

Do What You Are Doing

Reflection by Bro. Tom Redmond, SM

“You worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one.” - Jesus of Nazareth

These words came to mind toward the end of the annual weekend meeting of our MSJC Issue Team on Death Penalty Abolition/Restorative Justice. As our meeting ended on this cold mid-February weekend, I felt focused and centered even in the midst of looking at the list of tasks and goals before us. I recalled the old Latin adage, “Age Quod Agis” (do what you are doing.) I wonder if that is what Jesus was trying to tell Martha in that scene in Luke’s Gospel - be focused on what you are doing.



During the entire weekend we on this Issue Team were about one purpose, addressing the items on our agenda. But it just wasn’t the work we were doing, it was our being together, in physical and social presence to each other; that was so life-giving. And the use of the Circle Process was a great help in our being present and listening to each other. Maybe you know of the Circle Process, the “talking stick” is passed around the circle and the one holding the “talking stick” is the one who speaks, all others listen.

I became involved with this Issue Team two years ago as a way to direct my energies in regards to respect of life. I am impressed at the level of collaboration that we have with other organizations (both on the state level and the national levels) that are working to end the death penalty. It is encouraging to hear what others are doing in support of initiatives and bills before legislators in other states to end the death penalty. There is also our work in writing letters to the Governors and members of Review Boards of States that have scheduled dates of execution for people on Death Row. I strongly sense that I am not alone in my concern with this issue.

May I add an invitation for you to consider your own involvement with an Issue Team of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative. Whatever your concern with life there is an Issue Team focused on this interest of yours. Involvement with the MSJC can be an experience of community with a focused involvement on an issue that is dear to your heart.

And to end with another statement from Jesus of Nazareth, “Come and see.”