

Twelve Marks of New Monasticism - 'Mind Map' Questions & Feedback

Pete Askew presented in his plenary session a summary of the 12 marks of new monasticism, which can be found at www.newmonasticism.org

Participants in the conference wrote questions and comments on a large sheet of paper in 'mind map' format. These are the 12 marks and the comments:

Relocation to abandoned places of the empire

Who are 'The Poor'?

We need to begin a conversation about the language we use: labelling the "poor" "abandoned" people we are going to "help". It puts us over people rather than alongside them (and reinforces "us" and "them"). So we get to feel worthy!

Yes, but ... most of 'us' are different – more choice, opportunity – most of us have no idea what it is to live on benefits, minimum wage, etc, etc. We need to allow ourselves to live alongside, get to know. Not just criticise those who are endeavouring to make a difference. Language semantics! Distraction.

Sharing Economic Resources with fellow community members and the needy among us

Surely not just in community? Surely (sorry!) this is a global issue?? => 2 way? Multidirectional?

Hospitality to the Stranger

Do we see every stranger as "Christ in the Stranger's guise"? More that we actually encounter Christ IN the Stranger.

What about the gospel?

It is living the gospel – people are tired at being shouted at.

Lament for the racial divisions within the church and our communities combined with the active pursuit of a just reconciliation.

How do we learn to incorporate Lament into our common worship?

Humble Submission to Christ's body, the Church

Sounds good – but what does it mean? Do they view themselves as church/extra church?

Intentional formation in the way of Christ and the rule of the community along the lines of the old noviciate.

How are values passed on?

How integrated is mission in the spiritual formation process?

Nurturing Common Life life among members of intentional community.

What size of groups can share the common life and it still be meaningful?

How, in an individualistic culture?

Support celibate singles alongside monogamous married couples and their children

What is a Christian notion of family anyway?

Isn't this a confining definition? Would the term household, which is more inclusive be more useful?

Geographical proximity to community members who share a common rule of life.

Virtual proximity? How does this fit with today's "networked" new technological world?

Care for the plot of God's earth given to us along with support of our local economies.

Finding the Rhythm of creation and context.

Peace making in the midst of violence and conflict resolution along the lines of Matthew 18.

Need in urban – it's not about heading for the country.

Commitment to a disciplined contemplative life.

How do we nurture positive discipline within our society?

Additional Themes/Questions

What about passing on wisdom to the next generation?

Should there not be a mark about the straight-forward proclamation of the gospel (sure, within the context of authentic Christian Community)?

Proclaiming the spoken word or proclamation as incarnating the Word?

Is the kingdom of God here?