Supervision Hui reflection - 11 Nov 2025

It was an interesting experience, listening to the stories of each of the 16 participants in the Hui.

There was a sense of attentive, respectful listening, and of honouring each story.
The atmosphere in the room was that of mutual support and trust, which was amazing considering the fact that most of us did not know all the people present.
It was amazing to observe how this very diverse group of people carried a common theme which engulfed us all, the sense of care for the other, or as Thomas Aquinas would put it simply as love, which he referred to as "willing the good of the other".

This willing the good of the other went right around the room and was extended to the ones we supervise. We included in our circle of love not only those present in the room but those present in our lives beyond the boundaries of the room. Faced by such profound sense of caring for those present and those beyond was an incredible experience. The sense of trust that accompanied the love was amazingly powerful.

Projecting and cultivating an atmosphere of care and trust is essential in a supervision context. Being conscious of the need to cultivate this kind of atmosphere is a key component in the tool box of the supervisor. Care and trust are the bedrock of a sound relationship, even more so in the context of supervision.

Engaging in pastoral supervision which delves into the supervisee's spiritual perspectives and faith journey requires the supervisor to tread softly, patiently, and respectfully, allowing the supervisee to further explore their spiritual perspective and progress in their faith journey. Care and trust are the means which enable the supervision process to be an enabling and supporting progression in the supervisee's journey.

The circle of love and care which engulfed the group symbolised for me the essence of good supervision, one which has the potential to enhance , allow growth, and provide spiritual nourishment for the supervisee as well as the supervisor.

New Zealand has become a multi-cultural melting pot, a society of great cultural diversity. As supervisors we need to acknowledge this diversity and find what would cater for its needs.

To summarise, the hui for me was a lived experience, in which learning was combined with spiritual, and emotional dimensions. It was a learning by experience rather than by intellect, which allowed for the spiritual and emotional to claim a role in teaching and learning process.

Thank you for a most enjoyable day

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