

Segment 4 Focus: Integration

March-June 2021

Literary *métissage* (Spanish *mestizaje*) generates new knowledge through writing and braiding texts and other art forms. It embraces distinct voices, uses different genres, and reclaims many wisdoms. Ecological *métissage* adapts the same blending of diversity with ecological worldviews (indigenous, scientific, and religious). *Métissage* invites the reader or the listener to pursue many paths through the texts, art forms and worldviews. In this way, it generates new understanding and wisdom about the world and our place in it.

The first three segments of Mercy Global Presence have been an intense experience of *métissage* across the Mercy world.

From September 2019 to December 2019, the focus was “global” as the context in which all mercying happens – cosmology, integral ecology, deep social change, and the incarnate God.

In the beginnings of the global pandemic from March 2020 to June 2020, “mercy” – God’s mercy, Earth’s mercy, and our mercy – was explored through major faith traditions, degradation of Earth, displacement of persons, and mercy visible in our time.

From September 2020 to December 2020, attention to “presence” – to, with and of God; of and to Earth, in ministry and community, and oneself and others – dared us to move as boundary crossers to the fringes where the newness will be found.

Now we come to our fourth and last segment (March 2021 to June 2021) which intensifies the *métissage* as it completes the weaving of new patterns through contemplative seeing, a compassionate heart, mercying, and the creating of circles and a culture of mercy. In the braiding of differences, may we help transform the post-pandemic world and church. Let us together create a new weaving of mercy, gathering the threads of our lived experience and resplendent in all the colours and textures of Earth.

—Elizabeth Davis rsm (Newfoundland)