

# The Crooked Finger of God

By Peggy Russell, Associate Director, Atlantic-Midwest Province

A small group of co-workers is reading and discussing a book by Ann M. Garrido entitled, *Redeeming Conflict: 12 Habits for Christian Leaders*. I am actually stuck on page 35 where she speaks of the Benedictine monks believing that a question mark is “the crooked finger of God beckoning us to draw nearer.”

Now, I have to tell you that I will never see a question mark the same, or the question that precedes it.

So, what questions are the associates asking now? Or better yet, what questions are being asked of the associates?

In the Atlantic-Midwest Province, members of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation department and those who work closely with them are traveling to meet with groups of associates in all areas to talk with them about answering the tough questions. Many times an associate is with family, co-workers, friends and neighbors who do not see the issues of water, immigration, human trafficking and Haiti through the same lens as we see them.

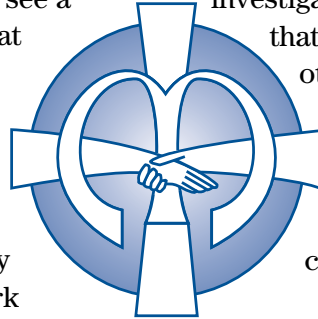
Sometimes people who have not been blessed by

the educational opportunities afforded us by the sisters make statements based upon erroneous information or thoughtless ideas. How do you respond and still maintain a relationship with the person? The best way is to be prepared with details and figures that are not emotional but factual.

In addition to the workshops, associates are investigating their own communities for realities so that they have lived experiences to share with others. They are educating themselves to be better promoters of the Atlantic-Midwest Province commitments. They are asking questions. They are drawing nearer to this God, who is beckoning us with the crooked finger of a question mark.

Jesus asked many questions which drew people closer to him, closer to understanding him and closer to making a commitment. Here are just a few. “Who do you say that I am?” “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” “Who touched my clothes?” “Who is it that you are looking for?” “What do you think?” “What is it that you want?” “What do you want me to do for you?”

What are your questions?



---

**Cause for Applause** continued from page 15