

Handout 9

Enacting Our Stories*Questions for Reflection and Discussion*

Is there anything from the previous sessions that you find particularly compelling, problematic, or interesting? What has stuck with you?

Think about the ways you've already gone against the grain in enacting your own story. Just by deciding to spend a year as a volunteer, you've leaped into the unknown! It's involved quite a lot of risk-taking. Do you consider taking this year to be a countercultural decision?

Why did you enter this year of service? What hopes and/or reservations did you hold about the year?

What have you discovered that you want to keep alive within yourself after this year is over? What do you want to nurture or cultivate? What have you done to keep these discoveries alive up until this point?

What are your current inspirations? Fears? Concerns?

MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

— Thomas Merton, "Thoughts in Solitude"