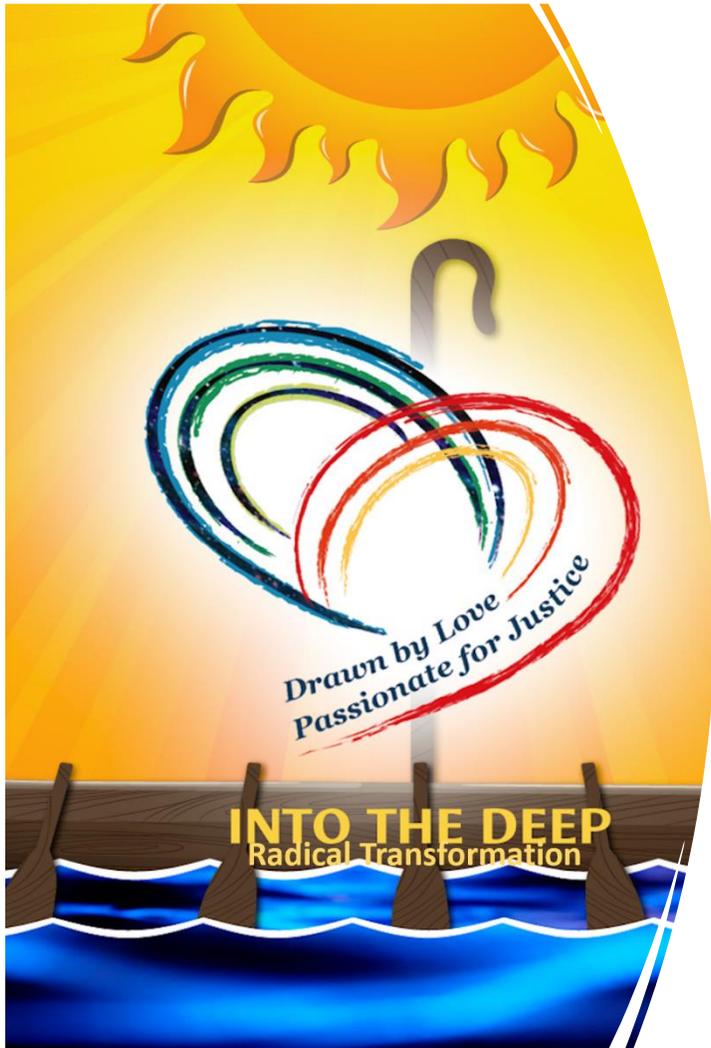


Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Phase II—Journey to Chapter 2021



Video one - Transcript
January 2021



<https://rgs.gssweb.org/chapter2021>



Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice Into the Deep

**OUR LADY OF CHARITY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
PHASE II: JOURNEY TO CHAPTER
VIDEO 1: LAUNCHING PHASE II:
*DRAWN BY LOVE...PASSIONATE FOR JUSTICE...INTO THE DEEP***

**PowerPoints in Blue
Reflective Pauses in Green
Song Lyrics in Purple**

SERIES ANIMATION (00:00)

PART 1 – RECONNECTING WITH THE vICA INSIGHTS AND EXPERIENCE (01:58)

Song and video of Sisters and Mission Partners singing: (02:05)

Drawn By Love

Drawn by love from God's great heart,
Seeking to give the best, the best of our own selves.
Drawn by love from the depths of the universe
We are many, we are different, but are one in God's great heart.
Impelled by love, with God's own desire,
We go forth bringing justice to our world.
Drawn by love with a passion for justice,
We go forth, transformed by grace,
Strengthened by faith and empowered by the love of our God.

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THE SECOND VERSE OF THE SONG IS ACCOMPANIED WITH IMAGES FROM ICA
AND THE NAMES OF ALL THE UNITS WHO ATTENDED THE ICAS.

**SEGMENT 1: WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF THE VIDEO - DONNA AND
CATHERINE (05:38)**

DONNA:

Welcome everybody! Greetings, wherever you are in the world, sisters and mission partners of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd! We, Catherine, Monica, Hilary who are in Ireland and myself, Donna, are delighted to be with you again to continue the journey of preparation for Chapter 2021.



Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice Into the Deep

You began this Chapter journey with your engagement in Phase I, the virtual International Congregational Assemblies. These vICAs offered a way of being and working together that you had not known before. I would say even us!

It was clear from the responses after the vICAs that the energy and excitement of this experience awakened in you a greater sense of unity and a desire for deeper and more frequent connections across congregational boundaries.

With that in mind, we welcome you to Phase II of our journey toward Chapter.

PowerPoint (Voiceover)

[Drawn by Love, Passionate for Justice: Into the Deep.](#)

The slight revision to the chapter theme reflects the desire heard throughout the vICAs to explore the chapter topics more deeply in light of radical transformation.

Before moving to the how we will be going forward, we want to capture some pivotal highlights around the Chapter Agenda followed by Monica and Hilary, sharing how each of us was touched through the diverse conversations on:

PowerPoint (Voiceover)

- Radical Transformation;
- Reconciliation, and
- Healing.

Some new pieces that we want to share with you are an expanded theme with music and a concept called

PowerPoint (Voiceover)

[The Integrative Process of Transformation](#)

[Supporting all of us going deeper into the call to radical transformation.](#)

The Integrative Process of Transformation we, the Core Team believe, can support all of us going deeper into this call for radical transformation. And finally, we want to hear once more from Sister Ellen Kelly about the call to Chapter and all of us collectively moving into the deep.

CATHERINE:

Chapter Agenda:

Clearly, the mandate you gave to the Chapter Planning Committee is to further the exploration of the Chapter topics taking the conversations to a deeper level. Here are some noticeable themes from your feedback.



Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice Into the Deep

Radical Transformation

There is a widespread readiness among both Sisters and Mission Partners for radical transformation. Some people are more than ready to do whatever is needed on the journey towards radical transformation. Others admitted that they *want and are willing to be ready* but need supports and reassurances to feel free to embark on such a journey.

There is a resounding acknowledgement of the need for inner and outer transformation. It came through very clearly. So many expressed their awareness that transformation must begin in one's own heart before there can be real change in the outer structures and culture of the Congregation.

IMAGE AND MUSIC

Mission

The centrality of Mission, another chapter topic, is powerfully evident across all the vICAs.

PowerPoint (Voiceover)

People want to be the best they can be so they can *give the best of who they are to the most vulnerable and needy*.

There is a sense of urgency expressed by some for:

PowerPoint (Voiceover)

- Liberating structures;
- Formation for all;
- Full engagement with partners; and
- for whatever changes that are needed to be free and empowered for mission.

People often expressed an openness and willingness to make personal sacrifices and changes for the sake of Mission.

It was noticeable to us that certain regions have a desire for transformation also motivated by serious concern about climate change and its impact on the poor and vulnerable in those regions.

PowerPoint

Attentive to Climate Change

A call for formation in ecological and sustainable practices and the reverencing of all creation.

There was an explicit call for formation in ecological and sustainable practices and for the reverencing of all creation.



Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice Into the Deep

There may be a “Blessing and Curse” dynamic in this strong emphasis on Mission. Obviously, there are many blessings in this strong emphasis on Mission, the most significant being the wonderful reign of God’s Kingdom that the Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd Congregation makes possible. But could the curse be an “invisible culture” of a “work-force mentality” in certain regions or pockets within the Congregation? Let’s just pause here and be with this insight.

PowerPoint (Music)

A Blessing

Strong emphasis on Mission

A Curse

An invisible culture of a work-force mentality.

This possible “curse in the blessing” could account for the anxious concern about the lack of vocations; not having enough Sisters to do the work the Mission demands. While not mentioned in all of the vICAs, the concern regarding vocations was raised several times. Again, let’s take a minute of quiet and just ponder

PowerPoint (Voiceover)

What are you hearing and how is it stirring in your heart regarding Mission?

DONNA:

You know Catherine, two things, the culture and the Mission Partners – I want to speak a little bit to that because that was a big part of the vICAs.

Universal Congregational Culture

So when you look at this universal Congregational Culture, utmost in importance for Sisters and for the Mission Partners is that, the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd desire that spirituality and charism permeate the culture.

The values of reconciliation, compassion and mercy for all are key. There is a strong desire and motivation for radical transformation for the sake of meaningful, life-giving communal relationships at every level of the Congregation.

PowerPoint (Music)

The values of reconciliation, compassion and mercy for all are key.

There is a strong desire and motivation for radical transformation for the sake of meaningful, life-giving communal relationships at every level of the Congregation.

It appears that sisters and mission partners want the global congregational culture to enable them to befriend the other and to be befriended. There is a hunger to belong, to be valued and respected.

The overwhelming joy and delight that we saw in being able to connect with each other, both as Sisters and as Mission Partners, suggests a desire for true sisterhood and partnership *in a spirit of genuine inclusivity and mutual respect.*

IMAGES AND MUSIC



Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice Into the Deep

Mission Partners

There is a strong desire for full engagement of the Mission Partners. There is agreement that there is a wide range of engagement on the **Zeal Calls Us to Respond** continuum. For some Sisters, full engagement of Mission Partners is a huge threat to their very existence and identity. We heard this expressed very clearly and poignantly. *“What is my role/place in our mission?”* For these Sisters, it may well be that the only measure of their value and worth rests in what they do in Mission. Which actually goes back to your invisible culture, the workforce mentality.

All this being said, each vICA regardless of where they are on the continuum of engaging Mission Partners, want Mission Partners and want to advance to another level of engagement. Very, very clear.

That conversation was followed by some significant work on grief, reconciliation and healing.

Grief, Reconciliation and Healing.

The prayers and rituals around reconciliation, grief and healing were powerful and revealed so much about the collective soul of the congregation. Monica and Hilary will revisit these insights, concerns and longings in a few minutes.

But I do think Catherine we need to speak a little bit more about Formation. That was so strong so can you help us to see what we are learning?

CATHERINE: Formation

In light of all those conversations around the chapter topics Donna you are absolutely right there is a huge desire by Sisters and Mission Partners for on-going formation throughout the congregation.

- Ongoing formation for Sisters in their personal and communal transformation; in reconciliation and healing; in community building and the fostering of meaningful and respectful relationships were noted clearly as areas needing formation.
- Ongoing formation for Mission Partners in their personal transformation, as well as formation in the Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd charism is needed. Formation is also needed in terms of skills for specific mission tasks and responsibilities.
- It goes without saying that formation needs to be “tailored made” and in touch with the issues and readiness of the various units and regions and, in some cases, even specific communities. This was very clear to us from your feedback. Even though there are varying degrees of readiness for formation within the Congregation, overall, there is a resounding “yes” to change and transformation. We believe Sisters and Mission Partners sense something *“more” is needed, not just something “different” and not just external changes, but the “more” that can only come from genuine inner transformation.*



Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice Into the Deep

PowerPoint (Music)

We believe Sisters and Mission Partners sense something 'more' is needed, not just something 'different' and not just external changes, but the 'more' that can only come from genuine inner transformation.

DONNA:

Speaking of Transformation – and a huge change now! We need to talk a little bit about the work of the Life Seekers around the Governance model. The Life Seekers have been working extremely hard.

New, Evolving Model of Governance - Life Seekers

You will recall that during the vICAs you experienced three working models of congregational governance. They provided a range of options to start the conversation around a new model of governance. The models also served the purpose of helping the Life Seekers understand key features critical for a new governance structure such as regions being established by language or geography; the importance of each country having more freedom and delegated authority and placing mission clearly at the centre of the model. You also gave to the Life Seekers some key features that you would like to see in the next model. Here are five of them:

PowerPoint (Voiceover)

1. Clearly delineate where mission, spirituality, and formation fit in the model;
2. Provide a clear articulation of roles and accountability across the congregation;
3. Emphasize the importance of leadership development as well as provide new models of leadership;
4. Provide clarity as to both the canonical and civil implications of the model that need to be addressed, and
5. Consider forming a lay administrative intercontinental circle that interfaces with an enlarged council or CLT.

I think that's radical. That actually came from some of the Mission Partners on the Life Seekers Committee. So, I think that's an awesome piece.

There clearly is a range of readiness around considering a change in governance structure. A lot of concern or reluctance lies with cultural differences, language, and geographic spread. More study and conversation is needed. During February 2021, the

Life Seekers will be providing materials for the next level of study and conversation based on over 100 pages of feedback from the vICAs. Catherine, that was huge! One hundred pages. A lot of material to go through.



Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice Into the Deep

Conclusion

CATHERINE:

So, Friends we have taken time to bring back to you some of the highlights of your vICA experience as it relates to the Chapter topics. So, what we know is that ***an analysis or summary can never do justice to the depth of sharing, feedback, and wisdom of the vICA participants. That was you. We can, however, and want to add to this sharing some wonderful images that you the members and Mission Partners used to describe who you are. These images hold the story of the goodness that you exude in your zeal and passionate response to the cry of humanity, the cry of Earth. We invite you to take in these images you described and see what they are saying to you at this time.***

IMAGES WITH THE FOLLOWING VOICEOVER

- ***Citizens of the world***
- ***Truth Bearers***
- ***Bearers of Reconciliation***
- ***Agents of Transformation***
- ***Courageous people in facing fear and ambiguities***
- ***A Congregation that belongs to the world***
- ***Members of a World of Seekers***
- ***Pursers of innovation leaving old traditions behind, migrating to the whole***
- ***Mission-centric***

Indeed, these are wonderful images and challenges going forward. Now, we'd like to invite Monica and Hilary to speak about the longings, the grief and losses you shared during the vICAs. Monica and Hilary.

SEGMENT 2: ICA SUMMARY OF LONGINGS, GRIEF AND LOSS –

HILARY AND MONICA (33:07)

MONICA:

A very warm hello to you, wherever you are in the world. As Donna and Catherine have already expressed, Hilary and I are delighted to be sharing with you this new phase of your journey to Chapter.

HILARY:

Monica and I were privileged to support you during the vICAs in expressing your hopes and dreams and longings, for yourself and for your Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd family. In our vICA session on Day 1, I invited you to reflect on how our longing is the divine longing in human form.

PowerPoint (Voiceover)

“Longing desires to take you towards the absolute realization of all the possibilities that sleep in the clay of your heart; your longing knows your eternal potential and it will not rest until that potential is awakened ...



Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice Into the Deep

Longing is the voice of the soul... Your longing is the divine longing in human form."

(John O'Donohue – "Eternal Echoes", P 5/6)

You were then given time to consider one or all of the following questions.

PowerPoint (Voiceover)

- How do you feel at the suggestion that your longing and desire is God's longing and desire in you?
- What is it that you long for at this time for yourself, and for your Mission and Congregation?
- What is the transformation that you dream of and desire for the Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd Family?
- Can you dare to believe that this could be God's dream for you and your Mission and Congregation?
If so, why? If not, then why not?

Your personal reflection and group sharing gave expression to your longing.

Here is a reminder of some of what your hearts longed for...

PowerPoint (Voiceover)

- Deeper connections and sharing
- Inner transformation
- Ongoing formation
- Reconciliation and healing
- To go beyond borders
- To live and share the charism more fully
- Inclusion and mutuality
- Deeper faith ... to take risks
- Less ego and more eco
- Radical transformation for the sake of mission

We invite you now, to reflect on what this remembrance is stirring in you? Find a word or phrase that expresses your longing now and write it upon your heart.

CANDLE AND MUSIC

MONICA:

Our longings, hopes and dreams inspire us to go beyond; to reach for more. They can also be a source of grief and loss and become entangled in our need for reconciliation and healing.

Do you remember how you shed tears for your own personal grief?
Let's pause for a moment to remember those tears....



Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice Into the Deep

CANDLE AND MUSIC

You also shed tears for our suffering world, particularly around the impact of Covid, in the loss of loved ones and in the anxiety, isolation and financial burdens that it has created. The inability to assist those who are suffering has caused overwhelming heartache for some of you.

IMAGE WITH MUSIC

And where is that grief now in your heart?
Has it shifted, healed or has it deepened?

CANDLE AND MUSIC

And do you remember the grief and loss for your Congregation that you named and wept over in your group sharing?

Significant grief was expressed over Congregational abuse at many levels, and the disempowerment and devaluing of people, both Sisters and Mission Partners. While the grief and heartache that has been expressed relates mostly to historical abuse and mistreatment, you expressed deep concern and grief over the continued disempowerment and disregard of Sisters and Partners in Mission.

This connects to a heart-felt desire for reconciliation within the Congregation at many levels and around many issues.

There was widespread grief around those who have left the Congregation. This was mingled with disappointment and a sense of despair at how the ministry can continue with so few active Sisters and limited finances. We wondered if we had heard a sense of abandonment mingled in this grief?

Added to this burden of grief, there was also a deep cry around so many cultural conflicts that cause heartache and disempowerment at the level of local/regional Church and Government.

The closure of certain missions and communities has been a source of grief for some. The Reunification of the Congregation still causes pain in some hearts and there is a deep sense of loss at many levels. There was a painful cry for reconciliation and healing around these wounds.

Where is that grief now in your heart?
Has it shifted, healed or has it deepened?

CONGREGATIONAL CANDLE AND MUSIC

Having given some expression to your grief, we prayed for healing...

We opened ourselves to a healing ritual...

ICA VIDEOS OF HEALING RITUAL – MUSIC – GRACE OF TRANSFORMATION



Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice Into the Deep

SEGMENT 3: IMAGES OF SEED PLANTING

MONICA:

In our ICA closing ritual, we reflected on the Crippled Woman from Luke's Gospel and how she needed to grow into her healing; we acknowledged that real growth and genuine transformation is an inner and outer movement that takes time. We considered how remembering the moments of grace can empower our ongoing transformation.

Do you remember the letter you wrote to yourself about what you wanted to remember that could empower your journey towards transformation?

And do you remember the seed that symbolised this journey for you?

IMAGE OF SEED - MUSIC

We invited you to plant your seeds, and as you did, to read your letter of remembrance and tear it up and mix it into the soil to nourish your seed and to symbolise the growth that comes from remembering moments of grace. Pause for a moment to remember what you wrote in your letter.

Here are a few images of how some of you ritualised this remembrance and journey towards healing and transformation.

As we view these images let us also listen to what you wanted to remember from your vICA experience.

IMAGES OF PLANTING WITH MUSIC

PowerPoint: You wanted to remember...

(Voiceover)

To keep the flame of love and compassion burning
To risk ... to move out on new paths
To remember our passion for justice.
To respect others in mutuality and true sharing
To keep the spirit of inclusion and transformation active
To be open to cultural diversity
To put our insights into practice
To see God in all things
To be open to seeing new ways; not to be afraid of change
To question and to dialogue; to keep the dialogue going
To continue a formation process
To keep alive the call of Jesus the Good Shepherd
To continue to live the movement of radical transformation
To move forward with a new enthusiasm and joy
To live out and make real our prayer and communal life; to walk the talk in our day to day living
To build up our Congregational identity
To go beyond borders for the sake of Mission



Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice Into the Deep

SEGMENT 4: BLOOMING – TRANSFORMATION

Now, several months on and well into a new year and a new phase in your journey towards radical transformation, what is taking shape in you, what possibilities are emerging from your faithful surrender to the journey of transformation?

IMAGES OF SEED BLOOMING WITH MUSIC

Something beautiful, new and life-giving has emerged from your faith and your trust in what God can make possible. It is that same faith and trust that we invite you to bring with you now as you venture out into the deep in this next phase of your journey to radical transformation.

PART 2 – INTRODUCTION TO PHASE II AND THE THEME “INTO THE DEEP” (58:30)

SEGMENT 5 – A REFLECTION PHASE II JOURNEY TO CHAPTER 2021

MOVIE

(Voiceover below)

Drawn By Love ... Passionate for Justice...Into the Deep (01:00:31)

1. Image Galaxy used in the Chapter logo

Staying faithful to the CCPC brief to integrate the new cosmology into the Chapter journey, in this new phase we are mindful of the evolutionary transformative energy at work in the universe from the Big Bang through to the expansion of billions of galaxies....

2. The Sun and the Earth

...from which we see the emergence of our solar system and the life-giving endless sunlight that comes to us in this cosmic transformation.

3. The Sun Rise

We acknowledge this sunlight as the light of the Sacred One, our Creator God, who is the life sustaining energy of all creation, and is the one light that unites us all across the world.

4. Sun over ocean and in the water

Just as we lit our ICA candles in the awareness of our unity, with each other and with all creation, we now place the sun which symbolises the Cosmic Christ who calls and directs us to launch out into the deep

5. Graphic sunlight RGS staff and chapter logo – the Mast and Sail

As we venture out, “Drawn by love with a passion for justice, into the deep,” we are heartened by Mary Euphrasia’s call to be united by the warmth of genuine love, as she directs us to, **“Look at the universe, there is only one sun which warms and unifies it. It is the same for you; your sun is a single heart.”**



Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice Into the Deep

6. Boat, water and text on boat - Radical Transformation

This love places us all in the same boat, as we dare to heed the call of God that resounds within our own hearts, to risk familiar ways, to go deeper in search of the more that we long for; to place our trust in each other, in God, and in ourselves, as we launch out into the deep waters, pulling together, working together, through a series of events and programs focused on our Chapter agenda, that draws us into the depths of the transformation that we desire.

7. The Oars – each one comes in one at a time

We make our way into the depths of radical transformation, as a discerning community, addressing our Chapter agenda

- Orientation to Chapter;
- Universal RGS Culture;
- Reconciliation and Healing;
- Mission Partners – Global Learning Inclusive Community, and
- Governance

INTO THE DEEP

Stirring in our hearts, in the depths of our souls,
We now hear a call, to launch into the deep,
To move beyond our fear, beyond all we have known,
To believe with a faith that dares to trust,
Our God will meet us there.

Chorus:

***Into the deep, come launch out with Me,
Into the depths of faith, come see what trust can bring.
Into the deep, come launch out with Me,
Into the depths of love, come fix your gaze on Me, Into the deep.***

More than we could know, far more than we could hope,
A promise of great things, in hearts that dare to dream,
Such bright imaginings and possibilities,
That our God will bestow abundantly, On all who heed God's call.

Chorus:

***Into the deep, come launch out with Me,
Into the depths of faith, come see what trust can bring.
Into the deep, come launch out with Me,
Into the depths of love, come fix your gaze on Me, Into the deep.***

We will find in God, the courage that we need,
To embrace the call, to risk familiar ways,
If we but look to God, and let love be our guide,
We will know in our hearts such unity, God's blessing upon us.



Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice Into the Deep

Chorus:

*Into the deep, come launch out with Me,
Into the depths of faith, come see what trust can bring.
Into the deep, come launch out with Me,
Into the depths of love, come fix your gaze on Me, Into the deep.*

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SEGMENT 6: REFLECTIONS ON THE THEME 'INTO THE DEEP' (01:08)

HILARY:

Discerning a suitable theme to guide us into and through the next phase of the journey towards Chapter wasn't very difficult. It came from your hearts and your desires which we reflected on as we drew the threads of the vICA's together. We heard loudly and clearly the deep need in you to be more authentic together, to give of yourselves in compassion to those who are struggling and need to be valued, appreciated and loved into life. We saw consistently in your feedback a zeal for mission that desires to journey in solidarity with others to relieve heartache and poverty, to heal the broken and abused and to bring justice. We know you cry for the violation of the Earth and want to heal her and join with others in attending to her care. Some of you even said you would risk your lives to be God's comforting presence for others.

It is clear your desires are not pious aspirations but come from courageous hearts that are moved to let go of the things that hold you back from giving and receiving authentically and lovingly. You are wanting transformation and to be transformed means taking a journey into the deep!

The words 'into the deep' echo the directions that Jesus gave his fishing friends from the shore of the sea of Galilee. I am sure you remember that story well from Luke, chapter 5:4 – the men had been out all night and had caught nothing. They were fishing for their lives – finding food for their families, making their livelihood, seeking survival and then it looked like they would have nothing to show for their all-night effort.

It seems at first they were reluctant to follow Jesus' directive. But they did! What enabled them to go beyond their reluctance? Were they just humouring him? Or did they sense of something in Jesus' presence, or see something in his eyes, or hear something in his voice that stirred their trust in him?

Was it their instinct of faith and trust in Jesus that enabled them to take the risk and launch out into the deep? Was it because of their relationship with him that they were willing to go beyond their fears, to venture further than their security would normally allow them to go?

Jesus' call and invitation to seek out life beyond what we know, to risk familiar ways and dare to venture into the deep, is a challenge in faith and trust. This challenge can only be met in the intimacy of relationship with the Sacred One. The depth of trust, of courage and daring is reflective of the depth of love and intimacy in one's relationship with God. But, as with those simple fishermen, when those depths are honoured, the deep returns abundant blessings!



Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice Into the Deep

Imagery of 'the deep' may not be water for you. The deep experience you may be called to might be symbolised in a desert landscape or even a mountain top. The deep you may be called to might be a relationship, or a project, or perhaps a vision, a dream or an aspiration. 'The 'deep' experience for you may be the longing and yearning of your heart.

Your longings and desires for yourself and your congregation for a rich and fuller life together, and in your ministry, invite you to risk together and trust the stirring in your heart. As we know all too well this journey into the deep is a journey of transformation which has an inner and outer reality that needs prayerful and mindful attending.

So as we move together into Phase II be aware as you venture into the deep and move to unknown horizons that your longing IS the longing of God, our Ever-Present Origin! On this journey some days the waters may be calm and gentle other days the waters may be turbulent and wild but whether you sail on calm or troubled waters trust and rely on God's constant presence in love.

Catherine, you have something more to say on this topic. Thank you.

CATHERINE SCHNEIDER – A PERSONAL REFLECTION

Hilary what you have just said about this journey into the deep is so true. Into the Deep, clearly presents for us an inspiring and challenging invitation to step into this Phase II of our chapter journey. As I considered the theme we had chosen, a memory awakened in me that perhaps can give additional perspective on this new phase of our journey. "Into the Deep.....

When I was a child, I almost drowned in a small lake. I had been led into deeper water to feel an underground spring that amazed my friends and they wanted me to experience it also. Though I made sure they knew I couldn't swim well, I was promised that it wasn't that deep and that it was ok. So, I trusted and went into the deep. Suddenly, it became too deep and I was clearly under water. My friends had turned toward the shore. They did not see me nor hear me.

I gasped for breath. I pounded the water and fought to get myself out. Suddenly a hand grabbed me. The lifeguard pulled me to safety and he also let me know that I should not have been out there in the first place.

I hadn't thought about this experience for a very, very long time. But for some reason the image and the theme that was developed for Phase II, clearly brought this memory of the experience back into my awareness. In looking at the theme and the logo I recalled for myself how very frightening that experience was for me. How going into the deep could have cost me my life. How trusting others can lead to feeling betrayed. Into the Deep...is it really worth the plunge?

When one reflects on a childhood experience from the place of adulthood, one can gain a deeper awareness of the impact of that experience on the present moment.

Since my childhood I've had more pleasant experiences of the water. Now, when I consider the journey into the deep the images are fed by life experiences. Now, I'm amazed at the images of the astonishing beauty that lies deep in the depths of the water's



Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice Into the Deep

surface. All the creatures that are present in there provide each other with what is needed to sustain life. I know that I, too, have an amazing beauty in the depths of my being and that I have all I need to be sustained in life.

Now that said, the deep can still frighten me. My own inner transformation can become so blocked by the darkness that can sometimes drown my spirit. In that place it can be very difficult to hear the voices of love and support that surround me. All can become very silent. Then suddenly, like the surprise of the lifeguard by my side, I have those who grab me and pull me up for air. Sometimes I only need a little bit of air to have the courage to go back into the deep. And somehow that courage always comes. Maybe not in the time I want it to come. I sure could have been more comforted if the lifeguard had been by my side sooner. And yet, the timing always seems to be right.

The beauty and the dangers of the deep are both real. Going into the depths of the transformative journey needs amazing courage. It needs support of those who share the journey with me. It needs deep faith in the One who draws me into the deep to experience its beauty and its darkness as the container for my own on-going conversion. It is that commitment to the journey that will take me to that place of transformation for which I know my soul longs.

So, friends I invite you to a full commitment of your journey into the deep where a promise of great things awaits all hearts that dare to dream. Fix your gaze on the One who calls you and promises to be with you in the beauty and the dangers of this transformative journey.

HILARY:

Thank you Catherine for such a heartfelt inspirational sharing.

SEGMENT 7: COMMENTS FROM SISTERS AND MISSION PARTNERS ON THE THEME (01:25)

HILARY:

And now friends some of your Sisters and Mission Partners are going to share with you their reflections as we move into Phase II. As they do so I invite you to be aware of the word or phrase that stirs in your heart.

MOVIE

Lucia Russo:

PowerPoint

[God is within us on the Journey](#)

The call into the deep means to me to open our hearts and minds; to see and feel that Jesus is always there, with all his love inviting us to go beyond. To challenge ourselves to go further. To constantly leave and share his infinite and unconditional love with others no matter what we are going through. To respond to his call every time. Wait and hope for the Lord. Wish to be transformed by him by his love and realise that the transformation in



Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice Into the Deep

the direction of God never ends. Full trust in Jesus will help us deepen in our faith. So, I think that we should never give up. We should always be persistent in our journey towards full confidence in God.

Jan Ryan:

PowerPoint

[A wholehearted response](#)

The following is my response to the question 'What does the call into the deep mean for me?' In pondering on Luke's Gospel, chapter 5 in which Jesus invites Peter to launch into the deep I feel a resonance with it within myself. That it is a request that is being made of myself at this time as we prepare for the Congregational Chapter to ready ourselves for changes in structures. As I look at ministry in these days of Covid-19 and the restrictions placed on us and the call to look for new ways, positive ways, better ways to respond in ministry. So, I see this as a very challenging time, a time in which I desire to go to a quiet place to listen to the word of God and be receptive to what is being asked of me through the word of God.

A second question that has been put to me is 'How do I wish to respond to this call?' I would have to say in a word 'wholeheartedly!' I believe the call for me is to discern well. What the word which is being opened in me is inviting me to. To listen to the voice of the shepherd, to follow where I'm called. To know that it will be along new and different paths but to respond with courage and an open mind and an open heart. In other words, to respond whole heartedly.

Marco Grottesi:

PowerPoint

[Depthing Mary Euphrasia's values in our lives](#)

A memory comes into my mind. The day I met Euphrasia and her values. They hit me like an overwhelming wave. It was a special day, I was in Angers and I went to visit her tomb. It was right there, sitting in front of her, that I lost myself in a thousand thoughts and feelings. I don't know what really happened, but from that moment, a whole series of values and certainties, which perhaps were already mine, became indelibly rooted in me.

I hope that this second phase, as it emerged from the vICA, will consolidate, in the attempt of a radical transformation, these values of love, justice, equity, and mutual respect. When we descend into the depths to radically transform our lives, we may be frightened, but in my opinion, strong in these values we will never have anything to fear.

Shirley Tomalá Catuto:

PowerPoint

[A recommitment to radical transformation](#)

What does the call into the deep mean for me?



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For me, it means a re-commitment to radical transformation, every day. To do this is very difficult for me to do but I still want to do it.

How do I wish to respond to that call?

I will want to respond to this call by asking for God's mighty love to be active in my heart every day. Not my love but God's love.

Sashi Natarajan:

PowerPoint

[A divine invitation to come into mindful silence into the centre to become one.](#)

Come into the place of mindful silence, a silence which can open the doors to infinite possibilities and listen with humility to the words of the Omnipresent. OM - Lead me from ignorance to truth, from darkness to light, from death to immortality. Peace, Peace, Peace. This is a divine invitation for me - to shift in thought, word and deed from the periphery to the centre – towards the primary source of energy, the hub of love without boundaries, where I am but a speck – a powerful speck - in unity with the entire cosmos.

I am challenged to wake up and walk with courage and undaunted faith to become one with my brothers and sisters out there, all of whom come from the same source: To situate ME and discover the rhythm of my heart in the heart of the mission. Into the deep, I find you and say: "Namaste – the spirit within me connects with the spirit within you".

SEGMENT 8: PROGRAM AND TIMELINE (01:36)

DONNA:

As we began this session, I mentioned that I would share how we are going forward. Many times it has been said that the unique underpinning of the Congregational Chapter 2021 is a call for radical transformation. This interior and exterior work requires the Chapter to be:

PowerPoint (Voiceover)

- [Contemplative in nature;](#)
- [Focused on relevant issues pertinent to the membership, and](#)
- [Integrative in terms of prayer, ritual, content and processes leading to discerned outcomes.](#)

The Chapter agenda was affirmed during the vICAs and people said they wanted to take the topics deeper. The CCPC want the topics to be integrated. They suggest:



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PowerPoint (Voiceover)

- Universal Congregational Culture;
- Being a global, inclusive, learning community that embraces Mission Partners, and
- New flexible model of governance.

The Congregational Chapter Planning Committee continues to ask that radical transformation be the foundation for the spirit and work of the Chapter and that reconciliation, grief and healing be integrated throughout Chapter.

To continue fostering the sense of energy and unity that the vICAs generated and to honour the diverse assessments, the following four characteristics hold the intent and spirit of Phase II.

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1. Continue to integrate both the inner and outer dimensions of radical transformation;
2. Expand and deepen the Chapter agenda;
3. Honour with culturally diverse experiences the local culture as well as the overall Congregational culture, and
4. Continue to integrate younger members and key partners into the Chapter dialogue.

The content, processes, ritual and prayers will be integrated into one whole movement. Resource Kits will be created to provide formative materials and reflections around the Chapter agenda.

Your engagement is absolutely critical. We are imaging the following:

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- During March and April, all members and partners will engage in individual reflection around the provided materials and engage with their local communities and/or learning partners to share their reflection. Remember, if you want to engage learning partners, it is up to you to organize them;
- In May and June, there will be Regional ZOOM gatherings to share the small group reflections and determine what the region as a whole would like to recommend for Chapter deliberation in light of the topic;
- During August through September, we will host cross congregational ZOOM meetings to hear from across the whole congregation the thoughts from the respective regions. These are critical sessions for Chapter delegates and identified guests to attend, and
- As we begin in February, we are going to hear from the Life Seekers as they provide a Theological Reflection experience for you to focus on possible key features for the new model of Governance.



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I'd like you to look at this graphic that shows the timeline and I'll give you a moment to look over that graphic.



Sisters and Mission Partners, you are critical to this whole endeavour. We have a full year ahead as we move to Chapter and I know we will enter into the deep together.

Now, we are going to explore the Integrative Process of Transformation. Monica will share this special endeavour with you.

SEGMENT 9 – THE INTEGRATIVE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION (01:43)

A clear message we heard from you during the vCAS and from your feedback was your genuine willingness and deep longing for inner and outer transformation. You were also clear in your desire for on-going formation and support for this journey. In response, we hope to provide an experiential process that draws you into the deep and supports and empowers you as you choose to embrace radical transformation.

We have called this process the *Integrative Process of Transformation* (IPT). It is a focused form of contemplative reflection and journaling which we will be explaining in detail in video 2. For now, just to say that,

PowerPoint (Voiceover)

The Integrative Process of Transformation:

- Draws its inspiration from spiritual wisdom and is steeped in our Christian faith tradition, yet inclusive of all spiritual traditions;
- Integrates spiritual and formative principles with practical application to real life situations, and
- Engages all of our senses, our minds, hearts, and bodies in the personal and communal work of transformation.



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SEGMENT 10: The Underlying Spirituality of the IPT

This journey into the deep, as we heard in our earlier reflections, requires resilient faith and trust. It also requires honesty and compassion towards one's self and others. It is a journey that needs the support of a vibrant spirituality and a healthy developmental framework. The Integrative Process of Transformation offers both these supports. In Video 2, we will consider the developmental framework of the IPT. For now, we want to reflect on the underlying spirituality of the IPT.

The IPT finds its spiritual centre in the invitational directive of Jesus, to launch out into the deep (Lk 5:4).

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The IPT is rooted and embedded in:

A Spirituality Grounded in the Paschal Mystery



Integrative Process of Transformation

This mystery is at work in our daily living and at every level of creation. It finds its meaning in the foolish paradoxical wisdom of Jesus - that only in dying can we truly live.

Animated PowerPoint (Voiceover)

A Spirituality of the Heart



Integrative Process of Transformation

One of the most striking aspects of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd charism, is the centrality of the heart. We have already heard in our reflections on the call into the deep, Mary Euphrasia's hope and desire that you be of one heart; "a single heart" that warms and unites you all.

(SME, Conferences, p.501)

PowerPoint (Voiceover)

And, St John Eudes offers you a particular spirituality of the heart.

"The Heart of Jesus has been given to us by the Eternal Father, the Holy Spirit, Mary, and Jesus himself, to be the refuge of our needs, the oracle of our doubts and difficulties, and our treasure. Finally, they have given it to us, not only to be the model and the rule of our



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life but also our own heart, so that we can, through this Great Heart, fulfill all our duties with God and with our neighbor."

This hints at the scripture account from Ecclesiasticus of God's blueprint design of our humanity, where we learn that, "God gave us a heart to think with... and placed God's own light in our hearts to see with..." (Eccl: 17: 1- 8).

The IPT is steeped in this spirituality of the heart, in particular the heart's spiritual capacity to listen, to see, to think and to respond.

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A Spirituality of Vulnerability



Integrative Process of Transformation

PowerPoint: (Voiceover)

"Vulnerability is that space within which human beings can truly meet each other and speak the same language... Deep down, vulnerability and surrender are what we most deeply want".

*("The Restless Heart. Finding Our Spiritual Home in Times of Loneliness"
Ronald Rolheiser)*

The IPT believes the longing to surrender, in and through our vulnerability, is in essence true of every heart. And yet, the IPT appreciates that this longing is what we fear most and guard against.

At the same time, the IPT recognises that genuine gestures of respect and engagement with another, no matter how seemingly insignificant they may appear, nurture trust. This trust enables mutual sharing and awakenings to new perspectives and new relationships.

Animated PowerPoint (Voiceover)

A Cosmic Spirituality –



Integrative Process of Transformation

All of creation is charged with the energy and love of God, the Ever-Present Origin and source of all life. When we live from this sacred consciousness, we live from that graced place of authenticity and wholeness.



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In our ICA reflections we considered some of the powers, principles and natural laws at work in the universe, that direct and shape our own human journey towards wholeness and transformation. We specifically reflected on:

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- the energy of God's love at the heart of the universe;
- the innate power of allurements, and
- the evolutionary mystery of interiority.

In Day 1 vICA Session 2 on radical transformation, we made passing reference to another gift from the universe that can empower our growth and wholeness; it is the gift of Holons. We recommended to you the work on Holons by Judy Cannato in her book *Radical Amazement*.

"Holon" is an unusual word. Let's take a moment to consider it.

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Holon is the scientific name for the clustering of individual entities, parts/particles, charged with energy that empower them to evolve and become something more.

Holons are about the innate capacity in all creation to grow and transcend.

This evolutionary function of Holons is at work at every level of creation. Our Earth, our Solar System and the billions of galaxies surrounding us, are all holons nested in the one Universe that is our home.

Holon functioning is at work in every creature, including each of us. In fact, the human person is the most complex and most highly developed example of Holons.

From a personal and spiritual perspective, understanding the mystery of Holons enables us to appreciate our own human capacity for growth and transformation, since the functions that empower transformation in Holons are at work in our humanity.

We will be explaining the Holon functions in detail in Video 2 and demonstrating how, through a specific Holon journaling process, we can support and enhance our own personal and spiritual growth.

The Integrative Process of Transformation is a unique integration of three components:



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Animated PowerPoint (Voiceover)



Integrative Process of Transformation

1. the spiritual capacities of the heart:
listening, seeing, thinking, and responding;

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Integrative Process of Transformation

2. contemplative dialogue;

Animated PowerPoint (Voiceover)



Integrative Process of Transformation

3. Holon Journaling, which together, can
support and enhance our growth and
transformation.

In March we will release Video 2 which will explain the IPT in detail and how to use it both personally and communally.

For now, let us welcome Sr Ellen, who will reflect with us on the journey to Chapter 2021.



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SEGMENT 11 – PHASE II: JOURNEY TO CHAPTER – ELLEN (01:57)

Dear Sisters and Mission Partners,

The month of January holds a great image of the two faces of Janus - One face looking backwards and the second face looking forward.

As I **look back** to our virtual Intercontinental Assemblies, I marvel at the unity, the dialogue and high engagement of each of you across the congregation. I prayed that the experience would bring us new ways of living, seeing and working to respond to the new invitation that God is offering us now.

In looking back, there was a sense that the completion of the vICAs was actually an opening to the next expression of the emerging soul sized Chapter agenda.

Looking forward, I trust the work of Phase II: Drawn by Love...Passionate for Justice... Into the Deep will ultimately lead us to set Chapter directions that are vital, relevant and viable. I sense that all the work before us, the exploration, imagination, and practical tasks will demand a willingness to be radically transformed individually and as a congregation. Without any doubt, we are standing at an open door, another threshold, or better yet on the dock, waiting to embark into the deep, which will demand of us both courageous honesty and risk taking.

As I again reiterate the call to Chapter, I want to say to you that your insights are so important to the journey that we are on together as human beings. Being aware of our connectedness, we try to find our way and the way is radical transformation. Your experience of radical transformation is the grace that each of you can bring in some way to the Congregational Chapter.

No one else can bring the gift that you are. The Chapter needs to hear your insights and desires that can shape the future. If we are able to have a future, we must listen to our own hearts, to each other, and we must listen to the heart of God.

It is our fondest hope that we will meet in Angers, France for the Chapter, but in the meantime, we need to meet virtually. This reality calls us to focus on what is essential; to our journey towards Chapter and at the Chapter. We need to remember everything we are doing **is** Chapter work and as we strive to do the work contemplatively, respectfully, with our ears, mind, and hearts open to God, we are truly functioning as a global, discerning congregation, faithful to our founder and foundress. Let us remember their

Wisdom: from John Eudes – *We are in the world solely to love - it is God we love in our neighbour;* and from Mary Euphrasia – *Do everything you do as far as you can through love and you will see what you are capable of.*

And so, Sisters and Mission Partners, with great courage and unity, let us step into our collective boat and head out *Into the Deep* knowing always we are *Drawn by Love, Passionate for Justice.*



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MONICA:

With those inspiring words settling in our hearts we invite you to prayerfully commit to this journey to Chapter in a simple Commissioning Ritual.

Let us begin by lighting our candles wherever we may be across the world.

VIDEO CLIP OF CANDLE LIGHTING AND INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – IN YOUR SPIRIT

PART 3 – COMMISSIONING RITUAL (02:01)

ELLEN:

As Congregational Leader, along with the Congregational Leadership Team and the Chapter Planning Committee, we come together with you, Sisters and Partners in Mission of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd from four corners of the Earth, from the 6 Continents in which we live out our charism and Mission to start our journey.

LANDSCAPE IMAGES FROM ALL THE CONTINENTS AND MUSIC

ELLEN:

I invite you, in the spirit of Mary Euphrasia and John Eudes, to step out together, with your great hearts, into the deep work of our journey to Chapter.

I call you to reflect and pray, to listen to and talk to one another, opening your hearts and minds to what God wants to bring about in us, at this time.

I call you to move in solidarity with compassion and understanding daringly, courageously, fearlessly, trustingly creating a future where your zeal will bring justice, peace, healing and hope.

As John Eudes reminds us: *Never before have we had, and perhaps never again shall we have, such an opportunity. Let us not allow it to pass without making the holiest use of it.*

Let us pause as we begin our Chapter journey and open our hearts to listen to God's word.

GOSPEL STORY TELLING – INTO THE DEEP - LUKE 5:4

MONICA:

Let us reflect on God's word to us from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

In a setting perhaps similar to this, over 2,000 years ago, Jesus stood on the shoreline of the Sea of Galilee watching a few fishermen wash their nets after a long hard night of



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fishing that ended with hardly anything to show for their efforts. As crowds of people pressed around Jesus, desperate to hear a word or receive a touch from him, that would make a difference to their lives, Jesus got into Simon Peter's boat and asked him to put out a little from the shore, where Jesus sat and talked to the crowds. When he had finished talking to them, he told Simon Peter, to launch out into the deep water and pay out his nets for a catch.

We know what happened, Simon and his partners James and John, did as Jesus directed them to do and ended up with the biggest catch of their lives. We also know that this was the beginning of an extraordinary relationship with Jesus for Simon and James and John, who gave up everything to follow him. Their experience of being in the deep with Jesus was life changing for them in every way.

It is a powerful story of what can happen when we trust the call of Jesus and venture out into the deep. It is interesting to note that this radical transformation for these fishermen came about in the midst of the *ordinary mundane reality of their daily lives, where they were exhausted, frustrated and discouraged with nothing to show for their labour. Jesus invited them in and through the circumstances of their everyday reality to take the risk, to go beyond what they knew.*

What would you do, if Jesus were to walk into your ordinary, or not so ordinary, circumstances; what would you do if he walked into your reality, whatever would it be, and sat in your space and directed you to venture out beyond what you know and trust, into the deep?

RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

So, I invite you now to imagine, to listen, to ponder what this call of Jesus means to you.

IMAGE OF WATER LAPPING WITH MUSIC

COMMISSIONING:

Zelna: Having listened to the call of Jesus to go out into the deep I ask each of you now - Are you willing to draw on the depths of God's spirit at work in the universe?

Response: With a great heart and a willing spirit

Zelna: Are you willing to be open to the depths of God's spirit in your own heart and to the hearts of others with whom you dialogue on this journey?

Response: With a great heart and a willing spirit



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Zelna: Are you willing to risk and move out into new ways?

Response: With a great heart and a willing spirit

Zelna: Are you willing to live the movement of Radical Transformation beyond borders?

Response: With a great heart and a willing spirit

Zelna: Are you willing to commit to ongoing healing, forgiveness and reconciliation?

Response: With a great heart and a willing spirit

PowerPoint (Voiceover)

God, our Ever-Present Origin, as we walk this graced Chapter journey, gift us with all it takes to be passionate in finding the path you wish us to take. Lure us to the place we need to be, where new things can happen. May we help each other to find our voices. May we, in our openness and respect, strengthen and build a community that leads us to peace and wholeness and greater zeal for your mission in us. Amen.

Ellen: Let us trust each other and go deeply in our understanding of each other.

May we be open to God's relationship with us and with one another.

May God's grace envelop you all throughout these days.

May God's love support you and God's wisdom empower you. Amen.

BLESSING

SPRINKLING WITH WATER - VIDEO

SIGN OF PEACE AND AFFIRMATION

Ellen: I invite you now to offer a sign of affirmation and support to one another. Thank you.



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FINAL SONG INTO THE DEEP

Stirring in our hearts, in the depths of our souls,
We now hear a call, to launch into the deep,

To move beyond our fear, beyond all we have known,
To believe with a faith that dares to trust,
Our God will meet us there.

Chorus:

***Into the deep, come launch out with Me,
Into the depths of faith, come see what trust can bring.
Into the deep, come launch out with Me,
Into the depths of love, come fix your gaze on Me, Into the deep.***

More than we could know, far more than we could hope,
A promise of great things, in hearts that dare to dream,
Such bright imaginings and possibilities,
That our God will bestow abundantly, on all who heed God's call.

Chorus:

***Into the deep, come launch out with Me,
Into the depths of faith, come see what trust can bring.
Into the deep, come launch out with Me,
Into the depths of love, come fix your gaze on Me, Into the deep.***

We will find in God, the courage that we need,
To embrace the call, to risk familiar ways,
If we but look to God, and let love be our guide,
We will know in our hearts such unity, God's blessing upon us.

Chorus:

***Into the deep, come launch out with Me,
Into the depths of faith, come see what trust can bring.
Into the deep, come launch out with Me,
Into the depths of love, come fix your gaze on Me, Into the deep.***

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*Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice
Into the Deep*

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*Drawn by Love... Passionate for Justice
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Drawn By Love
Into The Deep
Shepherd Us
Grace of Transformation
Like The Deer

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Morning

Chapter Call – Landscape Music

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