Chadian Sister Engages Kansas City Youth about Peace and Justice

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**Trust, the Cornerstone of Peace**

Incredible but true. I’m in Kansas City! I must say, I didn’t absolutely believe it would happen.

What if I’d acted like everything depended on me and not on God, or left everything to God, as if nothing depended on me?

Trust sustains this journey. It is a gift, received and welcomed. It is part and parcel of the mystery of the relationship with God, the mystery of God as partner of human beings, and the mystery of relations between people. Without trust, nothing happens… no risk is taken to meet the other, and even the totally Other, the Creator!

An announcement was shared with the sisters of St. Joseph, specifically the members of the international Justice and Peace team. I responded, mainly out of respect for the
person who had brought it to my attention. And now, here I am!

I am dialoguing in a new language with men and women who believe that peace and nonviolence are built by learning from one another. I am with people open to the promise of an uncertain future. She who risks nothing gains nothing, it seems. Encountering others takes faith.

Leading up to my travel, there was excitement and ambivalence, a sense of welcome and of retreat. Until the moment one must commit oneself, give one’s word!

Yes, to give one’s word is to trust the other’s word. It seals a covenant. But how does one give her word when she is dependent on others and their means? Can one give and then keep one’s word?

I like to be coherent with my words, but it’s not always obvious. “I will try!” Such was my answer.

I tried and here I am! Mystery of God, mystery of fellow human beings in whom we trust!

Yes, trust in the unknown, trust in a project which exceeds us: building of peace and nonviolence!

What can I say? Except that I experienced once again how God is the first to trust. Then we too risk trusting one another.

Fears dissipate. Resistance departs. One grows in internal freedom and discovers oneself as “responsible.” Yes, responsible for the trust others have in us and the trust God puts in us.

I find, thus, that I am indeed on my way for my mission of peace and nonviolence, for trust is the cornerstone of peace.

It remains only to open my eyes, to see, discover, perceive… Open my ears, my heart, and my hands to receive and fully experience what will be given to me to live.
I will try to learn the language of my new neighbors and walk with them to grow in mutual knowledge.

This is how I hope to witness to my commitment to justice and peace. And witness above all to this God made human who loves us for life and reveals to us that encountering one another is life giving.