

Reflection

(Teresa of Ávila, Interior Castle [adapted])

“This Beloved of ours is merciful and good. Besides, the Beloved so deeply longs for our love that the Beloved keeps calling us to come closer. This voice of the Mystery is so sweet that the poor soul falls apart in the face of her own inability to instantly do whatever the Mystery asks of her. And so you can see, hearing the Beloved hurts much more than not being able to hear the Beloved ... For now, the Beloved’s voice reaches us through words spoken by good people, through listening to spiritual talks, and reading sacred literature. God calls to us in countless little ways all the time. Through illnesses and suffering and through sorrow the Mystery calls to us. Through a truth glimpsed fleetingly in a state of prayer the Beloved calls to us. No matter how halfhearted such insights may be, God rejoices whenever we learn what the God-self is trying to teach us.”



Dear Fellow CSD Members & Friends,

AECSO Conference 2014

About 25 people in the Spiritual Direction community from around Australia and New Zealand gathered at Campion Spirituality Centre, Kew, Victoria, on 14-15 October to participate in the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction (AECSO) conference, that had as its focus a process for dreaming and visioning for how we want to be as leaders and directors into the future.

On the first day, we shared the stories of how about 18 current spiritual direction programs and the three main associations (CSD, ANSD and Ignatian Companions) came to be, how they are now operating and how they hope to be into the future. Then we looked at how we as a national community devise programs that will meet the needs of those seeking to be formed as directors and those who present themselves as directees. Are we addressing the

spirituality needs of people in our communities? This is apt for today’s youth and what sort of faith communities we want to give birth.

In the evening, we shared dinner and honoured and said thanks to Patrick Wright and his wife Roslyn, who have made a significant donation to a trust that they and their colleagues have established for the enhancement and promotion of new ways in which we can do spiritual direction.

On the second day, we entered into a process of review and discernment regarding the 6th draft of the revised guidelines, *Contemplatively Forming Tomorrow’s Spiritual Directors*, and the program recognition process. This proved to be a difficult conversation as there were two basic types of programs. One was those programs tied to academic institutions, and the other was integrated programs, not tied to an academic institution. It is hoped

we can support all our programs and remain strong under AECSD.

There was some discussion around professional indemnity and it was thought there were some good insurance companies providing professional indemnity insurance. AECSD will collect and circulate this information to the spiritual direction community. Trying to get one policy for all has proved difficult. There was a suggestion of creating a national registry of spiritual directors but it was thought better to leave this for further reflection. Similarly, there was some discussion around mandatory reporting, but due to various jurisdictions having different policies, it was thought better to defer this matter for the time-being.

It was announced that the next **AECSD conference** will be held at the Nunyara Uniting Church Conference Centre, 5 Burnell Drive, Belair, Adelaide from the evening of **Friday 4 September to Sunday afternoon 6 September 2015** (the AGMs of the three associations will be held at 11.30am the Sunday in separate gathering spaces). The title of the conference is *Landscapes of Encounter* and the main presenter is Denis Edwards.

Other dates in 2015: It was announced that there would be some guest presenters coming to Melbourne for seminars - I list these in the next column. I would encourage you, if you have or know of international speakers visiting Australia, to please send Cecilia, our secretary, the relevant information to publish in our newsletter.

These are the offerings at Campion, Kew,



Labyrinth at Campion, Kew

in 2015:

- Wilkie Au & Noreen Cannon - *God's Unconditional Love & the Healing of Shame*, Monday 26 to Friday 30 January, 9am-5pm



Wilkie Au & Noreen Cannon

- Wilkie Au & Noreen Cannon - *Gratitude as a Spiritual Pathway*, Saturday 31 January 9.30am-4.30pm
- David Coglan SJ & Michael Smith SJ - *Organisational Transformation & Ignatian Spirituality*, Monday 7 to Friday 11 September, 9am-5pm
- David Coglan SJ - *Why Change?*, Saturday 12 September, 9am-4.30pm
- Margaret Silf - *Walking the Talk, Ignatian Spirituality for a 21st Century World* - Monday 26 to Friday 30 October, 9am-5pm



Margaret Silf

- Margaret Silf - *Simple Faith* - Sunday 1 November, 9am-5pm

Professional Development for Spiritual Directors in the North (Report from Marg Trevethan)

Spiritual Directors from Mt Isa, Sydney and Brisbane joined Spiritual Directors of the House of Prayer & Spirituality Townsville for a six day intensive on the supervision of Spiritual Directors. Sr Mary Flynn RSJ of the Canisius Centre led the program that is based on that of the Mercy Centre, Burlingame, California.

The ministry of Spiritual Direction both in the north and the west of the Townsville diocese is now well established. Formation of directors has grown from the strong foundations laid initially by Sr Elaine Smith and Sr Carmel Street in the late 1980s. In 2009, the Spiritual Direction Formation

Program of the House of Prayer became the first Queensland program to receive national recognition in meeting the Standards for Formation of Spiritual Directors set by the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction.

Supervision is an important part of the ethical responsibility of ministry practice and so the opportunity to gain further professional development and certification in this locally was welcomed. The presence of peers from other places added to the richness of the experience.

On successful completion of the six month supervised practicum that follows the intensive, participants will be awarded a Certificate in the Art & Practice of Supervision.



l-r: Sr Mary Flynn, Sr Lynette Toohey, Kath Byrnes, Rev Rosemary Dunn, Fr David King, Margaret Trevethan, Sr Carmel Street, Br Jim Cameron, Lorna Fisher, Therese Duff and Peter Hanley

New CSD Members

We welcome new member Carmel Tedesco and wish her well in her ministry.

Tim Moloney cfc, *National Chair, CSD*

DATES TO NOTE in 2014:

20 Nov Reference Group Meeting

Your CSD Contacts:

National Chair: Tim Moloney

Sec/Treasurer: Cecilia Rogers

Regional Co-ordinators:

ACT: Liz Anne Smith

NSW: Nerida Drake

Qld Nth: Margaret Trevethan

Qld Sth: Irene Alexander

SA: Mary Cresp

Tas: Carey McIver

Vic: Michele McCourt

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