

Our world waits for you and me

In Joan Chittister's most recent book, *The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage*, she poses many questions and highlights the Yin and Yang of the prophetic journey.

"The full Christian life is a blend of both. To opt for sacramental spirituality devoid of prophetic spirituality is to ignore half the message of Jesus, half the Christian mandate, half the Christian life," she writes. (Chittister, 2019, p25)

The Biblical prophets, despite difficulties, chose to "keep on going, ... to live and proclaim the Truth for themselves and for others. The prophets were the sirens in the night, the sowers of far-flung seeds, the eternal agitators in the soul of the people, of the nation, torches in the murk of confusion." (Chittister, 2019, p17)

Our founders were the prophets of their time. Nano Nagle and her sisters held tight to the lanterns in the night, these were the "torches in the murk of confusion". Catherine McAuley's house on Baggot Street was both a visual and "external agitator in the soul of the people", and Elizabeth Hayes sowed the "far-flung seeds" in her work throughout Europe and in North America's west to the deep south.

Joan writes on the early founders and foundresses of religious life:

... They set out for lands foreign to those satisfied with this one to speak another vision of the world – lands where gender didn't limit a person's development, and money didn't define the level of a person's education.

They went into slums and barrios, into filth and disease, into pockets of illiteracy and ignorance. They went anywhere and everywhere something was needed but few people did anything about it and nobody who should have cared did. They went to be the sign of the One who calls all of us to oneness and by embracing "the least of these" made us all one.

(Chittister, 2019, p44-45)

Who are the Nano Nagles, Catherine McAuleys and Elizabeth Hayes at this present time? Right now, the silence can be deafening as the world waits for you and me.



*Guide our feet
along the roads less
travelled. Open our hearts
to beat in oneness. Extend our
arms to embrace the most
vulnerable. Reveal through our
visions a brighter future.
Enable us to be brave
- NOW
Amen*

REFLECTION

> Where are you called to show uncommon courage?

Reference: Chittister, J. (2019). *The Time is Now: A call to Uncommon Courage*. New York, USA: Convergent Books

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