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L’Arche has many success stories to share, but L’Arche also has examples of significant struggles or cyclical patterns of crisis. Faith and Culture was developed to help us understand and address these struggles directly.

WHY IT IS NEEDED

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WHAT IT IS

- A two-year program that trains L’Arche leaders to integrate profound cultural awareness into crisis management decisions, community growth challenges, and new community foundations.
- Helps our leaders build a healthy Federation by encouraging each L’Arche Community to be rooted in, and emergent from, their own cultural context.

WHY IT IS UNIQUE

- Program content was developed in conjunction with cultural anthropologist Gerald A. Arbuckle, SM, PhD, and educator in systems and group development, Sr. Brenda Hermann.
- Each participant selects a real L’Arche case study that is relevant to their role in L’Arche, and works with it throughout the two-year period.
- The values of the gospel (of the Christian Scriptures), and the values of L’Arche, are the reference points to help us discern where we need to question and challenge cultural values, and where we need to respect and nourish them. This process of critical interaction leads to a culture transformed by faith and a faith that is culturally re-expressed. This process can also be useful to people of other faiths or of no particular faith.

FUNDING NEEDS

- Facilitator and translator fees.
- Travel expenses for the formation team, and some participants.
- Accommodations.
- Supplies.
- Detailed budget available upon request.