

## CONFERENCE OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS AUSTRALIA

Newsletter – April / Easter 2015

# Reflection

# Sunrise

by Mary Oliver



You can die for itan idea, or the world. People have done so, brilliantly, letting their small bodies be bound to the stake. creating an unforgettable fury of light. But this morning, climbing the familiar hills in the familiar fabric of dawn, I thought of China, and India

and Europe, and I thought how the sun blazes for everyone just so joyfully as it rises under the lashes of my own eyes, and I thought I am so many! What is my name? What is the name of the deep breath I would take over and over for all of us? Call it whatever you want, it is happiness, it is another one of the ways to enter fire.

#### Dear Fellow CSD Members & Friends,

'Ways to enter fire' ... Many times as spiritual directors we enter the fires, the flickering flames, the cinders, the ashes of the lives of our directees and accompany them by being present to their experience. The Easter journey is one that takes us deep into challenges that can offer possibilities of transformation.

On behalf of the CSD Reference Group, we offer blessings to you in your ministries over this sacred time of Easter.

Carol, Cecilia, Chris, Kathleen and Tim

## **Announcing the New CSD Website**

We are very pleased to announce that CSD is working on a new website, expected to be launched around June this year.

We felt that a new, more modern website would give members the opportunity to communicate more freely with each other and provide an interactive platform to further build our community.

The great technical skills of member Chris Chaplin msc, and the input of the Reference Group, are making this possible. We'll keep you informed!

# Book Now! AECSD Conference 4-6 Sept 2015 Adelaide (& CSD General Meeting)

AECSD's 2015 conference 'Landscapes of Encounter' is now taking bookings and we encourage you to attend this wonderful event to be held at Nunyara Conference Centre, 5 Burnell Drive, Belair, Adelaide from Friday evening 4 Sept - Sunday lunch 6 Sept 2015.

Many of you may receive the conference brochure directly from AECSD however you can view it at

http://spiritualdirection.org.au/newsevents/upcoming-events/. Brief details are provided below.

Keynote speaker: Dr Denis Edwards

Art: Dr Kateri Duke rsj Poetry: Dr Marlene Marburg

# A letter of welcome from AECSD President - Peter Bentley

'The AECSD council invites you to come and join us on a creative journey of exploring the Landscapes of Encounter in Spiritual Direction. We will join with our experienced guides, Denis, Marlene and Kateri to discover [through Theology, Poetry and Art] some of the unique perspectives we encounter in our Australian context as we engage in the ministry of spiritual direction. It promises to be a rich experience of sharing the stories, creativity and wisdom we each bring to the experience ...

'This conference is a unique opportunity for the whole spiritual direction community across Australia and beyond to join together to encourage the ongoing growth of spiritual direction into our shared futures. Come and join us in Adelaide as spring starts to transform our Australian landscapes of encounter.'



Accommodation (mainly shared) is available at the Nunyara conference venue, and at other locations in the vicinity - see conference brochure for further information.

The facilities and grounds at Nunyara are excellent with glorious views. For further information, go to www.nunyara.com.au



Enquiries can be made to Jillian Dance at josephite.mission@sosj.org.au or tel 03 6278 1503. Registrations may be made online at Trybooking - http://www.trybooking.com/GWGC

Early bird conference fees: Pay before 12 June Live-in \$365/Live-out \$305; Post-12 June fees - \$395/\$335.

CSD's General Meeting, which will deal with official matters - presenting reports, electing the CSD Chair, etc - will take place in one of Nunyara's meeting rooms at 11.30am on Sunday 6 Sept. More information on this meeting will be sent to members at a later date.



#### News from Tasmania (by Carey McIver)

# Regional Meeting of Spiritual Directors Tasmania, 13-15 March 2015

Our recent regional meeting of spiritual directors was facilitated by Sr Therese Quinn rsj. She challenged, evoked and celebrated the creative spirit in all present as our community explored the use of *Art in Spiritual Direction*. Therese's facilitation was engaging, humorous and

spiritual as she encouraged us to step into new creative spaces and most importantly, enjoy the experience!

We drew, shared and directed each other around the images created to reflect our prayer experiences over the weekend. The trust, openness and acceptance so evident left all with a deep gratitude for the abundant love of God's spirit amongst us.

One highlight of the weekend was the prayerful reflection on the painting of Marc Chargall's, *Crucifixion in White* painted before the Second World War in 1938. This provided a powerful context for each of us to draw a picture of how we see ourselves in our ministry of spiritual direction. Being present to our God, listening to his promptings and responding in colour created some beautiful and moving images of the rich blessings of this life-giving ministry.



Crucifixion in White, by Marc Chargall

# **DATES TO NOTE in 2015:**

26 May	Reference Group Meeting
16 Jul	Reference Group Meeting
4-6 Sep	AECSD Conference, Adelaide
6 Sep	CSD General Mtg, Adelaide
17 Sep	Reference Group Meeting
19 Nov	Reference Group Meeting

#### **Your CSD Contacts:**

National Chair: Tim Moloney <u>chair@csdaustralia.com</u>
Sec/Treasurer: Cecilia Rogers <u>secretary@csdaustralia.com</u>

Regional Co-ordinators:

Liz Anne Smith ACT: NSW: Nerida Drake Old Nth: Margaret Trevethan Qld Sth: Irene Alexander SA: Mary Cresp Carey McIver Tas: Michele McCourt Vic: WA: Marie Therese Ryder

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