



BECOMING A CITY THAT CHERISHES

By Pam Lewis

Dear Friends,

As I share this quarter's thoughts with you, I remain moved and inspired by the messages of our May 21st luncheon speaker, Father Gregory Boyle (Fr. G, as more commonly known).

His continued profound influence on me is not really surprising as I am also reading Fr. G's latest book, *Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times*, in preparation for our August Book Study.



If you attended our luncheon and/or are reading his books, we would love to know what sticks most with you! For me, it truly has been the experience of witnessing, through Fr. G's writing, stories, genuine presence, and very being, **compassion expressed at its highest level.**

Through his urging of (and demonstration of the terms) "*radical kinship*," "*exclusive mutuality*," and "*cherished belonging*," it finally sinks in for me like this... any place there is separation, my/our compassion is incomplete and shows where the work to heal needs to happen.

FATHER BOYLE'S PRINCIPLES

The two unwavering principles at Homeboy Industries, the world's most extensive gang intervention program founded by Fr. G more than 30 years ago, are these:

1. Everyone is unshakably good, no exceptions.
2. We belong to each other, no exceptions.

In the Introduction to *Cherished Belonging*, he asks, "*Now, do I think all our vexing and complex social dilemmas would disappear if we embraced these two notions? Yes, I do.*" He goes on to acknowledge that we indeed need to engage in healing to mend our "*severed belonging*" for this to happen.



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COMPASSION IN GREATER HOUSTON

Within our network of diverse and purpose-driven individuals and organizations committed to cultivating a compassionate culture in Greater Houston, this is happening, and there is the potential to do even more.

And yet, our power to do this together is even greater than what we can tackle alone or in small segments of influence.

Yes, our network offers a variety of community compassion spaces and hubs, empathy-building initiatives, collaborative partnerships, and kindness initiatives.

All of these are more than reasonable; they are GREAT.

BECOMING A CITY THAT CHERISHES EVERYONE

Could we also begin to imagine how it might feel or what it might look like to identify and carry out ONE collective action, even over a defined period, that signals: WE ARE A CITY THAT CHERISHES EVERYONE?

INVITATION TO TAKE ACTION!

- If you are an individual associate or partner/friend of Compassion Houston, please send your ideas here now while they are fresh.
- If you are a partner organization, please consider attending one of our two upcoming Compassion Week theme meetings in July. Let's challenge ourselves to take a step together on this shared journey!



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