



Cultivating Kinship

Compassion. Courage. Contemplation.

*“Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide,
do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.” Isaiah 54:2*

Every day, we establish new connections that broaden the place of our tent. At this particular time, when violence, harm and misuse of power fill the images on our mobile devices and bombard our airways, we as the Society of the Sacred Heart, in response, choose to extend compassion, practice contemplation and act with courage.

Father Greg Boyle, SJ, describes in his book *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* that kinship is “not serving the other, but being one with the other.” He goes on to write that “Jesus was not ‘a man for others’; he was one with them. There is a world of difference in that.”

Informed by our [Chapter Calls](#) and inspired by the International Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) document “[Being Artisans of Hope in our Blessed and Broken World](#),” we, like Jesus, strive to be in kinship with one another and stretch wide the curtains of our tent. We exist to reveal the love of God and, in doing so, share and invite new ways of being – in connection, relationship and prayer.

The United States – Canada Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart takes seriously the desire and responsibility to ‘Cultivate Kinship’ in new and ever-expanding ways. We describe this work as Formation to Mission – taking personal responsibility for shaping our hearts, minds and actions.

With this in mind, we invite you, as members of the Sacred Heart family, to join us in exploring our theme for the next year, **“Cultivating Kinship through Compassion, Courage and Contemplation.”** We encourage you to share and reflect on this theme within your communities and throughout the upcoming year/school year, as well as engage with our reflections on this theme.

Through words, images, sounds and experiences, we will continue to widen our tent, where all are welcome and where the power of the Spirit leads us to choose compassion, to be courageous and to lead contemplative lives embodying our oneness with God and one another.

With love and in kinship,

The Formation to Mission Committee:

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[Click here to access the Cultivating Kinship graphic files.](#) If you have any issues or questions about accessing this folder, contact Erin Everson at eeverson@rscj.org.