

Whole-making and the Story of the Early Foundations

*When you act on behalf of
something greater than yourself
you begin to feel it acting
through you
with a power that is greater than your own.*

Joanna Macy

The word 'catholic' simply means 'through-the-whole' or 'throughout-the-whole', like yeast that leavens bread. The word catholic connotes an active presence of 'whole-making' or leavening the stuff of life to create a greater whole. The word church (or ecclesia) ...means 'those called out' as in those called to be whole-makers in the world".....

"Jesus....brought people together – physically, emotionally and spiritually – and healed them of their divisions. He preached oneness of mind and heart centred in God, and he spoke of the reign of God as a dynamic process of relatedness by which the world could move together to a new level of unity, ultimately so that all could be one in God.

Ilia Delio "The Emergent Christ" p 60.

"To be a green and juicy crone comes from having lived long enough to be deeply rooted in wholehearted involvements, of living a personally meaningful life...It has to do with knowing who we are inside and believing that what we are doing is a true reflection or expression of our genuine self. To be a choice-makermeans that what you choose to do or be must correspond with what is true for you at soul level. What you do with your life is then meaningful; it is something you know in your bones, at your core, in your soul".

Jean Shinoda Boland, "Goddesses In Older Women",

Love - "that terrifying energy, in which the power that causes the universe to converge on itself passes through us..."

Teilhard de Chardin: "The Evolution of Chastity"

A morphogenic field...is a non-material region of influence within and around a particular form. It can be thought of as a field of information. A morphogenic field organises the structure and the activity of a form or system. It holds the energy, keeping it coherent. Each form, system....has its own particular morphogenic field. Each person is a morphogenic field, as is each group we belong to. There are morphogenic fields of atoms, cells, molecules, rabbits, elephants, petunias, oak trees, communities, and so on. Each type and level of existence can be described as a morphogenic field.

Each morphogenic field has its own distinctive characteristics and habits. Each has a different feel to it, a unique presence. Each preserves its own information and memories. Depending on its level of complexity, each has its own customs, beliefs and values. Each has its means of communication, its own language, as well as its own way of doing relationships. The behaviours associated with a particular morphogenic field become routine, almost like law, "the way we do things around here".....

Over time, morphogenic fields begin to have a cumulative memory and become increasingly habitual, making it easier for those entering the field to learn its associated habits.

Judy Cannato, Field of Compassion. P.30

"Catherine was 'Mother' to many, in the deepest sense... Her children were not just "spiritual" ones, acquired by title... They were vibrant, sometimes needy, always beloved children... Their affection birthed new capacities in her heart, even as hers nurtured theirs....Indeed on August 8, 1837, it did seem as if 'all the House was dead'. The brevity of her words of grief in the surviving letters of this month was evidently the only way she could handle the tears".

Mary Sullivan, " The Path of Mercy".

*Don't let crosses vex and tease
 Try to meet all with peace & ease
 notice the faults of every Day
 but often in a playful way
 And when you seriously complain
 Let it be known – to give you pain
 Attend to one thing - at a time
 you've 15 hours from 6 till 9
 be mild and sweet in all your ways
 now & again bestow some praise
 avoid – all solemn declaration
 all serious close investigation
 Turn what you can into a jest
 and with few words dismiss the rest
 keep patience ever at your side
 you'll want it for a constant guide
 Show fond affection every Day
 and above all – Devoutly Pray
 That God may bless the charge He's given
 and make of you –their guide to heaven.*

Corr. Letter 103 (December 9, 1838) p.169 - 70

*In every emergency the Sisters in all quarters
 looked up to their great mother; she it was whom
 they expected to solve doubts, to remove
 obstacles, to unravel knotty questions, to raise
 their drooping spirits when effort seemed
 hopeless, to enlighten their minds, to receive their
 confidences. In every dark place of their
 pilgrimage they expected her to appear as a
 shining light to lead them onward.....Every
 member of the Order was personally known to
 her; the absent corresponded with her..... She
 (Catherine) kept each house duly informed of
 everything of importance that transpired in the
 others, thus creating a mutual interest, a strong
 family feeling, so to speak, among persons who in
 some instances had never seen each other.*

Annals of the Sisters of Mercy Vol 1

Letter 226, to Cecelia Marmion, Jan 4 1841

*I have a little secret to tell you – don't proclaim it.
 I have my morning cloak on for a petticoat – the
 end of the sleeves sewed up to make Pockets. All
 my wardrobe is washing. I came home yesterday –
 with at least half yard deep of mud – melted snow
 – and I have not a cold in my head. I was out 5
 hours.*

Corr. P. 343

*With the drawing of this Love and the voice of this
 calling*

*We shall not cease from exploration
 And the end of all our exploring
 Will be to arrive where we started
 And know the place for the first time.
 Through the unknown, remembered gate
 When the last of earth left to discover
 Is that which was the beginning;
 At the Source of the longest river
 The voice of the hidden waterfall
 And the children in the apple-tree
 Not known, because not looked for
 But heard, half heard, in the stillness
 Between two waves of the sea.
 Quick now, here now, always –
 A condition of complete simplicity
 (Costing not less than everything)
 And all shall be well and
 All manner of thing shall be well
 When the tongues of flame are in-folded
 Into the crowned knot of fire
 And the fire and the rose are one.*

T. S. Eliot, Four Quartets: Little Gidding.

*Love gives rise to beauty by gathering together
 what is separate within us; it harmonises our
 energies, creating a new oneness of heart through
 which our inner light flows and illumines the
 darkness around us. Genuine love is a personal
 revolution in whole-making. Love takes our
 desires, and our actions and welds them together
 in one experience of one lived reality.*

*Iliia Delio, The Unbearable Wholeness of Being – God, Evolution
 and the Power of Love. P.186*

*St. Paul writes: “Where , O death, is your
 victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”(1 Cor
 15:55), Death stings in a fixed universe of
 absolute limits, but in the unfinished process of
 evolution, death is the path to new life. Even in
 death, everything is in process of becoming
 something new. Hence, death appears as final
 only until we realise it is the only way we can
 evolve.*

Iliia Delio, The Unbearable Wholeness of Being p 201