



Today, Sisters of Mercy, through Mercy International Association, use their resources to respond to issues of global poverty demonstrated in the massive displacement of persons worldwide.

HUMILITY IS RADICALLY RELATIONAL. “The spirit of humility seeks out those whose voices are not being heard, those whose well-being may be overlooked, those whose language may not be understood.

Humility is a desire that the other’s well-being and our own be held and cultivated together.”

ARROGANCE “is founded in self-containment and self-possession, of disconnection from our commonness.”

HUMILITY IS DIALOGIC. “Humility is found when we authentically engage in dialogue with our minds open to the possibilities of teaching and learning with one another.”

ARROGANCE “is often veiled ... and may or may not state its claim, it does not genuinely invite dialogue. It cannot, because it cannot be moved. Arrogance is resistant to change.”

HUMILITY INVOLVES STRUGGLING AND CHANGING. Humility is about “struggling to know and do what is right.” In humility we are open to “changing our minds ... changing our lives, admitting wrongdoings, making amends, tolerating, even at time celebrating, the ambiguities of our lives ...”

ARROGANCE “is characterized by unchanging systems, minds, and ways of being in the world. Arrogance does not struggle, but rather is intent upon upholding the good and the right, without question or dispute.”

HUMILITY ALLOWS US TO BE MORE GENUINELY PRESENT WITH ONE ANOTHER, PROFESSIONALLY AS WELL AS IN OTHER WAYS. In developing humility, “we need to be rethinking, re-imagining, and working together to discover how to be involved in the task of transformation To be non-exploitative in our communities and relationships, [while learning] to be more genuinely moral persons in community.”

ARROGANCE is the root of ... [manipulation] and exploitation ... which supports our assumption that an unchanging power-over relationship is the optimal resource for healing

HUMILITY DOESN’T KNOW FOR SURE. “Only with others, including those whose opinions are different, can I/we come to know what we need to know and do at this time. We will never know for sure, and yet we are not reduced to silence and passivity.”

ARROGANCE “closes us off to the new or different, including our own uncertainties.

From: Carter Heyward, *Staying Power*, Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1995