



MONTHLY MEMO
November 2022

Our Zoom event on Wednesday November 9 from 11am-12.30pm was an opportunity for EFCL to provide some continuing formation in the understanding of the mission and values of Emerging Futures through a presentation by Elizabeth Dowling rsm -a theologian who has provided guidance and expertise to our process since our earliest days.

Liz reflected back on some of the highlights of the journey: from

- Francis and *Laudato Si*: “It cannot be emphasized enough how everything is interconnected.”
- John Haught: “The only way we can talk about what possibilities might lie ahead is with a language consistent with hope.” Having hope, acting with hope and providing hope for others along the way.
- The values that align with Catholic Social Teaching: dignity of the human person, care for our common home, subsidiarity and participation, the common good, and solidarity.
- Antonio Machado: “Pathmaker, there is no path, you make the path by walking. By walking, you make the path.”
- The Emmaus story: Jesus and the two disciples are companions on the journey; Jesus is walking them home.

The process of Emerging Futures is one of *going deep to go forward*, based on the tenets of Theory U and awareness-based change and we are always grateful to have the opportunity to have Liz reflect with us on the unfolding spiritual and theological journey of EFCL.

Peter Cranko updated the gathering with some of the understandings that are developing as we work with service partners:

- Letting go of the Leadership Team Model and what that entails;
- Creating space for religious institute members to live as they have and how that is achieved;
- Our frameworks for vesting authority and decision making in the group;
- Our experience of *Communio* shared services networked learning and knowledge sharing.

Linda Ferrington rsc reported on her attendance at the LCWR Assembly in America in August and the network opportunities that she was able to build around that event: meetings with canon lawyers, North American religious conferences, younger religious, other collaborations like the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative, contemplative institutes with commissaries, unfolding strategies regarding petitions to DICLSAL.

We had 300+ individuals registered and quite a few of those individuals had noted they would be “watching with friends”. We did buy a 500 person Zoom platform for the event, but for some unknown reason (have to love technology!!!) it did not work on the day. <https://www.emergingfuturescollaborative.org.au/videos> will take you to the recording of the Zoom event on our website, so you can watch at your convenience.

EFCL was invited by Peter Jones osa, President of Catholic Religious Australia, to contribute to the submission being made by CRA to a meeting in Rome in December at which DICLSAL is opening up the conversation about future governance options for religious institutes. Our contribution to the CRA submission for the DICLSAL meeting in Rome can be read on our website at <https://www.emergingfuturescollaborative.org.au/articles>

Brad Hannagan, our CEO, notes that on December 5 and 6 the staff internal to Emerging Futures will participate in a two-day strategic planning workshop. The focus of the two days will be to take a deep dive into our learnings from the previous 18 months and then apply these learnings to craft our goals and priorities through the end of 2025. The outcomes of the two days will be taken to our full day Board meeting on 17 February 2023 for broader discussion, fine-tuning and Board approval. The plan will then be enacted for the commencement of the next financial year beginning 1 July 2023.

Emerging Futures has this month welcomed two new service partners: the Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands and the Sisters of the Faithful Companions of Jesus. We now have eighteen active service partners and expect that more might join at the beginning of the new year. Each new service partner helps towards the plan of having truly shared services between religious institutes in any one area and the dream of being able to access 24/7 health and well-being coverage.

Clare Nolan rsc, a Board Director of EFCL, recently brought to my attention a great article in Global Sisters Report. There were some really excellent points made in the record of an interview with Anne Munley ihm, associate director for LCWR's Emerging Future Initiative.

A couple of highlights:

- In many ways, we're fortunate to be at a time of a great turning in religious life. Many times, there is stabilization that lasts for centuries, but this is a time when we are clearly seeing a turning point. But what I see in the leaders is this **passion in and around the life itself, the meaning and significance of the call and the desire to live it fully — that sense of being part of something bigger.**

At the heart of it all is the quest for God. Vowed religious are living that call, but there are **other God-seekers and a greater awareness that we're in this together.** We have so many opportunities to share this life and share that God-quest with other people, so many opportunities for us to grow mutually. **It's a powerful time of awareness that we are co-journeymen.**

I recommend the report to you: go to <https://www.emergingfuturescollaborative.org.au/articles>

Claiming some dates for 2023:

1. **Wednesday November 8:** Zoom event for all interested participants from 11am-1pm AEDT
2. **Monday May 8 in Melbourne:** In person day for existing service partners, available Member Representatives and Board Directors and staff and other leadership teams interested in learning more about EFCL
3. **Monday May 15 in Sydney:** In person day for existing service partners, available Member Representatives and Board Directors and staff and other leadership teams interested in learning more about EFCL

Thank you for your interest in and support of the staff here at Emerging Futures during 2022. We really do appreciate that you read our *Memos* and send in comments; watch our Zoom events and give us feedback and generally encourage us in our role of ministry to religious institutes.

Sharon Price rsm
Transition Manager
November 30, 2022