

Esther's Gamble Highlights

"Esther's Gamble: Reflections on Abundance" by Sr. Mary Pellegrino, CSJ, was sent to sisters and associates in preparation for Community Days 2021. A few highlights from the article are included below as a way to focus your reflection at this time. You may also wish to review the full article.

Unpacking the Story

"The potential loss of what was core and most dear to Esther was a life-changing experience for her. She intuited what she needed to do. She brought her spiritual wisdom to bear, surrounded herself with the support of others and navigated a shift in consciousness from the constraints of her perceived scarcity to the abundance of her creative potential." Page 5

"Many of us, attempting to divorce ourselves from the power and sway of empire, are engaged in important individual efforts that address deep societal needs. Important as these individual efforts are, they are insufficient to affect a lasting or transformational impact. What is needed at this time is a shift in our collective consciousness from the primacy of individual efforts to the primacy of our corporate or communal efforts." Page 6

Our Position

"What if, like Esther, our position affords us opportunity?" Page 8

"Consider 'position' as a description of the full range of resources that a religious institute brings and places in service to its mission. These are tangible resources like money, investments, properties, institutions. 'Position' also includes the intangible, yet potent, resources of our decades and sometimes centuries-old spiritual heritage, wisdom and energies, along with the wealth and network of relationships that we have, our influence, moral authority and credibility, and the unlikely, yet unmistakable strength of our vulnerability." Page 9

The Journey from Scarcity to Abundance

"The biblical story tells us that Esther intuitively knew what she needed to do before she had the wherewithal to actually do it. Intuition is often both a beacon and a guide. After a period of communal preparation (prayer and fasting) she was able to move forward with what she knew was right . . . despite her lingering fear." Page 12

"For inspiration we have only to look to Esther and our foremothers - to their courage, bravery, creativity, faith and audacity to make something out of nothing, to build from the ground up, to persevere without privilege, to assume there would be when there wasn't and to embrace the risk of abundance rather than scarcity's false certainty. These are the women we come from." Page 14