



From the Director

I have been doing quite a bit of reading in recent times about liminality. Richard Rohr has much to offer on this theme. It seems even more relevant at the current moment with the considerable upheaval we are experiencing across the world with covid. In the book 'Oneing' Rohr offers the following reflection. "Over the decades I have seen the need for liminal spaces again and again. Without some sort of guidance and reframing, we don't

necessarily understand the ebb and flow of life, the ascents and descents, and the need to embrace our tears and our letting go as well as our successes and our triumphs. Without standing on the threshold for much longer than we are comfortable, we won't be able to see beyond ourselves to the broader and more inclusive world that lies before us." (page 18)



Many of us go to retreats he says to receive reinforcement for what we already know, protecting ourselves from anything that might challenge our well-barricaded status quo. “Without some humility, vulnerability, and openness, there’s really no reason to take a retreat at all. If we aren’t honest about our reasons for coming and our openness to transformation, we should stay at home”. Rohr’s reflection is quite confronting. It is easy to avoid the places where we are challenged or feel uncomfortable. If I am honest I would have to admit these places are not where I would normally choose to go. My experience has shown these liminal spaces are often the place of growth and transformation. The gift being offered takes us from a place of complacency to what can be a life changing experience.

Brandon Robertson in his article ‘On the threshold of tomorrow’ says that the liminal place, or threshold as he refers to it, is meant to “ be a gift, a space of transition where we can shift our consciousness and be ready to receive the richness of the new reality we are about to behold. A threshold is the moment of liminal space between that which once was and what is to come. When we cling tightly to our past experiences, we fail to recognise what is. Once we have outgrown our version of reality, we see a world that is vastly bigger than we imagined”.

These thresholds can be periods of great discomfort but the gift being offered will soon be revealed to us.

This reminds me of the account in Luke 5: 1-11 where Jesus invited Simon “to put out a little from the shore”. We know Simon was hesitant to do so as he had been fishing all night without much success. He responded favourably to Jesus’ request and the abundance followed; “This they did and caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break” (V6).

To respond, despite our initial reluctance, offers the opportunity for new experiences and transformation to come our way. Rather than remaining with the safe and familiar Jesus invites us to embrace these opportunities for growth. As Jesus said to Simon. “Do not be afraid from now on you will catch people. They brought their boats to land and leaving all they had, followed him.”

We are in challenging times for sure but quite possibly we need to trust in the gifts this time is offering us. The liminal place might just be the space where abundance is waiting to be revealed.

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