



ATLANTIC CONFERENCE EXPLORES CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY



By Sharon Jacquard (National Coordinator East ~ SCIC Associates)

HALIFAX, N.S. -- Over 80 Associates and Sisters representing most Atlantic religious congregations gathered for the ARCAN

Conference (Atlantic Religious Congregations Associate Network) at Mount Saint Vincent University here June 2-3, 2017. Participating were seven Associates from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and two Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception. The theme was “Greening our Hearts” with Dolores Hall. She is a spiritual director and facilitator at Providence Spirituality Centre in Kingston, Ont. Dolores is also an Associate member of Iona, an ecumenical Christian community in Scotland.

Dolores spoke about Christian spirituality as we have understood it up until now. She highlighted Pope Francis’ encouragement for the need of an ecological conversion. The essence of our spirituality is living from the “blessed trinity”: Be Attentive (contemplative look at God’s presence); Be Grateful (being grateful is at the heart of every healthy relationship); Tell About It (Live it, be compassionate and merciful). She also introduced the concept of “Emotional Brain and Intelligent Heart”, emphasizing that living in harmony is living the wisdom of the intelligent heart.

All present felt enriched by having attended this conference. The ARCAN Power Point presentation created and presented at the January 2017 gathering of SCIC and Associates in Saint John was shown and well received by all in Halifax. Representatives from each congregation requested a copy of the presentation to be used in their own groups. We were invited to break into groups to share our vision and hope for the network’s future. Despite the present-day reality of the challenges for both Sisters and Associates, the enthusiasm for the future of ARCAN is vibrant.

Pictured in photo:

Back: Bonnie Casey, Irene Buechler, SCIC, Pat Poole, SCIC, Marilyn Moore, Nicole LeBlanc, Linda Pye, Dolores Hall

Front: Sharon Jacquard, Mary Ann Kneeland, Mary Lou Reid

(Photo by Marjorie Allison-Ross)