

Reflection

A Blessing of Angels *by John O'Donohue*

May the Angels in their beauty bless you.
May they turn toward you streams of blessing.

May the Angel of Awakening stir your heart
To come alive to the eternal within you,
To all the invitations that quietly surround you.

May the Angel of Healing turn your wounds
Into sources of refreshment.

May the Angel of the Imagination enable you
To stand on the true thresholds,
At ease with your ambivalence
And drawn in new direction
Through the glow of your contradictions.

May the Angel of Compassion open your eyes
To the unseen suffering around you.

May the Angel of Wildness disturb the places
Where your life is domesticated and safe,
Take you to the territories of true otherness
Where all that is awkward in you
Can fall into its own rhythm.



May the Angel of Eros introduce you
To the beauty of your senses
To celebrate your inheritance
As a temple of the holy spirit.

May the Angel of Justice disturb you
To take the side of the poor and the wronged.

May the Angel of Encouragement confirm you
In worth and self-respect,
That you may live with the dignity
That presides in your soul.

May the Angel of Death arrive only
When your life is complete
And you have brought every given gift
To the threshold where its infinity can shine.

May all the Angels be your sheltering
And joyful guardians.



Dear Fellow CSD Members & Friends,

The poem *A Blessing of Angels* by John O'Donohue captured my imagination as I could picture the messengers described coming to us through our everyday living and sustaining us in some way. In the bitterness that has beset our world over this past 12 months, one could be excused for believing that we are living in terrible times. Even Pope Francis recently said he was so despondent with the state of world affairs that he felt like cancelling all Christmas festivities until the world could come to know the peace of the festive season. Yet the Mysterious Other we call God continues to be present to us, inviting our better selves to discover and reveal what is best in us. The carers and supporters of refugees across the globe are one example of humanity displaying the glory of God fully alive.

In relation to CSD's business affairs, I received a letter from George Warren, incoming President of Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction, thanking CSD Australia for its 2015 contribution of \$3,000. George commended CSD for its support of spiritual directors.

On behalf of the CSD Reference Group, I wish all members and their families blessings and peace for Christmas and may the angels that visit you bring you strength and joy into the coming New Year.

Tim Moloney *cfc*, *National Chair*

Vale Trish Dance rsj

It was remiss of me in the last newsletter not to pay tribute to Trish Dance on her passing in September, not long after the AECSD conference.

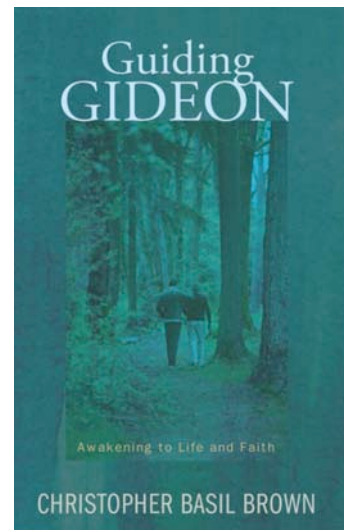
Trish had been a long time, energetic member of the spiritual direction community and a supporter of CSD, especially in her home state of Tasmania. She mentored many directors in their formation and promoted spirituality at many levels, particularly at the Emmanuel Centres in Launceston and Hobart, which

she help found in 1987. Its work continues to this day.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Angela and Jill, Trish's sisters, and members of CSD, and their family and friends. Eternal peace to Trish.

Book Review - 'Guiding Gideon: Awakening to Life & Faith' by Christopher Brown

'Guiding Gideon: Awakening to Life & Faith', by CSD member Christopher Brown, (Eugene OR: Cascade, 2015), is the story of a young man facing a deep life crisis. He seeks the help of Julian as a spiritual companion and together they walk the deep journey of healing and



transformation. This book not only demonstrates the gentle, tough and attentive art of spiritual direction but also shows how reflection after each session enables further transformation, in both pilgrim and guide. Julian reflects prayerfully and

theologically as he journeys with Gideon, giving companions a model of prayerful openness to God.

Richard Rohr, OFM, Center for Action & Contemplation, Albuquerque, New Mexico says of the book: 'Today we need very practical but wise guidance for our journey of faith and love, and not more rarefied theology. Well, here you have just that, and from someone who is walking the journey himself - maybe a few steps ahead of you! Spiritual direction like this is surely one of the best ways that the Spirit will mature Christianity in our time.'

More detail on the book is available on the Faith Companions home page - go to www.faithcompanions.com (Irene Alexander)

Date Claimer! Saturday 30 April 2016

We propose holding a daytime gathering in Melbourne for members (and non-members) on Saturday 30 April 2016.

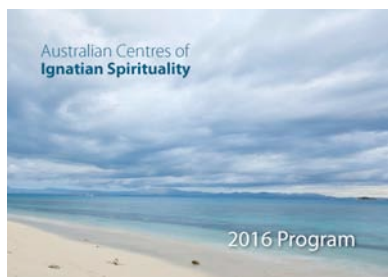
The speaker, venue and other details to be advised in coming weeks, but for the time being, please pop this date into your 2016 diaries.

News from SA (Mary Cresp)

Spiritual Directors in South Australia, including CSD members, met for their final gathering in 2015 on 19 November. A presentation by Val de Brenni and Mary Ryan rsj opened eyes to God's presence as captured in photography - beautiful, reflective and awe-inspiring: God's presence in a molecule as magnificent as in a golden sunset; God's love of variety displayed in a simple leaf; God's all-embracing beauty discovered in the most unexpected of places... The camera led us to listen again to the words of Jesus: "Look, you who have eyes to see!"

Australian Centres of Ignatian Spirituality - 2016 Retreat Program

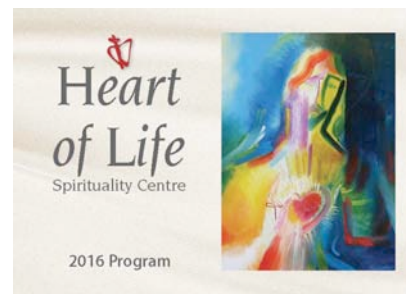
Australian Centres of Ignatian Spirituality have now released their 2016 Retreat Program, which lists a wide range of retreats to be held in Vic, NSW, Qld and SA throughout 2016. The booklet can be viewed/downloaded from www.campion.asn.au - click on the download link on the home page.



Heart of Life Spirituality Centre - 2016 Program



Heart of Life Spirituality Centre, located in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, has now released its 2016 Program. Heart of Life offers a range of workshops, seminars and reflection



days - in Box Hill, Melbourne - ranging from the Siloam full-time or part-time spiritual formation program to a variety of Saturday Reflection Days. The booklet can be viewed/downloaded from www.heartoflife.melbourne - click on the download link on the home page.

Dream Network Australia Conference, 12-14 Feb 2016, Baulkham Hills, Sydney

We have been advised of a conference titled 'Dreams and the Eclipse of the Creative Psyche' to be held at St Joseph's Conference Centre in Baulkham Hills, Sydney NSW. The speaker, Dr Michael Conforti, will focus on the archetypal nature of dream images and symbols, and the emotions and complexes activated by them. More information is available at www.dreamnetworkaustralia.com.au

DATES TO NOTE in 2016:

10 Mar	Reference Group Meeting
19 May	Reference Group Meeting
14 Jul	Reference Group Meeting
8 Sep	Reference Group Meeting
17 Nov	Reference Group Meeting