

Reflection

For A New Beginning by John O'Donohue

In out of the way places of the heart
Where your thoughts never think to wander
This beginning has been quietly forming
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire
Feeling the emptiness grow inside you
Noticing how you willed yourself on
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the grey promises that sameness whispered
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.



Dear Fellow CSD Members & Friends,

Welcome to another new year and what a year 2016 is for our Association. CSD celebrates its 30th anniversary since inception in 1986.

CSD Australia (formerly CRD Australia) is a professional association of spiritual directors and our inspiration came initially from courses conducted by CRD (Centre for Religious Development) in Cambridge, MA, USA.

We are an organic group with cells of spiritual directors and supervisors dotted

around Australia, all participating in a growing and much needed ministry.

As we do each year, in the southern hemisphere, we enter into the discipline of the season of Lent. LENT is the shortened form of the old English word for *lencten* and looks similar to the word *lengthen*. It reminds me of how we, as spiritual directors, are called to stretch our capacities to be observant listeners and companions. May our preparations for Easter expand our vision and abilities to be fully present in our service of others.

Tim Moloney cfc, *National Chair, CSD*

CSD Event - Sat 30 April 2016, 10am-3pm

We confirm our daytime gathering in Melbourne for members (and non-members) on Saturday 30 April 2016, 10am-3pm.

Please look out for an email from CSD in the near future, which will include a flyer for the event.

News from TAS (Carey McIver)

Experiences of God's Unconditional Love



For our final gathering for 2015, directors gathered at the Emmanuel Centre in Launceston for a weekend of prayer and reflection on the reality of God's unconditional love for all of us. Specifically the time together addressed the following purposes:

- To experience the unconditional love of God.
- To remind ourselves of God's ubiquitous presence.
- To enjoy being with each other and our God.
- To provide an update on the recent AESCD Conference in Adelaide.

Time was made as part of our Friday night welcome to remember and pray for Sr Trish Dance who died quite suddenly earlier in 2015. Trish's deep faith, warmth, wisdom and intelligent leadership has been critical to the provision of adult faith formation and spiritual direction in Tasmania and beyond for many years. Those present shared their fond memories of a blessed woman much loved by us all and still very much spiritually present to us.

God's unconditional love was explored through a number of lens with the implicit message being that "vulnerability leads to intimacy with God".

Firstly meditative silence encouraged us to let go and listen to the inner movements of the spirit within. Use was made of the poetic gifts of Marlene Marburg's writings to allow 'the poetry of prayer to open our hearts right down to the sternum'.

The creative expression of God's love was experienced through artistic play with mandalas with participants taking their art to direction for further contemplation and insight. Some excerpts of the letters of St Paul were shared. Paul wrote in love to his friends in all the new Churches; love for the people and love for God. Paul was so head-over-heels in love with God that he just couldn't help asking God to share that love with everyone. We were invited to be drawn to one of these pieces of scripture and recognise something of that love?

The weekend concluded with a report on the AESCD conference being provided by those who were able to attend from Tasmania.

Our prayer was enriched by music and opportunities to share what was happening for us in our becoming more deeply aware of how passionately we are loved by God as we are!

New CSD Members

We welcome new members **Fran Smullen** and **Margaret Trainor**. We wish them well in their ministry and hope they have a long association with CSD.

DATES TO NOTE in 2016:

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| 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 |