



"As a participant in Engaging Impasse, I can attest to the profound influence this experience has made in my personal life as well as in leadership of the Congregation. When faced with impasse, I have found this process of using communal silence and dialogue to be effective and adaptable to all aspects of my life and ministry.... In a time of growing consciousness of global citizenship that is anguished by violence, Engaging Impasse offers a transformative way to transcend impasse and move toward compassion and understanding."

—Sharon Costello, CSJ • Baden, PA

If you are interested in participating in any of the National offerings or would like to engage the Institute for programs tailored to your needs, please contact:

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**For more information please go to
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**Nancy Sylvester, IHM
Founder/Executive Director**

**Institute for Communal
Contemplation and Dialogue**

Engaging Impasse

**Old solutions don't work
Agreement no longer exists on
fundamental issues**

**In the midst of chaos
How do we affect change?
How do we live the Gospel?
How do we make sense of our
lives?**

***If you are seeking new
ways to respond to this
reality...***

The Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue

**invites you to respond to a world in chaos, a church in crisis,
through a unique process rooted in the deep wellspring of spirituality**

"Today's reality in our church and society often questions our very identity and meaning. For people of faith, it seems that we have an opportunity to engage our hopes and fears around such fundamental questions in ways that embrace the diversity of experience and generate a synergy to call forth a new communal response."

—Nancy Sylvester, IHM

To enter more deeply these experiences of impasse the Institute offers processes rooted in the contemplative tradition.

Attentive to the Divine within, participants engage their experience of these major shifts within themselves, the church and society in ways that take a long loving look at the real through a process of communal contemplation.

These experiential processes emphasize communal contemplation which integrates individual and communal contemplative practice with the skills of dialogue.

Conversations are marked by a depth of sharing which explores diversity, befriends ambiguity, lives with paradox and commits to generating a new response.

Freed to imagine new ways of being and doing the participants envision a future rooted in non-violence, right relationships, social justice, care of Earth and planetary community.

INSTITUTE PROGRAMS

The Institute offers a variety of programs which invite a transformation of consciousness.

Offerings at the National Level:

ENGAGING IMPASSE: CIRCLES OF CONTEMPLATION AND DIALOGUE®

This foundational experience invites participants to engage their sense of powerlessness in the face of these major shifts in a way that invites individual transformation within the communal setting. Offered as three 3-day gatherings or a concentrated 8-day format.

Since 2003, more than 250 women and men who are educators, social workers, spiritual directors, and leaders in religious congregations and social justice organizations have participated in this unique experience of communal contemplation and dialogue.

QUANTUM LEAP GATHERING

During this 4-day gathering participants reflect on how the insights of engaging impasse are part of and contribute to other movements for transformation including quantum physics, the new cosmology, systems thinking and the mystical tradition.

Offerings which can be tailored to organizations, congregations and retreat centers:

LIVING IN A TIME OF IMPASSE

This is a 6-day retreat which involves personal and communal contemplative time as well as interactive processes to explore how we find meaning and hope in these times.

COMMUNAL CONTEMPLATION: DEEPENING CONVERSATION FROM A CONTEMPLATIVE HEART

This 2-day process introduces key concepts of this approach and assists individuals and groups to discover a new way of addressing these complex issues.

COMMUNAL CONTEMPLATION: OPENING TO ONE'S CONGREGATIONAL CHARISM

This 2 or 3 day experience applies the dynamic of communal contemplation to a religious congregation's exploration of their charism.

The Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue was founded in 2002 to educate, resource and organize people of faith to reflect, analyze and act on the critical issues of church and society through a process of communal contemplation and dialogue.

