relationship with creation?
- Pray for and with creation.

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for helping us in the living of our vocation. Give us we pray, the courage to be protectors of your handiwork.