INVITATION TO JOIN GRAIL WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD TO WORK

TOGETHER IN THE TXINTXA PROCESS!!!

April, 2009

Dear All,

As you know, during the International Council (IC) in Utrecht, IC delegates and Network Coordinators, together with the ILT, invited the recently-formed Theological Resource Workgroup to assist with the follow-up of the Spirituality Forum. This group was delegated by the IC to launch a reflection process in every country within the International Grail and with all participants. The fruits of these discussions will be made available to all Grail women through the ILT, who will use the spirituality forum website or some other means to facilitate the next steps of the process.

In particular we are trying in the whole process to make a space for the wisdom, hopes and fears of Grail groups to emerge in relation to our national realities and our endeavor to maintain our unity in diversity internationally.

‘Txintxa’ (Chin Cha) is the name of this step of the process and it will engage us for the next two years. The ILT urges all Grail women around the world to participate and to share our insights and observations.

‘Txintxa’ is a xangana word from the south of Mozambique; it comes from the verb ku txinxa, “to change.” It is used as a slogan when a community starts a work project together: changing a hut roof, planting a vegetable garden…. Txintxa supposes a movement and a change that result from a collective effort.

In essence, Txintxa expresses what the Theology Workgroup proposes to do.

Taking the suggestions made by the countries in their follow-up to the Spirituality Forum, namely 1.) Deepening Christian Roots; 2.) Cultural Changes and Spiritual Challenges; and 3.) Ecumenical and Inter-religious Dialogue, we hope to build the foundation of our future together.

The reflection process will have, as starting points, texts prepared by Grail participants for the whole Grail. At the same time, discussion questions will be included for countries to use in their reflections. The purpose of this exercise is to create a basis of common knowledge, so that some concepts and themes will be deepened by every Grail woman in every country.

An integral part of this process is that each country (or in larger countries, Grail groupings) reflect back to the whole Grail how they respond to these texts and questions. These responses can then serve our developing dialogue with each other. Responses should be sent to Ruth Crowe at ruthcrowe@ozemail.com.au by 15 August.

We are sending the first text, prepared by the Milan Grail group on the ‘Origins of Christianity’. This text is the fruit of many months of study (of several readings) and of their own group reflection. Please note, the text we are using is 4 pages, but there is a longer
version of 12 pages which can be obtained from the International Secretariat, iltsecre@planet.nl. You will find the discussion questions at the end of the text. The paper has been translated into Portuguese and Spanish and has also been looked at by Teopista Nakibuule (Uganda) and Shirlei da Silva (Brazil) to check that it is accessible with regard to content and expression.

We are also sending a reflection written by Rachel Donders, a former International President of the Grail, in preparation for the 1993 IGA entitled ‘Sources of our Grail dynamism’. In this reflection Rachel reminds us of ‘the primary sources of the spirituality which gives The Grail its dynamism’ from the early inspiration through to the early 1990s. To go back to the original inspiration and follow through our spiritual insights over the decades can provide us with a firm basis for going forward together at this time, when we are exploring the identity of the Grail in the complex and pluralist world of the 21st century.

Please set a time with your Grail entity to enter this process together.

We hope this task helps us to deepen in our understanding of the questions raised during the Spirituality Forum and to open new horizons for Grail women. We hope it will help us as Grail to integrate our spirituality more fully as an international movement of women rooted in the Spirit.

With love,

Ruth Crowe for the ILT and

Cay Charles, Anita Saisi, Marina Sangalli, Maria Carlos Ramos, Deirdre Cornell, Marian Ronan (Theological Resource Workgroup).