



~ SPIRIT ~

Monthly notes and inspiration from Louisiana Spiritual Directors, Inc.

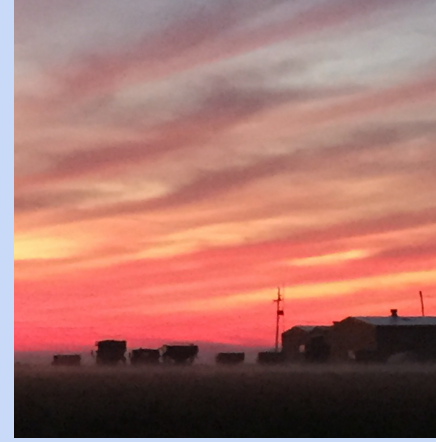
August 2018

creation now

*the universe laughs like a child
as it circles with its blur of stars
and its halo of planets
reminding us that we are its holy dust
then God's tenderness breathes
over the ground of our being -
our longing leaps and finds it day*

Sr. Lou Ella Hickman
Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament

Image: "Sunrise Over Terra" - courtesy of Sharon Cormier



President's Message



Dearest Members of LASD,

I recently had the pleasure of attending a conference on Marriage and Family and much of what I heard is quite applicable to the ministry of spiritual direction. This was a sobering statement spoken by a wise and vibrant "millennial" couple that struck me during their presentation on marriage formation renewal: *"Trust today is in instruments, not people. Folks trust 'Google' and 'Siri' first... We need a reset."* Isn't spiritual direction one such reset? Isn't the relationship that we offer our directees a path to trust, a bridge to the trust in our all-merciful God that is so lacking in our culture today?

I decided to look up the definition of "trust": "Firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something." Don't we all want to be that reliable, truth-filled, strong and able "someone" in our ministry?

I just sat with a twenty-three-year-old directee with a history of religious abuse, a young college female I have been seeing for over a year. For now, I am her reset button. I walk her path of trust very slowly and carefully. Mostly what I offer her is unconditional love right where she is with all of her mistrust and anger. I really do love her and I know she knows it. The love, patience, care, even her receptivity is all God's grace.

Good news! **Our website credit card link is working!** I remind you that you may pay your dues in two ways, both via our website:

- 1) Electronically with a credit card at [this link](#). OR by
- 2) Printing and completing a form and mailing a check to our treasurer which can be found at [this link](#).

Thank you for supporting our ministry! Blessings on the rest of your summer!

Robin

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Cherri Johnson

Cherri Johnson serves as Director of Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Direction at First United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge.

In 2001, I completed training in the art and practice of spiritual direction through the Academy of Spiritual Leadership, Louisiana Methodist Conference and served as small group supervisor for ten years. Attending Garrett Theological Seminary, I obtained Professional Certification in 2007. In 2016, I received my Certificate of Completion in the Art of Supervision of Spiritual Directors and Contemplative Communities. I provide spiritual direction for both clergy and lay. My ministry is inclusive of both the Catholic and Protestant faith traditions. I facilitate a peer supervision group for spiritual directors in the Baton Rouge area, and I offer individual supervision to trained spiritual directors.



It was in the mid to late 90's that I began to experience the deeper mysteries of God. In response to my experiences, I intuitively knew I needed someone to companion me on my journey. I found a gifted spiritual director and I began a journey that, step by step, led me to the place where I find myself today.

I truly believe there is a deep and holy longing in every human heart to grow closer to God, to listen deeply and to respond to God in faith by grace. I also believe, there is great need in the Church today to raise-up gifted spiritual leaders. I have found a dual passion as I serve as a spiritual director in and beyond my congregation and as I serve in the area of

congregational spiritual formation to raise-up spiritual leaders—creating community, providing the resources they need and empowering them for ministry and service.

It is truly a journey of great blessing, heart-felt responsibility and genuine and humble awe, as I walk with others relying on the One who first loved us. spiritual directors in



ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING RETREATS AND WORKSHOPS

Going, Going, Gone: The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics

Loyola University-New Orleans
6363 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana

Saturday, August 18, 2018
9 AM - 1 PM
Miller Hall, Rm. 114

Presenter: Dr. Bob McCarty

Fee and open to the public.

Dr. McCarty will explore the underlying dynamics that lead to disaffiliation, describe the factors that reinforce those dynamics, and examine the implications for parish life, catechesis, liturgy, vocational discernment, and pastoral ministry.

Light refreshments will be served, and free parking is available in West Road Garage.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Paula D'Arcy Silent Retreat

Rosaryville Spirit-Life Center
39003 Rosaryville Road
Ponchatoula, Louisiana 70454

Thursday, September 6 - Sunday, September 9, 2018

Fees:

1 registrant with private room: \$410
1 registration with shared room: \$360
Commuter: \$180

We invite you join us for a silent weekend retreat with Paula D'Arcy. Come spend the weekend taking a deeper look at the way we live our lives. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

AA Weekend: Staying Sober with the 12-Steps (PLEASE CALL SHARON AT 337-662-5251 EXT. 222 BEFORE REGISTERING)

Jesuit Spirituality Center
299 Martin L. King Rd.
Grand Coteau, Louisiana 70541

Thursday, November 28 - Sunday, December 2, 2018

Presenter: Fr. Tom Weston, SJ

Fee: \$335.00 (commuters \$255.00)

The 12 Steps help us live a better life. This is a weekend for women and men in recovery. Addicts, alcoholics, and family and friends are welcome. We will go through the 12 Steps and focus on the practical tools of recovery from this tragic illness. There will be time for quiet, for reflection, for conversation, and for meetings—for some refreshment and renewal. For registration information, click [here](#).



New Orleans Archdiocesan Spirituality Center Internship in Spiritual Direction Informational Meetings

At these meetings we will discuss our program, its purpose, prerequisites, and structure. The two-year Internship in Spiritual Direction Program will begin August, 2019 in Grand Coteau, meeting the third Wednesday of each month (August-May) 9am-5pm and August, 2020 at the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center in Metairie meeting the second Saturday of each month (August-May) 9am-5pm. To register for a meeting call Doris Melito (504) 861-3254 or register on the web <http://asc.arch-no.org>. Locations below:

Baton Rouge – Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 1:00 pm or 6:00 pm, at the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Tracey Center in the Westerfield Conference Center 1800 S. Acadian Thruway, Room 104, Baton Rouge.

Grand Coteau – Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2018, 7 pm, Thursday, September 20, 2018, 9 am at St. Charles College, Jesuit Spirituality Center, 313 E. Martin Luther King Dr.

Northshore Catholic Center - Monday, Sept. 24, 2018, 7 pm

A.S.C. – Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018 10 am Monday, Oct. 1, 2018, 7 pm, 2501 Maine Ave., Metairie

Shreveport – Tuesday Sept., 27, 2018, 10 am or 6:30 pm, at the Diocese of Shreveport Catholic Center-Patio Room 3500 Fairfield Ave., Shreveport For more information contact: Mike Van Vranken 318.423.4617 mikevanvranken@comcast.net or register on the web: <https://asc.arch-no.org>

Monroe/West Monroe

Thursday, October 11, 2018, St. Paschal Church, 711 N. 7th Street, West Monroe, LA 71291

6:30 pm For more information contact: Joe Bernal 318.396.6756 jkmca2000@aol.com or register on the web: <https://asc.arch-no.org>





READER'S CORNER

Vesper Time: The Spiritual Practice of Growing Older
By Frank J. Cunningham
Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2017

From a writer, editor, and publisher in his eighth decade, *Vesper Time* addresses the yearning among elders for continued growth, expansiveness of heart, improvement of mind, and a meaningful understanding of our lives. As with Christianity's age-old practice of Vespers, or evening prayer, observed at the time of the lighting of the lamps just before darkness descends, Frank Cunningham views it as a time of life, when colors deepen and our experience of aging becomes spiritual practice. [Read more...](#)



Something to Ponder . . .

"Decision is a risk rooted in the courage of being free."

Paul Tillich



TAKE NOTE

Share Your Voice

SDI invites you to submit your writing for [Presence](#), [Connections](#), and [blog](#). Our contemplative community thrives on your experience and stories. [Contact SDI now.](#)



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. Dues may be paid by mailing a check or paying online via [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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