

# Explore the Theme — Gleanings — 1

a miscellaneous assortment by SHCJ variously inspired by the grain of wheat  
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## Cold Weather Seeds — Mary Hamilton, SHCJ

There are seeds that can only germinate in cold weather. One of them is milkweed, which is vital for the survival of the monarch butterflies. Perhaps there are some of us whose seeds will open only when we are feeling cold inside.

## Personal Testimony — Patricia Duru, SHCJ

In the past months [of convalescence from illness] the words of Jesus in John 12:24, “Unless a grain of wheat ...” have been my solace! Each new day brings joy and an aura of undying hope in Him who is my life. The paradox of my sickness is that it gives rise to new life in me daily which has become a source of enrichment even for everyone around me. I believe that every time we pass from one stage of life to another, something in us dies and something new is born.



## Oración de Esperanza / Prayer of Hope

Nancy Bello, SHCJ

*Estamos viviendo como comunidad global una transición, que nos llevará a cambios profundos en nuestra sociedad. El mundo está en proceso de transformación y nosotras como comunidad religiosa no estamos exentas a esa transformación, como lo dice San Juan 12,24 “Yo les aseguro que si el grano de trigo que cae en tierra no muere, queda infecundo; pero si muere, dará fruto abundante”*

**Danos Señor la sabiduría que necesitamos para esperar que la semilla que ha caído en tierra brote y florezca en la forma que tu Señor tienes planeado.** Y a nosotras danos la gracia de esperar con paz y entusiasmo ese florecer de una nueva humanidad que te espera. Como lo hizo Cornelia en su tiempo, permítenos responder a los signos de los tiempos con un espíritu alegre y valiente, esperando el nacimiento de esta nueva humanidad. Afina nuestros oídos, Señor, para escuchar lo que tienes preparado para nuestra comunidad y danos la gracia de ser fiel a tu designio. Amén. (*English translation below*)

*The global community is living a transition that will bring about profound changes in our society. The whole world is in process of transformation and we, as a religious community, are not exempt from that process, as the gospel of St. John says in 12:24...*



**Dear Lord, give us the wisdom we need to hope that the seed that has fallen on the ground may bud and flower in the way that you have planned.** Give us the grace to hope with peace and enthusiasm for that flowering of the new humanity that hopes in you, just as Cornelia did in her time. Help us to respond to the signs of our times with a strong and joyful spirit, expecting the birth of this new humanity. Attune our ears to listen for what you have prepared for our community, and give us the grace to be faithful to your design.

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**I tell you the truth. A grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die. Then it makes many seeds. But if it never dies, it remains only a single seed.** International Children’s Bible