

L'Arche USA 2017 Peer Cohorts Conversations - Lived Servant Leadership

Conversation # 2: Mutuality, Vulnerability and Belonging in Servant Leadership

Text

- Vulnerability is the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, courage, empathy, and creativity. It is the source of hope, empathy, accountability, and authenticity. If we want greater clarity in our purpose or deeper and more meaningful spiritual lives, vulnerability is the path. — Brené Brown, *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead*
- Belonging is the place where we grow to maturity and discover what it means to be human and to act in a human way. It is a place we need in order to live and to act in society in justice, in truth, without seeking power, privileges, and honors. It is the place where we learn to be humble but also audacious and to take initiatives in working with others. It is the place where our deepest self rises up into our consciousness and so we become more fully ourselves, more fully human. - Jean Vanier, *Becoming Human*

Image/Meditation



- Watch [this L'Arche DayBreak video](#) about the beauty in mutual relationships. Or watch this [this As I Am Video](#) about the mutual care between Raffaella and her father.
- Rest for a minute in quiet after the film ends. Which images, words or moments touched you most? Imagine you are asked to make a video that shows what mutuality looks like in your experience of L'Arche. Who would be in it? What places, what moments, what phase of your journey in L'Arche would be featured? What would the title be? What would you want the viewer to take away from the film?

Reflection Questions

- How do these words above from Brene Brown (vulnerability, belonging, joy, courage, empathy, creativity, hope, accountability, authenticity) and from Jean Vanier (to be humble but also audacious) resonate with your sense of yourself as a leader?
- What is most challenging for you about mutuality in leadership, about being a leader who gives and receives? How do you balance the goals of both holding the authority of your role and the relating to others in real ways and shared humanity? What relationships of mutuality help you navigate this?
- Are there leaders you've known who model effective servant leadership that is grounded in authentic, honest relationships? What can you learn from them?