REFLECTION AND POEM: SANDRA MUDGE



Credit: Carey Newman, in the University of Victoria News

Dear CLC Friends,

My poem for this newsletter rose out of my intercessory prayer for a particular Indigenous Christian woman who attended the MMIWG Inquiry in 2017. I shared it with her, as part of my way of offering support, even with such physical distance between us. She responded with deep gratitude. My eldest daughter, Terrellyn Fearn, was the national director of health for the inquiry at the time, and was responsible for providing culturally appropriate supports for those sharing their truth, which often triggered great emotional pain and trauma. Terrellyn asked me to pray for this particular woman who had no one else to support her, except my daughter, who stayed by her side. The image that accompanies the poem is a little felt doll made by my other daughter, Tammy, which was part of a doll making project in honour of each and every one of the missing women and girls.

This is part of the same larger story of social injustice: colonization, residential schools, systemic injustices and racism ingrained in our various institutions, etc… all still impacting our Indigenous brothers and sisters today! The spirits of these little children, whose remains have been found, are witnesses and affirmations of the truth that has been buried for far too long.

Many of our CLC General Principles deal with our apostolic, missionary responsibility "to serve individuals and society by opening hearts to conversion and struggling to change oppressive structures." (GP8). What will our communally discerned, appropriate response be to this institutional horror? That is the big question, inviting us to "come boldly before the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16). We must not let paralysis hold us back or block our true purpose and potential. CLC can contribute so much more, if we are open to the grace of the spiritual freedom necessary to move forward, upward and outward. I believe the Spirit's revelations from our World Assembly in 2018 and our National Assembly of 2019 hold both the questions we need to ask and the answers waiting to be lived out.

To Maggie and all families of MMIWG who come to tell their story….

I do not claim to carry your pain,
And I'll never stroll your memory lane.
I cannot imagine the ultimate cost
Of never retrieving a loved one lost!

I cannot fathom such gaping hole
Where bleeding wound inflicts the soul
To such degree… Where constant seeping
Keeps one's spirit forever weeping!

I praise your resilience to carry on
While void of closure for loved ones gone,
For how you manage to embrace that pain
With unanswered questions as life's refrain!

So, here I am… I stand with you
Supporting what you seek to do.
In solidarity, I pray
That truth and justice have its way!

That, deeply listening to each word,
Your story, finally, will be heard,
With buried truth at last revealed
And hidden facts, no more concealed!

That lesson may be truly learned
With tables of neglect upturned,
And moving forward in the light
There will be change toward what's right!

That all will join to do their part
'Neath wisdom's touch and open heart,
Ensuring families soon to be
Embarking the road of recovery!



In solidarity and love,
Sandy Mudge
May 31, 2017