



## *Reflection* by Joyce Rupp

Advent is a season of opening doors. It is a time to deepen and strengthen our relationship with the Holy One so that more of the divine presence within us shines through and offers a welcome to others. It is a season to open the doors of our hearts so that we can both give and receive this love. One of the ways we can do this is by seeing ourselves and others as doors through which the divine presence continually seeks an entrance...

...Our fears can keep us from opening a door that needs to be opened. There's often a price to be paid for being open: confusion, doubt, uncertainty, unsettledness, the possibility of being hurt by what others say or do to us. Opening the door to another may cost us our precious time and energy. We may have to "go the extra mile." Yet in the end, as with Mary, we receive so much more than we have given.

*cf*

<http://stmariagoretti.org/SMG/files/Parish/LTW11OpenDoors.pdf>



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to our first newsletter for CSD since our General Meeting last September. It was a great occasion when we could all gather and meet.

I remember in Hobart in 2010 how there was some unease as to where CSD would go in the future. Thanks to Brian Gallagher, Kevin Hennessy and Yvonne Harte, we were guided into a new structure. It took time, energy, reflection, visioning and prayer to sculpt our association into something that would give life. The three of them were like Moses leading the Chosen People through new territory. Many thanks to them for their wisdom, expertise and leadership.

As we look into 2013, each regional group will work to hold a local conference. Michelle McCourt (VIC) and Nerida Drake (NSW) have indicated they are preparing their local meetings. We hope to hear from other local coordinators on what is happening in their area. Members from

other regions may wish to attend if the topics are attractive to them.

We welcome Anita Brennan (NT) to our association and wish her well in her ministry in a remote section of Australia.

This is a brief introductory letter - future editions will, with time, grow in length and information. I am happy if members wish to offer items of news or interest that could be included in future editions.

I attach to this newsletter a letter from Michelle McCourt. You may wish to contact her to respond to her survey.

Best wishes for Christmas and may the light of this blessed time burn brightly and warmly within you and with all those you hold dear.

Tim Moloney *cfc*  
*National Chair, CSD*