

Summer greetings to each one of you, our dear Becoming Neighbours friends!!

These hot, hot humid days seem to make it almost impossible for us to get a handle on what is happening. It is almost as if we are just surviving, struggling to recognize the reality that we will never return to the “good old days”. Many of us are grappling with an increased awareness of escalating violence on our streets and in our neighbourhoods. We are witnessing an accelerated diminishment in the lives of those we love and who have helped form the fabric of our own lives. It is really hard to begin to accept that the pandemic is not just a momentary “hiccup”. It is an urgent, imperative call to accept that we must be part of a new way of being and doing and this is really scary!



On Tuesday July 21, our Gospel takes us one step further with Jesus proactively pointing to his disciples and saying “*here are my mother, brother and sister! Whoever does the will of my father in heaven*” (Matthew 12). Being privileged to be residents of Canada, we know even more so that my brother, my sister and my mother are the excluded of our world. What we also know in our hearts is that, rooted in the love of Christ, at this moment we are being called to reaffirm that we do not wish to be complicit in systems that are unjust and dehumanizing. Everyday, God presents to us voices and faces tugging at our hearts, asking: “Will you be there for me? Will you bear witness to the living, caring presence of God? With all of the ABUNDANT blessings each one of us and our communities have received, we are being asked to stand with migrants and with our fragile planet with renewed “creative communal caring” (See page one of this Fridge Notes, UISG/USG Letter).

To help us move more fully into this journey of listening and discernment, we are pleased to share with you a “Canadian response to COVID-19”. Over 150 Canadian organizations have endorsed Six Principles to stand for the wellbeing of all people and ecosystems first. In the challenging words of **“Canadian response to COVID-19”** (see page two of this Fridge Notes). *“We can’t go back to business-as-usual after the COVID-19 pandemic”*.



What would happen if, TODAY TOGETHER, we all stood bravely and risked to be the caring face, hands, feet, voice and heart of God in our world, wherever we may be? WHAT IF ...?

During these days of summer, may we risk to stand with all migrants and with our common home.

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