Listen, Listen! Words, sounds and vibrations are all around us seeking to heal, to guide, and to initiate action. Traffic and solitude, commitments and conversation, and the activity of your particular life all invite a response of some kind. Whether you are eighteen or eighty, the journey of minutes and hours, days and years begs a response from you that can be life-giving or deadly. So the choice is given: Live with passion and presence, and engage with others. Or, don’t.

It is valuable to occasionally ask ourselves some honest questions such as these: Is meaning encountered in my daily living? Am I a person of peace and justice? Is this a season when I sense something more that I can grow and live into? Do I experience a general malaise and discontent, and if so, do I know why?

Perhaps the current time of your life is full of light. You find yourself alive with integrity of passion and purpose. Or maybe this is a season of transition, often the place of unknowing or not quite yet. Possibly this is a starlit time of sorrow and letting go. Wherever you reside, and however you engage with the particularities of your daily life, you are a woman or a man created for love, peace, and companionship. Learning to listen to inner promptings and the world around you will guide you to fullness of existence.

How do we learn to listen to inner longings and inspiration? It’s simple: pay attention. Show up. Be still. Breathe deeply. Slow down. Listen. And, where do we begin to listen? To our sacred stories—yours and mine—that continually unfold over time. Listen to the story of the universe. Listen to the world’s beauty and hunger. Listen in the city, the wilderness, at home, with family, in community, and at the workplace. Listen to sorrow, to hope. Listen to mystery and the unknown. Most of all, listen to the present time.

Spiritual direction explores a deeper relationship with the spiritual aspect of being human. Simply put, spiritual direction is helping people tell their sacred stories everyday. Descriptions of a spiritual guidance relationship include Anam Cara, spiritual accompaniment, spiritual companionship, spiritual direction, spiritual guidance, spiritual mentoring, sacred friendship, and soul friendship. How would you describe a relationship with another person—or group—that listens deeply to you, and receives your sacred life story?
VOICES

I sit at the very edge of the lake
bone weary after an arduous hike.
The grebes are snoozing, heads tucked in
after elaborate, lengthy preening.
I close my eyes, receive on my face
the warmly westering sun.
Behind closed lids there is an orange glow
and a silver shimmer of water.

Hear the many voices of my prayer:
the musical clucking of water
over stone, onto sand.
Wind that comes up,
rising slowly, rolling through the tops of trees.
The deep hoarse call of the raven
in its flight across the valley.
The guttural croak of a dry tree
that leans against more limber ones,
creaking and whimpering
in a light breeze.

These are the voices of my prayer.
There are the voices of my God.

—Antoinette Voûte Roeder, Weaving the Wind (2006)
Reprinted with kind permission from
Apocryphile Press, Berkeley, California, USA.

YOUR AD
HERE
Astronomy and Location: From Who Am I? to Where Am I?

“When I look at the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars that you have established, what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?” (Ps 8:3-4).

Who am I? This perennial human question poses itself most poignantly when, like the psalmist, we are caught up by awe in the face of the majesty of the universe. One of my responses to that sense of wonderment has been an interest in the heavens—literally and figuratively. I have pursued the study of astronomy and theology with varying degrees of passion and interest throughout my life. The resulting conversation between cosmology and spirituality has been a rich source of inspiration. Recently, I have come to appreciate yet another connection between the two which comes from applying a simple relationship in astronomy to the effort in spirituality that explores an eternal question: who am I?

The astronomical relationship of which I speak is contained in two terms: zenith and nadir. Zenith is the term which designates a point in the heavens directly over one’s head. Nadir is its antonym, technically a point in the heavens opposite zenith or, put a different way, a spot directly under the observer. Here, the theologian in me is aware of an old caution passed along by my elders, “Don’t be so heavenly minded that you’re no earthly good!” To avoid falling into that trap, I like to loosen the strict meaning of these two terms even further to, What’s over your head? and, What’s under your feet? Understood this way, zenith and nadir become a metaphor connecting heaven and earth, for what is over our heads and what is under our feet have a direct relationship to each other. Astronomers discuss celestial objects and events, and theologians talk about terra firma and our relationship to what is immediately around us. While the heavens raise within us the query, Who am I?, at the same moment, the earth begs the question, Where am I?

Where am I? is the question a navigator asks when she consults the heavens to determine her place on earth. I generally spurn the postmodern convenience of GPS (Global Positioning System): it will pinpoint me on a map, for sure, but I’m in favour of a less prosaic method of locating my self. My response to where am I? requires paying close attention to the heavens and to the earth in my own locale.

As I write from my home in Canada, the first of February has just passed. It is a significant day for me, approximating as it does the midpoint between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. What do I notice about the stars and the soil? Overhead, Orion is hunting further west, Gemini is ascendant, and in the east, Leo lunges toward zenith. The dawn breaks noticeably earlier … I can see my wife’s profile as she rises to ready the day; the dusk now settles as we sit at supper, not as we prepare it. The sun at noon just clears the furthest trees to the south, out the windows of the sanctuary. Under my feet, even the deep shade to the north of the house is free of snow. A red-wing blackbird called yesterday. Buds are swelling slightly, like a woman’s belly in her first trimester.

All of these are specific to where I am and consequently, they carry some meaning about who I am. As such, the connection between heaven and earth is something visceral to my experience, not an abstract philosophical construct. What you notice of earth and sky will be particular to you and to your location, be it Yellowknife, Tauranga or Orlando: it will reflect in some fashion the particularity of who you are as well.

In this eco-conscious age, when we are being called to care more deliberately for the life of the earth, we can still look to the heavens for guidance. The connection between heaven and earth is as close as what is over our heads and what is under our feet.

Rev. Dr. Murray Groom lives and works in Canada. He can be reached at immram@shaw.ca.
Spiritual Directors International has launched

Seek and Find: A Worldwide Resource Guide of Available Spiritual Directors

the first-ever comprehensive, multi-faith, global listing.

- The Seek and Find Guide is a free, online, searchable list of more than 5,000 available spiritual directors from many faith traditions.
- Designed using a hyperlinked global map, seekers can click on their location to find available spiritual directors to interview in their area.
- Along with the Seek and Find Guide, Spiritual Directors International offers helpful advice for seekers about how to interview prospective spiritual directors in order to ensure a good match.

“The Seek and Find Guide is utterly fantastic! I’ve already used it to respond to someone looking for spiritual directors to interview in another part of the world.”

—Jim Keegan, SJ

“Thanks for this important Web site and for the wonderful international capabilities.”

—Rebecca Smith Ritchey

To search the Seek and Find Guide, go to www.sdiworld.org. If you are a spiritual director who would like to be listed, you can find information at www.sdiworld.org.
The teachings of the Sufis were brought to the West in 1910 by Pir O Murshid Hazrat Inayat Khan. There are many explanations of the word Sufi. Some translate it as one who breathes well. This seemingly simple statement is in fact a lifetime’s work: to reach a point where every breath is a conscious one. Pir O Murshid’s teacher taught him that there was only one sin and only one virtue: the sin being to let one’s breath go without being conscious of it. Pir O Murshid Hazrat Inayat Khan taught his students purification breaths using the elements of earth, water, fire, and air to practice each morning, outdoors if possible.

Through our inhalation we take in the energy of the earth, water, fire, and air to purify our physical body and our aura. With our exhalation we release the impurities into the earth and water, to the fire and air. We draw in energy and radiate energy. We make five breaths for each element, breathing in through the nose and out through the nose for the earth breath; in through the nose and out through the mouth for the water breath; in through the mouth and out through the nose for the fire breath; and finally, in through the mouth and out through the mouth for the air breath.

As I wake each morning I connect with my breath, and am reminded of its importance. The practice of daily purification breaths connects me with the elements of earth, water, fire, and air. And throughout the day I return to them: when I need a bit of fire to get me through a meeting, or with the earth to ground me. I can do them during my lunch break, waiting in line at the post office or on a crowded tube (subway). They are one of the many gifts of my spiritual teacher Pir O Murshid Hazrat Inayat Khan.

—Qahira Wirgman, Wembury, Plymouth, UK. alwirgman@aol.com. For a detailed description of the purification breaths go to: www.sufiorder.org and log onto “Five Aspects of Prayer and Five Elements.”
GLOBAL RESOURCES

Australia
Dayspring Centre for Christian Spirituality and Counselling Inc.
Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction
Perth, Western Australia: 618-9275 3773
info@dayspring.org.au
www.dayspring.org.au

Canada
Cenacle Sisters/Cenacle House
5989 MacKenzie Street, Vancouver, BC V6N 4H7
604-266-1611 Fax: 604-266-6735 www.cenaclesisters.org
Sr. Monica Kaufer, rc and Sr. Kathy Scott, rc
Spiritual Direction/Body Work/Retreats/Ignatian Spirituality

The Jubilee Programs in Spiritual Direction
Pacific - Prairie - Central - Atlantic
Ecumenical and multi-faith training
in a progressive Christian context
Inquiries to: firedance@mts.net
Information at: www.jubileeassociates.ca

USA
Spiritual Ministry Center
Religious of the Sacred Heart
San Diego, CA, USA 619-224-9444
Retreats, Spiritual Direction, Sabbatical
spiritmin@rscj.org
www.spiritmin.org

Servant Song Ministries
Retreat House & Spirituality Center
720 East Greene Street
Waynesburg, PA 15370
Phone/FAX: 724-852-2133
www.servantsongministries.org

Franciscan Spirituality Center
An interfaith center in Western Wisconsin
920 Market Street, La Crosse, WI 54601
www.franciscanspiritualitycenter.org
(608)791-5295; fscenter@fspa.org

Internet
www.smallsmallacts.com
Note cards with original photography.
Finding the Sacred in the Ordinary.
Useful for meditation focus.
No minimum order.
Free shipping.

The Source at The Center
Two-Week Intensive in the Art of Spiritual Direction
For Spiritual Directors who have not completed formal training, and trained
Spiritual Directors who want a short refresher to restore and renew themselves in the ministry.

July 30 - Aug. 12, 2007

Contact: Margaret Scharf, OP
434 S. Batavia St. Orange, CA 92868
(714) 744-3175 ext. 4415
mscharf@csj/orange.org
www.thecsdo.com
A Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange

YOUR AD HERE
**Australia**
Dayspring Centre for Christian Spirituality and Counselling Inc.
Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction
Perth, Western Australia: 618-9275 3773
info@dayspring.org.au
www.dayspring.org.au

**Canada**
Cenacle Sisters/Cenacle House
9898 MacKenzie Street, Vancouver, BC V6N 4H7
604-266-1611 Fax: 604-266-6735 www.cenaclesisters.org
Sr. Monica Kaufer, rc and Sr. Kathy Scott, rc
Spiritual Direction/Body Work/
Retreats/Ignatian Spirituality

The Jubilee Programs in Spiritual Direction
Pacific - Prairie - Central - Atlantic
Ecumenical and multi-faith training
in a progressive Christian context
Inquiries to: firedance@mts.net
Information at: www.jubileeassociates.ca

**USA**
Spiritual Ministry Center
Religious of the Sacred Heart
San Diego, CA, USA 619-224-9444
Retreats, Spiritual Direction, Sabbatical
spiritmin@rscj.org
www.spiritmin.org

Servant Song Ministries
Retreat House & Spirituality Center
720 East Greene Street
Waynesburg, PA 15370
Phone/FAX: 724-852-2133
www.servantsongministries.org

Franciscan Spirituality Center
An interfaith center in Western Wisconsin
920 Market Street, La Crosse, WI 54601
www.franciscanspiritualitycenter.org
(608)791-5295; fscenter@fspca.org

**Internet**
www.smallsmallacts.com
Note cards with original photography.
Finding the Sacred in the Ordinary.
Useful for meditation focus.
No minimum order.
Free shipping.

---

**FEATURED PROGRAM**
Your Advertorial here

---

**Listen**
A Seeker’s Resource for Spiritual Direction

**A FREE ISSUE AWAITS YOU, YOUR FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES, AND DIRECTEES AT**
www.sdiworld.org

- Do you have a sense of something bigger, something just beyond?
- Are you wondering how to listen to the spirit of your life unfolding?

*Listen* is a simple, inviting, contemplative resource that will help you explore basic spiritual questions and quests.
It is published four times a year and includes guidance, inspiration, poetry, retreat ideas, and spiritual book reviews.

*Listen* is a FREE GIFT, offered to you by Spiritual Directors International.
To download a sample copy, go to www.sdiworld.org.
For a free subscription to the print edition, go to www.sdiworld.org and tell us where to mail *Listen*.

**TAKE THE NEXT STEP ON YOUR JOURNEY TODAY.**

---

**YOUR AD HERE**

---

**YOUR AD HERE**
A time when religious differences threaten the world community with unparalleled division, destruction, and violence, Talking to God: Portrait of a World at Prayer comes to us as a stunning invitation to look at religion from the perspective of prayer as the universal ground for all faith traditions. In emphasizing practice rather than belief, John Gattuso’s pertinent collection of more than a hundred breathtaking photographs, fifteen compelling essays, and numerous stirring quotations and prayers from prominent writers of faith puts a powerful face on the diversity, beauty and mystery of religious expression.

The cover photograph is compelling. A woman kneels in clear water, hands to forehead, bowed in prayer. This nameless woman beckoned me to approach this splendid book by immersing myself in the depths of humanity’s common desire for communication with the sacred. I found myself in a fluid place, contemplating the exquisite glimpse of the world at prayer offered in the photos and text of the ensuing pages. In the foreword, Houston Smith writes:

This admirable book covers its subject so well that I had a hard time figuring out what I might add in this foreword. I finally decided that all of its chapters can be seen as icons. Icons are inspired paintings that we look through like a window to behold the Ultimate Reality that is God. All of God’s attributes converge, for there is no multiplicity in God … I found that iconic element in every entry in this book. (P. 15)

Through contemplating the icon of Talking to God, I experienced a new creation of wordless clarity around what unites us in the impulse to pray. I look forward to further pondering the wisdom of Mohandas Gandhi, Elie Wiesel, the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, Kathleen Norris, and other contributors who remain rooted in their own traditions while modeling the ability to dialogue with other religions. The spirit and breadth of the entire volume is captured in Harold Kushner’s observation that “Prayer is first and foremost the experience of being in the presence of God” (p. 69) in ways that allow one to become “…a different person for some time afterward” (p. 69). In this regard Gattuso has gifted readers with a magnificent prayer resource for home, church, synagogue, temple, retreat, and meditation settings.

I concur with Gattuso that the key message readers would best take from this book is humility or the recognition that we are not sovereign beings, and that we don’t have all of the answers, whether we are religious or not. Gattuso writes “Perhaps the most significant work that prayer does is help us recognize the humanity of other people and deepen our capacity for compassion and forgiveness” (p. 12). In proposing and illustrating that no system of human thought can fully reflect the sacred, Gattuso offers a great deal worth talking about to one another, and to God.

—Kathryn Madden, CND lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, and can be reached at kathrynmadden@hotmail.com.

Talking to God: Portrait of a World at Prayer
edited by John Gattuso
Milford, NJ: Stone Creek Publications, 2006
176 pages, US$ 39.95
Reviewed by Kathryn Madden, CND
April 7, 2007
CANADA: Vancouver, British Columbia

Topic: Companions of the Sacred Story: An Introduction to the Art of Spiritual Direction

Presenter: Multi-faith panel facilitated by Bishop Michael Ingham

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Richmond Hotel & Convention Centre
7551 Westminster Highway
Richmond, British Columbia V6X 1A3

Contact: Spiritual Directors International, www.sdiworld.org

April 23, 2007
USA: California (Los Angeles, North Inland)

Topic: Notes from the Vancouver Conference

Time: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location: St. Francis Center for Restoration
2010 Oak St.
Melbourne Beach, Florida 32951

Contact: Dorothee Darville, lacourtise@roadrunner.com

April 28, 2007
USA: Illinois (Southern), Missouri (Eastern)

Topic: The Spirituality of the Director: A Way of Guiding, of Loving, and Being

Presenter: Fr. Harry Byrne

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Location: Trinity Episcopal Church
318 S. Duchesne Dr.
Saint Charles, Missouri 63301

Contact: Sr. Marilyn Wussler, SSND, 314-388-9911

April 30, 2007
USA: Pennsylvania (Capitol Area)

Topic: Meet, Greet, and Network

Time: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location: Precious Blood Spiritual Center
3950 Columbia Ave.
Columbia, Pennsylvania 17512

Contact: Sharon E. Bittner, SBittner@verizon.net

May 1, 2007
USA: California (Central Valley)

Topic: The Prophetic Edge of Spiritual Direction

Presenter: Sandra Lommasson

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: Church of the Presentation
6715 Los Altos Place, St. Ann Meeting Room
Stockton, California 95207

May 2, 2007
USA: Illinois (Northern)

Topic: Spiritual Direction in an Energetic World

Presenter: Pat Irf, OFS

Time: 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location: Priory Campus Dominican University
7200 W Division
River Forest, Illinois 60305

Contact: Mr. Richard F Bough, MEA, 773-761-8679

May 3, 2007
USA: Washington (Western)

Topic: Spiritual Direction in the Margins

Presenter: Panel

Time: 11:30 am - 3:00 pm (bring a bag lunch)

Location: St. Joseph Parish
732 18th Ave. E.
Seattle, Washington 98112

Contact: Sr. Sylvia Anne Spanke, RSM, 206-547-4177

May 4, 2007
USA: Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh)

Topic: Jungian Psychology and The Interior Castle of Teresa of Avila

Presenter: Fr. Jerome Simmons

Time: 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Location: Kearsn Spirituality Center
Allison Park, Pennsylvania 15101

Contact: Rev. Betty F. Voigt, holyground@alltel.net

May 6, 2007
USA: New York (Hudson Valley and Adirondacks)

Topic: Storytelling with One Another

Presenter: Lorraine Hartin-Gelardi

Time: 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Location: Linwood Spiritual Center
50 Linwood Rd.
Rhinebeck, New York 12572

Contact: Elizabeth Anne DiPippo, SU, 845-253-7462

May 7, 2007
USA: Maryland (Greater District of Columbia Area)

Topic: The Physicality of Grace: Using InterPlay in Spiritual Direction

Presenter: Kate Amos and Sally Craig

Time: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Location: Washington Retreat House
4000 Harewood Rd. NE
Washington DC 20017

Contact: Anna Gilcher, 301-589-7070

May 10-11, 2007
USA: California (Central)

Topic: Men’s Writing Institute: Wonder, Wander, Write!

Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Douglas H. Gregg

Time: 5:00 pm Thursday - 4:30 pm Friday

Location: Mount Saint Francis Retreat Centre
Cochrane, Alberta, Canada

Saturday, April 12, 2007 * 7:00 pm

Attend this FREE evening program to learn about spiritual direction, and discover some of the diverse approaches to the ministry of spiritual accompaniment.

People of all spiritual traditions are joined in their experience of something awesome, mysterious, and very real beyond the material world. With this experiential reality comes a profound desire to know this sacred mystery more deeply, more intimately. All traditions provide encouragement and guidance in their own unique and trustworthy ways.

When we use terms like spiritual direction, spiritual accompaniment, or spiritual guidance we refer to the process of enabling another to gain increasing intimacy with the sacred source of life, the holy presence that is the very ground of all being.

Companions of the Sacred Story: An Introduction to the Art of Spiritual Direction

Thursday, April 12, 2007 * 7:00 pm

S P I R I T U A L  D I R E C T O R S I N T E R N A T I O N A L
A N N U A L E V E N T S
Richmond Hotel & Convention Centre
7551 Westminster Highway
Richmond, British Columbia, Canada V6X 1A3

Open to the public and
Comming Home to the Cosmos event participants
Once a week, or as often as we can, our circle of singers gathers to give voice to the sacred in our lives. We come from a variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds. We sing songs composed by a Benedictine Abbess who lived in Germany during the twelfth century. Some of us didn’t consider ourselves singers when we began. But we found that even so-called non-singers are welcome here, because after a little while self-confidence rises, and voices flow smoothly into the ribbon of song.

Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179) was a spiritual visionary who wrote inspiring poetry which she set to beautiful melodies. In our weekly circle we learn her songs by ear, and by heart, much as her nun’s would have learned them. Phrase by phrase we listen, and then repeat what we hear until, to our amazement, we know a whole song by heart.

The process is slow, gentle, and forgiving. It empowers each of us to drink in the words we sing, let their meaning soak into our hearts and souls, and nourish the details of our everyday lives. The message of von Bingen’s poetry comes to life through our voices.

Singing together turns us into a joyful, accepting community of souls. We embrace each other with song. We discover that by courageously lifting our individual voice, however frail or imperfect it might seem to us, we create a communal voice that sends powerful medicine out into the world.

Any song that comes from the heart is sacred. It can be full of joy and praise, or doubt and fear. It can be a cry for help or a call for peace. It can be as simple as one person humming along with the roar of traffic, as humble as a group of friends singing a favorite tune, or as complex and glorious as a choral masterwork by Bach.

Whenever you sing, whatever you sing, your song moves out on concentric waves of sound that radiate in all directions ... like ripples from a pebble tossed into still water. Your song moves into the ears and hearts of everyone and everything around you. Your sacred song carries your heart’s message out into the world long after the sound itself has died away.

—Devi Mathieu lives in Sebastopol, California, USA. You can reach her at dmathieu@sonic.net.
We bring new light to our readers lives.

Sustainable Living
Everyday Spiritual Practice
Inspirational Uplift
Transformative Travel
Enlightened Diet

Take a new look at *Spirituality & Health*.

2006 Folio Gold Award Winner

To subscribe immediately:

Call toll-free (800) 876-8202

WWW.SPIRITUALITYHEALTH.COM

Our readers find the answers inside.
Sacred Heart School of Theology

Faithful
Experienced
Trustworthy
Global
Prayerful

Where experience counts - ours and theirs!

contact Fr. Tom Knoebel
tknoebel@shst.edu
P.O. Box 429
414-529-6984
Hales Corners, WI 53130
www.shst.edu

YOUR AD
HERE
Q uestion: I am curious how singing, breath practice, or noticing where I am in the world relates to spiritual direction or spiritual guidance. Are these topics that I would talk to a spiritual director or spiritual companion about? What do I talk about or do in spiritual direction?

H oot-hoot: What a great question! First of all, when you meet with a spiritual director, you can talk about anything. Conversation is not limited to prayer, God-talk, or lack thereof. If you believe that all of life has the potential for the sacred, then anything that moves within you is something to explore.

A spiritual guide will pay attention to what captures your attention and energy in daily living, and invite you to do the same. This may include your prayer practices, personal life story, struggles, suffering, questions, pondering, or the places that bring creativity alive within you. It can also be the place where you discover new inklings, future ideas, tired mantras, dusty prayer, or joyful experiences. Maybe poverty and the world's hunger for peace and justice capture your attention. Your work, relationships, family life, dreams, sensuality, health, and interactions with nature, play, and others reveal places of potential meaning for your life. Every life encounter can speak of the sacred, and what is uniquely life-giving or deadly to you. Can you see that almost anything can be a topic of conversation in a spiritual companionship relationship?

Specifically, you may want to explore your prayer practices with a spiritual director. Often a spiritual guide might ask you to share all or parts of your life story. You may be asked to reflect upon what is familiar and life-giving in your spiritual practice, and daily life routine. Or, perhaps you might question where you experience boredom or distrust in prayer and daily living. The current time of your life might be focused upon discernment of a life commitment. Maybe you are in transition or in a threshold space, and hearing yourself speak your truth aloud will open windows and doors you had not yet thought about. Perhaps a spiritual practice of singing sacred songs or chants might allow your own voice to speak your truth more freely and bring you into greater harmony with others. Possibly a practice of purification breath each day could aid a rhythm of integration in your body and mind. And maybe by pondering, Where am I?, you might become rooted in the way the earth supports every step you take, and a landscape reveals beauty about what you value most in life. The question, Where am I? might open you to the question, Where are we?

Considering the perennial question, Who am I? may reveal a larger context than just the individual self ... you may begin to ponder in a new way the question, Who are we? in context with the cosmos and all of creation. Even nature asks this question! Do you ever hear a “whoo, whooo” from a feathered friend or guide?

Spiritual direction can be a safe place to share your own story, explore and expand the terrain of the inner life, and give clarity to the outer expressions of how you walk, and act, and soar in the world.

To locate a spiritual director or guide, go on-line to Seek and Find: A Worldwide Resource Guide of Available Spiritual Directors. More than 5,000 available spiritual directors are listed by geographic area at www.sdiworld.org. When you visit the Spiritual Directors International Web site, you can also learn about retreats, programs, conferences, and other events related to spiritual direction. You can read descriptions of the spiritual direction relationship from a variety of spiritual traditions, and discover excellent questions to ask of yourself, and any potential spiritual directors you choose to interview.

If you have a question for the Wise Owl, please e-mail Listen@ sdiworld.org. You may see a response in a future issue of Listen!
SUMMER SCHOOL IN IRELAND

Explore Spirituality, Ethics, Faith & Culture, Ministry and Canon Law in Ireland’s capital city

Week 1 (11th – 15th): What is Spirituality? OR Ministry for Today
Week 2 (18th – 22nd): Contemporary Moral and Ethical Questions
Week 3 (25th – 29th): Faith and Culture OR Themes in Canon Law

www.milltown-institute.ie

Also available at Milltown Institute:
Graduate Diploma/MA in the Classics of Christian Spirituality
Graduate Diploma/MA in Applied Christian Spirituality
Graduate Diploma/MA in Supervisory Practice for Ministry
Theology & Spirituality Programme (1 year or 1 semester) - Opportunity to continue to degree
Pastoral Studies Programme (1 year)

www.milltown-institute.ie/theology/index

Ample Car Parking and Restaurant Local accommodation can be arranged

Contact: Helen Manning, Milltown Institute, Sandford Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6, IRELAND
Tel: 353 1 2776 351
email: hmannning@milltown-institute.ie
www.milltown-institute.ie

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO LISTEN WITH GOD IN MIND?

The SFTS Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction seeks to honor
the heart and the head, to attend to
the body and the soul, and to deepen
contemplative awareness of God’s
presence in all things. The SFTS
DASD program is grounded in the
biblical tradition and addresses the
community as well as the individual.

- earn 24 graduate credits
- study in a Protestant, ecumenical context
- become knowledgeable in theory and practice
- participate in three consecutive January terms
- experience the art of spiritual direction

SFTS/DASD * 800.447.8820 ext. 838 * www.sfts.edu/dasd

An excellent resource for married adults on a spiritual journey

Claiming Our Deepest Desires
the Power of an Intimate Marriage

Weds the spiritual and the practical of Married Life
and Affirms the transforming grace of Married Love

Bridget Brennan + Jerome Shen
Signed copies available from authors: $15
joy@canalstitute.org (314) 632-0512

Claiming Our Deepest Desires
the Power of an Intimate Marriage
(LITURGICAL PRESS)
I am a lover of children’s literature but by no means an expert on kid’s books. Indeed, the fine distinction, expert on children’s literature is reserved for the primary readers of children’s literature—children. Hence my need for expert testimony and employment of my grandson as co-reviewer.

Jonathan likes books, and he enjoys reading, but he is an eight-year-old boy full of boundless energy and easily attracted to the entire goings on around him. So, it was not lost on me that the Linn’s delightfully thoughtful story quickly gained and held Jonathan’s attention throughout his reading aloud to me. In fact, one of the things Jonathan liked about the book is that “there’s a story in the story.” I too enjoyed the embedded story and found it opened the door for us to share our sadness about war in the conversation that ensued.

Jonathan is not a child of many words. So I took note of how easy it was for him to share his impressions of the book. One insight he shared that seems particularly salient for children is that “making heart bread makes it easier for a kid to tell a grownup what they are thinking in their mind and what they are feeling in their heart.” Another astute observation was that the book was “made by a family for other families.” Jonathan’s insights capture the crux of the Linn’s objectives for this book: fostering spiritual bonds within families, helping families help their children to be nurtured by their love, and healing from the hurts of their days. As stated by the authors in “A Note to Parents” the Linn’s write: “This story is about the most helpful process we know for family spirituality” (p. 26).

As an adult and spiritual director I appreciated the diversity in the drawings. Because not all the characters looked alike I could easily visualize myself and Jonathan making heart bread. My one concern is that the depth of this story is not revealed in either the title or the sleeve notes. Making Heart-Bread teaches a simple reflective process for holding love and healing hurts. Could there be a more valuable resource for spiritual directors of children or adults?

—Beverly Williams-Hawkins, MDiv and Jonathan LeeRoy live in Austin, Texas, USA. They may be reached at bwilliams-hawkins@sbcglobal.net.
Seek and Find: A Worldwide Resource
Guide of Available Spiritual Directors
is now live! www.sdiworld.org

“Tending the holy around the world and across traditions ...
Al servicio de lo sacro alrededor del mundo y a través de las tradiciones ...”
—Translated by Marta Rios and Xavier Ortiz Monasterio

Third Annual Poetry Contest


The grand prize winner will be awarded a $100.00 USD cash prize.
Three runners up will receive $75.00 USD each.

The top four selections will be published in the September, December, March, and June issues of Presence, respectively. A number of honorable mentions will also be selected for future publication.

Anyone may enter. However, there are a few simple guidelines to follow.

- All poems must be submitted by e-mail, preferably by MS Word attachment.
- Write “Presence Poetry Contest” in the subject line.
- Only one submission per person is allowed.
- Poems may be no longer than 30 lines.
- Poems should pertain to a spiritual theme or should relate to spiritual direction.

To submit your poem, go to: www.sdiworld.org/publications/poetry-contest.html

The winners will be selected by a three-judge panel.

The deadline for poetry submissions is May 15, 2007!