

~ SPIRIT ~

Monthly notes and inspiration from Louisiana Spiritual Directors, Inc.

February 2018

PROMISE

A flower blossoms
Against the rage of winter
Promising new hope.

Elise E. Rawls



TIME TO REGISTER FOR 2018 LASD CONFERENCE!!!

Believe it or not, the time for our annual conference is fast approaching! It will be held at the beautiful Wesley Conference Center in Woodworth, Louisiana on April 20-22, 2018. This year's theme is "Utilizing Wisdom's Transformational Perspectives in Spiritual Direction" and our presenter will be Rev. Bill Redfield.

Bill recently retired as rector of Trinity Church, Fayetteville, NY, three years ago after nearly 20 years. Besides being an Episcopal priest for over 40 years, he is also a licensed clinical social worker and has worked in private practice in Central New York and Maine. He has had a lifelong interest in the intersection of spirituality and the inner life. He is the creative force behind the birth of Wisdom House, Fayetteville, NY. Bill is a student of and a collaborator with Cynthia Bourgeault, the author of many books on Wisdom Christianity and contemplative spirituality.

He is currently working to proliferate the concepts and practices of contemplative spirituality and Wisdom Christianity through workshops, retreats, and Wisdom schools.

There are many reasons to attend the conference. Besides gaining more knowledge from such a learned presenter, there is also the wonderful opportunity to network with peers in the community of spiritual directors so that we can all continue to grow as professionals.

Register now for the conference at [this link](#). We look forward to seeing you there!

A Letter From Your President

First, as we move closer to April, I hope you all are marking your calendars and [registering for the conference!](#)

Second, I want to encourage you to consider joining the board. We need a few people who are willing to keep this organization vibrant and professional. I especially encourage those of you who are "younger" in the life of LASD to pray about whether you are being called. Many of us "old timers" have served already and we are always in need of new ideas and energy. While serving on the board requires a minimum of time, taking on an officer position does require more. Personally, I have found working closely with the board to be gratifying and I have certainly developed friendships that I would not have otherwise.

Finally, we are still looking for someone who has the knowledge to work with websites to consider volunteering to help with some updates and an occasional "emergency".

Hope to see you in April!
Jane L. Hebert



ANNOUNCEMENTS

LASD MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: REMINDER

Over the past several weeks, our board members have been making personal contact with potential and renewing members about the benefits of membership. While we have received overall positive responses from you, we are still waiting on several to submit their dues for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. If you have not yet done so, please submit them as soon as you are able via [this membership form](#).



UPCOMING RETREATS AND WORKSHOPS



**Tending the Soul of Marriage:
A Married Couples' Retreat**
St. Mary of the Pines Retreat Center
Chatawa, Mississippi

Presenters: Robin and Easton Hebert

February 16-18, 2018

St. Ignatius of Loyola gifted the church with his Spiritual Exercises in the sixteenth century. They provide the basis for silent retreats even today. But what wisdom might St. Ignatius offer us for our modern-day lives and families? And how can married couples utilize the exercises for their own spiritual growth on a daily basis?

As Lent begins, join Robin and Easton for a journey into Ignatian spirituality, embracing concepts that will aid your spiritual growth as individuals and as married couples. Included in retreat will be pockets of silence and time for deep personal sharing within the context of prayer.

Suggested donation: \$360.00 per couple.

For reservations, call Sr. Sue Von Bank at 601-741-3209
or email svonbank@ssndcp.org.

**Finding the Gift of the Shadow:
Accepting and Embracing Your Unloved Side
(for trained Spiritual Directors)**
Archdiocesan Spirituality Center
Metairie, Louisiana

Presenter: Sr. Janice Bachman, OP

Saturday, March 3, 2018
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

This workshop will explore some very practical aspects of the ways in which the shadow may help or hinder one's spiritual development and the critical need to be in relationship with one's own creativity. Specific ways to uncover, explore, and work with one's shadow will be highlighted and applied to spiritual direction.

Please register by calling (504) 861-3254 or email archspirctr@arch-no.org.

**"24 Hours for the Lord"
A Lenten Silent Retreat**
Rosaryville Spirit Life Center
Ponchatoula, Louisiana

Directors: Sr. Lucy Silvio, Dianne Hanley, Melinda LeBlanc

March 23-24, 2018

As Lent comes to a close, in the last days before Holy Week begins, offer God 24 hours of presence. This retreat offers plenty of quiet prayer time, encouraged by short reflections and scripture passages given by directors.

[Register now at this link.](#)



IN GOD'S IMAGE

New Orleans Archdiocese Retreat Center (Cenacle)
5500 St. Mary Street
Metairie, Louisiana

Directors: Jane Hebert, Yvonne Hymel

Friday, April 6 at 5:00 PM - Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 1:00 PM
(Sunday Mass included)

The truth that we are made in the very image of God must move from our head to our heart if it is to transform our lives. During this weekend silent retreat, you'll be guided in spiritual practices that help you received this truth implanted in your soul.

Cost: \$200.00 by March 23; \$225.00 after March 23
(limited financial aid available).

For more information and to register, click on [this link](#).



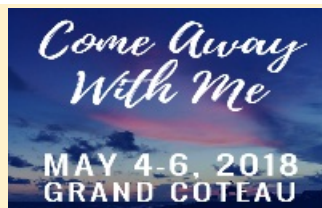
Walk With Me: Spiritual Direction With the LGBTQ Community
Spiritual Directors International Conference
St. Louis, Missouri

Presenter: Bradley A. Leger, Ph.D.

April 26-29, 2018

[This workshop](#) will explore the intersection between LGBTQ issues, spirituality, and interdependence within society and consider ways to create communities of culturally competent spiritual directors who are developing a sense of commitment and inclusivity towards LGBTQ people and their loved ones. This will be accomplished through covering relevant current issues; providing accurate, pertinent statistics and terminology; information on the aspects of human diversity; and providing appropriate tools for this ministry.

[Register now at this link.](#)



MAY 4-6, 2018
GRAND COTEAU

Come Away with Me
Jesuit Spirituality Center
313 E. Martin Luther King Drive
Grand Coteau, Louisiana

Presenters: Jane Hebert and Yvonne Hymel

Friday, May 3 at 5:00 PM - Sunday, May 5, 2018 at 1:00 PM
(Sunday Mass included)

A weekend away with the one you love renews your relationship. God invites you personally to such an encounter in the experiences of this retreat at the pastoral setting of this blessed place of peace.

Cost: \$200.00 before April 20; \$225.00 after April 20
(limited financial aid available)

For more information and to register, click on [this link](#).



NEW SDI WEBSITE DESIGN
SDIWORLD.ORG

Just as LASD has recently introduced a new website design, so has SDI! SDI wanted to make the site easier to read and navigate as well as introduce some new functionality, including a simple-to-use search function for finding spiritual companions: the [Seek and Find Guide](#). Important to all members: please [log in to the SDI site](#) and update your information. This is a vital step so that seekers may find you.



READER'S CORNER

**Choosing Our Religion:
The Spiritual Lives of
America's Nones**
by Elizabeth Drescher
New York: Oxford
University Press, 2016.

To the dismay of religious leaders, study after study has shown a steady decline in affiliation and identification with traditional religions in America. By 2014, more than twenty percent of adults identified as unaffiliated - up more than seven percent just since 2007. Even more startling, more than thirty percent of those under the age of thirty now identify as "Nones" - answering "none" when queried about their religious affiliation. [Read more...](#)



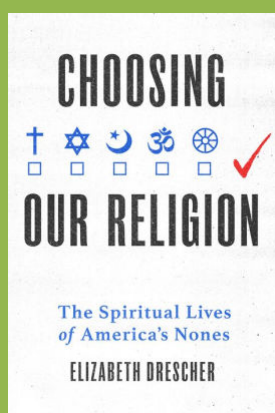
"We need to find God, and God cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass - grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence . . . We need silence to be able to touch souls."

Mother Teresa of Calcutta



TAKE NOTE CALLING ALL WRITERS!

[Connections](#), the quarterly SDI newsletter, is looking for articles of 300-700 words that offer experiential wisdom about the calling to be a spiritual director as well as insights about all aspects about this compassionate, contemplative practice. Please fee free to send your stories. Include an appropriate digital image if you have one. [Read more...](#)



Keeping your membership current . . .

Let's not forget that our membership status is concurrent with the fiscal year which runs from July 1 - June 30. To access a membership form or to pay online, please click on [this link](#). If you have any questions, please contact [Elsa Mendoza](#).



Comments? Questions? Suggestions for future articles?
Want information on membership?



Louisiana Spiritual Directors, Inc. (LASD) is an association of trained Spiritual Directors formed to promote continuing education, fellowship and information for Spiritual Directors within Louisiana.



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