

Spiritual Directors International in Europe



Dublin, Ireland, 16-18 October 2009

Being Present

An Invitation

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Come to Ireland to celebrate! Celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Spiritual Directors International—a multi-faith learning community of people concerned about spiritual care and world harmony.

Celebrate with members of the All Ireland Spiritual Guidance Association, which is collaborating with Spiritual Directors International on this first-ever event.

Celebrate with members of the Retreats Association in the United Kingdom and members of Spiritual Directors in Europe at this unique learning opportunity. Celebrate with theology faculty and students, religious educators, pastors, lay people, chaplains, social workers, hospice caregivers, spiritual directors, and all people engaged in spiritual care.

If you are new to Spiritual Directors International programs, you're in for a treat. These events combine thought-provoking plenary sessions, stimulating workshops, Irish music, and masterful story-telling into a holistic learning experience. You will grow personally and creatively by celebrating the global learning community that includes more than 6,000 members who passionately care about contributing to peace, justice, and the integrity of creation through contemplative spiritual care.

Come celebrate in Ireland!

Liz Budd Ellmann, MDiv — Executive Director — Washington, USA

Terrence Moran, CSSR — Chair, Coordinating Council — New Jersey, USA

David Liedl, TOR — Secretary, Coordinating Council — Minnesota, USA

Miriam Frey — Treasurer, Coordinating Council — Ontario, Canada

Jennifer Hoffmann — Coordinating Council — Ontario, Canada

Christopher McCauley — Coordinating Council — California, USA

Sally Taylor — Coordinating Council — County Down, N Ireland

Spiritual Directors International Conference Keynote Presenter

Daniel O'Leary is a priest and teacher in the Diocese of Leeds, England. Award-winning author of twelve books, he regularly contributes to the *Tablet* and the *Irish Furrow*. His current passion includes recovering the sacramental imagination in spiritual ministries. O'Leary was born in Rathmore, near Killarney, in County Kerry, Ireland. He attended All Hallows College Seminary in Dublin and has strong roots in Ireland as well as leading conferences and retreats throughout Europe.

"Postmodernism is uneasy with all certainties, especially scientific and religious ones ... A theology of nature and grace will relish the opportunity of validating its claims in a postmodern, multicultural world. It would not be the first time that the incarnate God found new self-expression in a place of confusion, contradiction and aggression." Daniel O'Leary, *Begin with the Heart*



Spiritual Directors International Conference Spiritual Director

Dr. Una Agnew, SSL, is an apostolic religious Sister, member of the Saint Louis Sisters of Ireland, and currently engaged as Associate Professor Emerita of the Spirituality Department at the Milltown Institute of Philosophy and Theology, Dublin. She is Company Secretary of the All Ireland Spiritual Guidance Association, and a member of Spiritual Directors in Europe.

"God winks at human failure, and looks instead at the desire of the heart to be open to life." Una Agnew, *The God of Patrick Kavanagh*

Conference Schedule

Friday, 16 October

7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (optional)
9:00 a.m. Plenary Session: Opening Ritual, Keynote Presentation, and Reflection
Noon Meal (provided)
2:00 p.m. Workshop I (90 minutes)
3:30 p.m. Break
4:00 p.m. Workshop II (90 minutes)
5:30 p.m. Meal Break
7:30 p.m. *Live Inside a Story* with Megan McKenna

Saturday, 17 October

7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (optional)
9:00 a.m. Plenary Session: Ritual, Keynote Presentation, and Reflection
Noon Meal (provided)
2:00 p.m. Workshop (3 hours)
5:00 p.m. Meal Break
7:30 p.m. An Evening of Irish Arts, hosted by Claire Roche

Sunday, 18 October

7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (optional)
10:00 a.m. Plenary Session: Membership Moments, Evaluations
11:00 a.m. Closing Ritual
12:00 p.m. Adjourn

Conference Workshops

Friday, 16 October. Workshops last ninety minutes and are presented twice to allow participants variety. (On the registration form, choose two and one alternative.)



F1. The Fullness of Life: How Dying Affects Our Living

'Contemplate death if you would learn how to live'. Taking these words of the Stoic philosophers to heart, we will uncover (through philosophy, spirituality, and psychology) some of the widespread attitudes about death and dying across cultures. We will explore some of the unconscious processes that inhibit life from being lived to the full in the here and now.

Dilly Baker and Alison Thompson run 'The Open Table,' which offers training and consultancy in the areas of diversity, spirituality, and motivational training. Dilly is an Anglican priest, and author. Alison is an experienced leader and mentor in private industry, the public sector, and a range of church settings.



F2. Aspects of Love

Being present is about connecting to others: loving. Unfortunately, our conventional society portrays love only in terms of romantic or sexual relationships. Other aspects of love will be explored. By extending the scope of our loving actions and activities, we'll learn how to be truly present in the world in many, wonderful, ways.

Keith Beasley is a Reiki Master/Teacher and Life Guide. Until recently he ran a retreat house in Portugal and is now undertaking postgraduate research in "Transcending Thought" at Bangor University, Wales.



F3. Being Present to Our Celtic Spiritual Heritage

Music, poetry, storytelling, and meditation all combine in an exploration of the heritage and uniqueness of Celtic spirituality. Cath's university thesis focused on the potential for generative conversation between neo-paganism and Christianity. An inclusive nature of Celtic spirituality will be highlighted in this reflective and experiential workshop.

Cath Connelly's passion is Celtic spirituality. A spiritual director and gifted Celtic harpist, she is based in Melbourne, Australia.



F4. Spiritual Growth in the Jewish Tradition

In Judaism, there have been very different approaches to spiritual growth, both conceptual and methodological. We will look at short exemplary texts (English translations) from different periods and from different streams of Judaism and discuss their value for spiritual directees today. We will practise some helpful spiritual exercises from the Jewish tradition.

Dr. Hannah Nathans, BA, CMC, Zeist, Netherlands, founded HaMakor, Centre for Jewish Spirituality. She is a Jewish spiritual director and teaches worldwide Jewish Spirituality, Enneagram, and Kabbalah.



F5. The Mystery of Healing Told by Five Fingers

Learn an ancient Chinese practice to integrate the practical with the spiritual by playing the “Healing Finger Game.” Find out how to be more present to and recognize feelings of loneliness, fear, anger, sadness, down-heartedness, and embrace them with the higher frequencies of love, protection, strength, comfort, joy.

Vivienne Rauber from Zürich, Switzerland, teaches Process Acupressure and “Therapy with Energy and Process” (TEP) to form “self-help teachers” in Europe and South America.



F6. Sensing the Holy: Touching the Earth, Singing the Word, Praying the Body

Philip Roderick will share some of the playful and profound ingredients that inform firstly, his love of nature as a vehicle for spiritual insight; secondly, his delight in the rhythm of life; thirdly, his simple but powerful recovery and development of body prayer from different spiritual traditions, ranging from Qi Gong to Judaism and Celtic Christian.

Philip Roderick is the founder director of The Quiet Garden Movement, the leader of Contemplative Fire, an Anglican priest, percussionist, educator and author of Beloved: Henry Nouwen in Conversation.



F7. Poetry and Presence: The Door, the Window, and the Listening Ear

This creative writing workshop starts with attention to the natural world and explores the writing process itself as a spiritual discipline. You will encounter a few poets whose work exemplifies the creative process and write from your own encounter with natural objects. No previous creative writing experience needed.

Andrew Rudd, from Cheshire, England, is a published poet, university lecturer, and Lay Reader. He leads retreats, quiet days, and writing workshops, exploring poetry and spirituality.

**Saturday, 17 October. Workshops last three hours and are presented once.
(On the registration form, choose one and one alternative.)**



S1. Group Spiritual Direction: Community for Discernment

“Put quite simply, I would describe spiritual direction as an act of prayer.” We will explore the underpinnings of group spiritual direction as an act of prayer, and consider the fitness of the process for groups in varied settings, including gatherings of spiritual directors.

Rose Mary Dougherty, SSND lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA. She has offered spiritual direction for over thirty years. Currently she ministers to hospice care-givers and the dying. She is author of two books and a DVD on group spiritual direction.



S2. Discernment in the Public Arena

Our post-modern world badly needs discernment on public issues and in public places. We will explore how to adapt the principles of Ignatian discernment to all areas of life. It challenges us to play a discerning role even in settings that are far less than ideal. Through us, the Spirit can be heard in the public arena.

Brian Grogan SJ, PhD, former Director of the Dublin Jesuit Centre of Spirituality and Jesuit Novices and former President of Milltown Institute, Dublin, Ireland, is currently Associate Professor in Spirituality and author of five books.



S3. Being Present and the Process of Spiritual Growth

An essential characteristic of spiritual life in the Judaeo-Christian tradition is that it describes a biographical development, a spiritual growth. For that process "being present" is important, as an everyday exercise. We will share experiences from the spiritual tradition, discuss presence among participants and will close with a spiritual exercise.

Prof. Dr. Michael Plattig, OCarm, was born in 1960 in Fürth, Bayern, Germany. He is a Carmelite, Doctor of Theology, Doctor of Philosophy, and Director of the Institute for Spirituality in Münster.



S4. Being a Contemplative Spirit in a Hurried World

The spirituality of participants will be enhanced through the practice of contemplative practices that can restore our souls and open us to being present with the Divine. The writings of Thomas Merton and approaches to introducing groups to being still and knowing God will also be explored.

Rev. Rosalie Norman-McNaney serves as an interim minister in Rhode Island, USA and has written a curriculum Journeys for adults on "The Covenant" and spiritual disciplines.



S5. Standing on the Edge: Accompanying People on the Periphery of Religious and Spiritual Traditions

We will enhance the skills and spiritual lives of all religious traditions by including guided visualisation: what it feels like to stand on the edge; creating in words or pictures an experience of God; contemplative focusing on a found object, listening, and identifying responses which support spiritual direction.

Peter Varney is a spiritual accompanier and retreat leader. He is experienced in being on the edge as both a Quaker and an Anglican priest, an anthropologist in Borneo, and a counsellor in Britain.



S6. Finding Your Celtic Story - from the Labyrinth to the Land

This workshop is an invitation to look at Christianity in Ireland not as conversion but as continuity of faith for thousands of years. Create a seven circle labyrinth as a team and make personal Brigid's crosses to use within the labyrinth. Claire Roche, with songs and harp, will add an ancient bardic tradition known as "deravid" to enhance this journey.

John Willmott was taught to read with a bible at five-years-old and, at six, made an ancient passage cairn his "den." For over fifty years, his journey has been an exploration of stories, ritual, and sanctuary.

Evening Sessions

Friday, 16 October: An Evening of Story with Megan McKenna

Live Inside a Story! [Do you know what story you're in?]

In Eastern Europe the Matrishka dolls nest inside one another: largest down to tiny ones. Our individual stories are those tiny little ones and we usually begin our stories from inside and then work our way up, but rarely out! What if we told our stories starting with the large all encompassing ones? Would it change our stories? We will look at our story in light of the larger stories: the stories of the Trinity, the Universe, and the Spirit in the World. Perhaps we will find ourselves hidden more securely and deeply in the heart of the mystery of God.



Megan McKenna is an internationally known author, theologian, storyteller, and lecturer. She holds graduate degrees in Scripture, Adult Education and Literacy from the Graduate Theological Union and the University of California, Berkeley, USA, and a Masters in Systematic Theology from Catholic University, Washington, DC, USA. But foremost she is a lover of words and how these both convert and transform us and bring meaning and hope to our world.

Saturday, 17 October: An Evening of Irish Arts hosted by Claire Roche

Inviting friends and colleagues to join her, internationally known harpist, Claire Roche, will host an evening celebration of Irish music, song, poetry, and performance.



Claire Roche has performed at the National Concert Hall in Dublin as well as at many venues around the world. Claire has recorded several CDs including Dancing in the Wind, poems by W. B. Yeats set to music. Claire has chosen to use her gift to gently warm the hearts of those who are present and fire their spirits into passion, courage, tears, love, and laughter.

Frequently Asked Questions

Wouldn't it be better to meet at a retreat house, rather than a hotel?

Yes. For smaller, localized events, Spiritual Directors International offers programs in retreat houses. Retreat house facilities are not available for the size of the group expected for the Dublin events. Because this is an international gathering, Spiritual Directors International selected a location near the Dublin airport.

Why doesn't Spiritual Directors International offer an all-inclusive conference rate that incorporates three meals a day and accommodations?

After receiving years of feedback advising Spiritual Directors International not to provide an evening meal, the conference fee includes midday meals only. Participants told us they want the freedom to go out, to dine more lightly in the evening, or not have an organized meal at all. Some participants will be commuting locally and will not want to pay for an evening meal or for a hotel. Consequently, accommodations are priced separately from the conference. Since the hotel rate is in EUR, participants will pay directly for the hotel in EUR, given that EUR will be convenient for many people. That's how Spiritual Directors International arrived at the current conference format with accommodations paid separately and only some meals.

Will breakfast and an evening meal be included in my conference fee?

Your conference fee includes two midday meals, on Friday and Saturday. If you have secured a room at the Crowne Plaza Dublin Blanchardstown at the €85 per night rate, a full Irish breakfast is included. You can also reserve a room only for €69 per night.

Can I pay in my local currency? Why doesn't Spiritual Directors International offer fixed currency rates for the conference fee?

Yes, you can pay conference fees in your local currency. Ideally, in a more stable global economy, Spiritual Directors International would offer multiple fixed rates for the conference: CHF, DKK, EUR, GBP, USD, etc. Due to the current, volatile, currency markets, Spiritual Directors International is pricing the conference in one currency. Because Spiritual Directors International is purchasing materials and booking rooms for presenters in USD, the conference fee is in USD. Nonetheless, you are welcome to pay in a local currency; we simply cannot fix the currency rates. When paying with a credit card, your bank will calculate the currency conversion for you. To pay by cheque or money wire, please contact the Spiritual Directors International office at membership@sdiworld.org for current currency rates.

Will a priest preside at a Mass on Sunday? Will a rabbi preside at a Saturday Havdalah service?

No. Spiritual Directors International events attract an increasingly diverse spiritual learning community. Throughout the conference, individual participants might feel called to go offsite to local houses of worship, depending on their spiritual tradition. We will provide local worship information, however, offsite worship is the individual participant's responsibility. During the conference, we will share sacred time together and participate in rituals designed specifically to celebrate the blessings of being present to a diverse Spiritual Directors International conference community.



Additional Information

Location. The conference will be held at the new Crowne Plaza Dublin-Blanchardstown, Blanchardstown Centre, Dublin 15, Ireland. A limited number of rooms have been reserved at the conference rate of €85.00 per night with full Irish breakfast or €69 room only. All rooms are en-suite. To make your reservation call the Reservations Manager, Bernice O'Keeffe, at +353 1 897 7721 or fax her at +353 1 897 7750. Your communication, by telephone or fax, needs to include: the Spiritual Directors International booking code **SPIRIT09**, credit or debit card details, arrival and departure dates, and number of people in the room (maximum 2 adults). Reservations must be made by 15, September 2009. After this date, or once the group block is filled, the prevailing rate will apply. If you have any questions, please contact Bernice O'Keeffe at bokeeffe@crowneplazadublin.ie

Ground Transportation. The Crowne Plaza Dublin Blanchardstown is located adjacent to Blanchardstown Shopping Centre with easy access to restaurants, shops, and cafes. Crowne Plaza Dublin Blanchardstown is located 7 km from the Dublin Airport and 8 km from Dublin City Centre. A taxi from the airport cost approximately €25 and the bus to and from the airport costs €4.50 each way. Specific information, driving directions, and maps will be sent to you a few weeks before the conference.

Scholarships and Bursaries. Priorities for bursaries, partial scholarships, and work-exchange scholarships are for people who have been members of Spiritual Directors International for two years or more and who live in developing countries. To apply for financial assistance, please submit the following to the events coordinator, events@sdiworld.org, before registering: 1) amount requested; and 2) statement describing how attending this event will benefit your ministry and Spiritual Directors International in your geographic area. Do not register until you have been notified of the status of your financial request. Financial assistance will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis for as long as funds are available.

Scholarship and Bursary Donations. For many people, especially participants from developing countries, interns, and people on fixed incomes, attending the conference is not possible because of cost. Please make a donation to the scholarship and bursary fund. Thank you for sharing your generous heart with others in need!

Worship and Ritual. Spiritual Directors International is an increasingly diverse spiritual learning community. Throughout the conference, individual participants might feel called to go offsite to local houses of worship. We will provide local worship information, however, offsite worship is the individual participant's responsibility. During the conference, we will share sacred time together and participate in rituals designed specifically to celebrate our diverse Spiritual Directors International conference community.

Information Sharing. All conference participants are invited to bring brochures and program materials to share with others. Table space is provided, free of charge, for information sharing.

Exhibitor Invitation. Tables are available for display and sales during the Spiritual Directors International event. The expected attendance is 100+. The conference runs its own bookstore. A covered table with two chairs (or equivalent space if you have your own setup) costs USD\$100.00 for informational display tables (e.g., theology schools, retreat centers, associations), and USD\$200.00 for tables that sell merchandise (e.g. spiritual artwork, books, candles, etc.). Exhibitor Information and registration is available online, www.sdiworld.org.

Scheduling. The full schedule provides many opportunities. Please make sure you take care of yourself. If you need more quiet time, select fewer options. If you want more stimulation, take advantage of all the options. Select a schedule that works best for you, making space for your contemplative needs.

SDI Events registration will be confirmed by e-mail upon receipt of full payment.

For all future information about the Spiritual Directors International in Europe: Dublin, Ireland Conference
www.sdiworld.org



Join Spiritual Directors International in Europe



St. Kevin's Church, Glendalough (photo by Regina Roman)

for seven days of
Pilgrimage into Celtic Spirituality
18 – 25 October 2009

Guides
Marcus Losack and Regina Roman

Register Now! Limited to thirty-six pilgrims. Pilgrimage registration closes 31 July.

In Ireland it is considered a “soft day” when the drizzle and mist caress the earth. This softness often seeps into the soul, opening and inviting the heart to be present. By being present to the moment we encounter an amazing Celtic spiritual tradition.

The Celts left a legacy of

- ❖ a deep love of nature,
- ❖ markers for compassionate soul friendship, and
- ❖ spiritual practices to live into being present through intimacy with God.

As we walk the land to discover Celtic heritage, we also traverse the contours of our inner landscape to discover wisdom relevant for today.

18 October: Celtic High Crosses and Orientation

19 October: Glendalough - The Monastic City

20 October: Glendalough - St. Kevin's Desert

21 October: Glendalough - Wisdom of the Heart

22 October: Dublin - National Treasures

23 October: St. Brigid of Kildare - Mary of the Gael

24 October: Celtic Spirituality - Ancestors' Wisdom

25 October: Departures and the Journey Home



Guides: Marcus Losack is an Anglican priest and author of *Glendalough: A Celtic Pilgrimage*. Regina Roman is a spiritual director and author of *Journey with Purpose, a Guided Journal*. For more than a decade, as a vocation, Marcus and Regina have been leading pilgrimages that specialize in the Desert and Celtic spiritual traditions.



Pilgrimage Cost USD\$1489 (plus a \$500 non-refundable registration fee) per person land cost that includes: ground transportation, double occupancy accommodations (single supplement USD\$400), breakfast and evening meals, gratuities, and all entrance fees. A Release of Liability Waiver and Travel Insurance is required to complete pilgrimage registration.

