



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS CORE VALUE ONE

The Gospel and the Spirituality of the Blood of Christ call us, individually and as a Congregation to witness to a life of conversion and renewal.

Share an experience of conversion/renewal from your own life that impacted your way of being a Precious Blood missionary.

One of the strongest responses to this question was the recognition that personal encounters led to conversion experiences. Many spoke of the experiences they had ministering to those who were on "the margins." For some, these experiences led them to recognize their prejudices or discomfort that needed attention. Participants also discussed the importance of sharing stories. Through this sharing, they realized that there was an interconnectedness, which led them to a deeper awareness and renewed compassion for those they were ministering to. In remembering these stories and discussing their ministries, participants acknowledged the importance of the intentionality of standing with people on the edge. Participants also agreed that the conversion experience was unique to everyone. It did not happen in an instance, nor was it complete at that moment. The importance of recognizing that conversion was an ongoing process was a significant theme of the discussions.

Another central theme of the discussion was recognizing that conversion also called one to be a risk-taker. Many people spoke of the gift of conversion being one of permission to "think outside the box." Conversion called everyone to change and adapt as the world around them changes and adapts.

The group also discussed the conversion experience that occurs within the community. Some spoke of living in a non-Precious Blood community and how it forced them to explain the community to others. Others spoke of the differences they experienced with diocesan clergy as compared with the members of our community. Others recognized the importance of meeting members and companions outside of their community to broaden their perspectives.

Some found the core value difficult because it was hard to split things up. They wrote, "It is difficult to pinpoint moments of conversion because that is linear and binary thinking. We need to move beyond a childlike faith into what it means to mature in faith within a community. There have been changes over the years, but the community is circular and spiraling, not linear. Being a Missionary and our relationship with God cannot be separated.

Identify one concrete implication you believe this Core Value has for the mission of the new province:

- Be flexible and leave our comfort zones
- We are all in this together
- Since the beginning of the Congregation, we have been called to be agents of renewal in the world. There are risks in these actions today
- If we strain the wine, what has to be filtered out?
- In order to renew ourselves, things will have to change
- It will be hard work to define the community's conversion moment, especially with fewer incorporated members.
- It must be a "present" centered ministry as we move forward – what is happening now.
- We need to collaborate with other members of our Precious Blood family
 - Companions
 - Women's communities
 - Others?
- We have to redefine our mission, especially past parish boundaries
- We need to embrace new formats, ways of doing things – this helps build community and create bonds.
 - New ways to teach our Charism
- Need to let younger members bring their ideas into the New Creation.
- Follow through seems to be lacking – Need to allow for time and space for discernment and follow-through
- We need to be open to change and be willing to let go of things as we move forward.
- More ministry than administration
- Acknowledgment and acceptance that we come from different perspectives.
- Evaluate every assignment, ministry, etc. in the community
 - What are we holding on to? Why?
 - What do we need to let go of?
 - Rediscover mission in every assignment – How is Precious Blood spirituality expressing itself in that situation?
- Ministries need to represent a group of people and not just an individual in the community. Need to move toward less of an individualistic view of ministry and more of a team-centered – does not mean that everyone has to do the same thing.
- In the past, our community focused on the individual and their ministry. We have only done individual discernment. The conversion needed is to move beyond individual discernment to authorize a communal discernment in ministry.