Movement of Grace
Mouvement de la Grace
Movimiento de Gracia
It’s a movement in hope
And the story continues.

Hay movimiento d’ esperanza
Y la historia continua.
Personal

Historical

Cosmological
Kosmo-centric
World-centric
Ethno-centric
Ego-centric
What Does Conscious Evolution Have to Do with Religious Life? Everything!

The depth and invitation found in one of Rilke's most compelling writings come to me as I consider why women religious leaders ought to attend to and fully participate in the moment in which we find ourselves: a profound moment of the evolution of consciousness and conscious evolution. Rilke writes:

She who reconciles the ill-matched threads of her life and gratefully weaves them into a single cloth—it's she who drives the loudmouths from the hall and clears it for a different kind of celebration where the One Guest is You. In the softness of evening, it's You she receives. You are the partner of her loneliness, the unspoken center of her monologues. With each disclosure You encompass more and she... she stretches beyond what limits her to hold only You. (1)

We daily find ourselves reconciling many ill-matched threads: cosmological insights, theological disputes, ecclesial tensions, political rifts, increasing obscene wealth and abject poverty, narrowing borders of minds and hearts, challenging religious life issues, and demanding daily practicalities, to name just a few threads. What does all of this mean? How do we gratefully weave a single cloth? Where is God in all of the unfoldings? How much disclosure can we stretch towards? And does our stretching free us for God and for the life of the world?

The clearest response I've found to these ponderings is quite simply this: we are living in a time of unprecedented evolution of consciousness and conscious evolution—that is, we are living in a time of significant choice-making in every aspect of our lives. We are living in a time when humans are capable of choosing to engage in their own evolution. These choices will make all the difference in our personal, communal, congregational, and collective worlds. We need to understand the critical role we have been invited to accept so that our conscious evolution might be our gift to God, religious life, our brothers and sisters near and far, the churches, the nations, the world, and the cosmos. It has been noted that perhaps the very vocation of religious life at this evolutionary time could be witnessing the engagement of the evolution of human consciousness and conscious evolution by a critical mass of human beings. (2) Women religious, in solidarity with one another and partnership with many others who are attentive to these evolutionary times with intention and integrity, contribute to this profound evolutionary event by our very lives and our every choice.

Carol Zinn, SSJ (left): “Women religious, in solidarity with one another and partnership with many others who are attentive to these evolutionary times with intention and integrity, contribute to this profound evolutionary event by our very lives and our every choice.”

Some Definitions

What do these words mean? What is consciousness? What does it mean that consciousness evolves? How are humans able to engage conscious evolution? And what does any of this have to do with women religious leaders and religious congregations? I would offer that it has everything to do with women religious leaders and religious congregations. In fact, as we daily put one foot in front of the other, connect to one another in bonds of global solidarity, keep our eyes fixed on the Gospel and the needs of the people of God and all creation, and place our ears on the heart of God to discern together the “something new” that God is doing in and through us, we are moving through evolutionary time. This movement is evolution in its most clear expression. And we are increasingly aware of the movement and our evolving role in the movement. This is consciousness unfolding and developing—or conscious evolution. This is choice-making at its prime because everything depends on what and how we choose. We know
the MEMES: worldviews and realities

TURQUOISE MEME
An elegantly balanced system of interlocking forces

YELLOW MEME
A chaotic organism forged by differences and change

INDEPENDENCE FOR TIBET

GREEN MEME
A human habitat in which we share life's experiences

ORANGE MEME
A marketplace full of possibilities and opportunities

BLUE MEME
An ordered existence under the control of the ultimate truth

RED MEME
A jungle where the strongest and most cunning survive

PURPLE MEME
A magical place alive with spirit beings and mystical signs

BEIGE MEME
A natural milieu where humans rely on instincts to stay alive
Where do you think the farthest edge of growth is in the congregation? In Religious life?

Donde crees que el borde mas alejado de la consciencia se encuentra en la Congregacion? La Vida Religiosa?

Ou penses-tu que le bord le plus eloigne de la conscience se trouve dans la Congregation? La Vie Religieuse?