

DIVERSITY & CULTURAL AWARENESS - REFLECTION



I ask for what I desire as we begin this topic



I pray that my entire being become open to God's grace



I imagine these texts being addressed to me, and note my response

Grace: that we recognize the gifts and richness of diversity and inculturation

We can be very successful here and can even be considered superior to the other missions that are said to produce wonderful things. Here in China, this is not the time for either reaping or even sowing, but of opening the wild woods [...]. Others will come and they, with the grace of the Lord, will write about conversions and the fervor of the Christians, but you should know that it is first necessary to do what we do. [...] It seems to us that the best result that we can achieve at the present state of this enterprise is to gain, little by little, the respect of the people and to remove any suspicion on their part. Only then, can we hope for conversions. In this matter, by the grace of the Lord, we achieved much more in a few years than one could have hoped to achieve in many years. After all, China is China.

Letter from Matteo Ricci to Gerolamo Costa, Nanjing 14 August 1599

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

1 Corinthians 12:14-21, 26

The Jesuit legacy of creative response to the call of the Spirit in concrete life situations is a motive for the development of a culture of dialogue in our encounters with believers from other religions. This culture of dialogue must become a specific mark of our Society, which is sent forth to the whole world to work for the greater glory of God and to help human beings.

General Congregation 34 (442)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What graces have I received from interacting with others from different backgrounds and cultures? What resistances did I personally experience?

In what parts am I called to grow?