



~ SPIRIT ~

Monthly notes and inspiration from Louisiana Spiritual Directors, Inc.

March 2016

*Rejoice heavenly powers!
Sing choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's
throne!
Jesus Christ, our King is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!*

- Easter Vigil Exultet



Introducing our 2017 LASD Conference Presenter, Br. Don Bisson, FMS

For our 2017 LASD Conference, we welcome back **Brother Don Bisson, FMS**, who is, first and foremost, a spiritual director and is widely respected as a specialist in the training, formation and supervision of spiritual directors. A Marist brother based in Esopus, New York, he has graduate degrees in liturgy, spirituality, and transpersonal psychology, and earned his Doctor of Ministry at the Pacific School of Religion specializing in Spiritual Direction and Jungian Psychology. Brother Bisson is internationally recognized for his lectures, workshops, and retreats on the interrelationship of Christian spirituality and Jungian psychology. His soulful humanity makes Don attractive to the hundreds of people who find their way to virtually everything he offers. He is a man committed to "walking the talk." From this commitment comes a grounded wisdom and an authentic humility. His gems of wisdom have been formed in the heat and pressure of the deep underground passage of his own healing journey in God.

Our 2017 Conference will be held February 17-19 at the Wesley Center in Woodworth. Please mark your calendars!



2016-2017 President's Message

Bonjour encore!

As I begin my second term as LASD Board President, many thoughts and images are fluttering in my mind: the many communications between our board members over the past year as we diligently worked to help this organization continue to evolve and to be of service to our membership; the wonderful networking and mentoring that I have witnessed between our fellow directors; the deepening awareness of the deep giftedness of our individual members as they share their important ministries not only as spiritual directors but also as retreat facilitators, working with those living on the margins of our society, and laboring "in the trenches" within their respective faith communities. As our 2016 Conference presenter, Fr. William Barry shared with us, God indeed wants our friendship; and I am privileged to be able to witness our own efforts as spiritual directors to see the face of God in all with whom we are "tending the holy" and to let them know that God also desires their friendship.

Thus, it is my hope that all of us who are serving on the Board of Directors can continue to provide opportunities for all of our members for the coming year to continue to grow as we help others "to awaken to the mystery called God in all of life". We also wish to reach out to spiritual directors from around our state who are not members of LASD and to inform them about the benefits of membership, so your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated! If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact any board member. I look forward to another great year!

~Brad

2016-2017 LASD Board of Directors

L-R: Bradley Leger, President; Robin Hebert, Maggie Baudoin, Paula Hymel, Ted Standley, Vice President; Elsa Mendoza, Secretary; Simone Dubois, Nelda Turner, Treasurer.

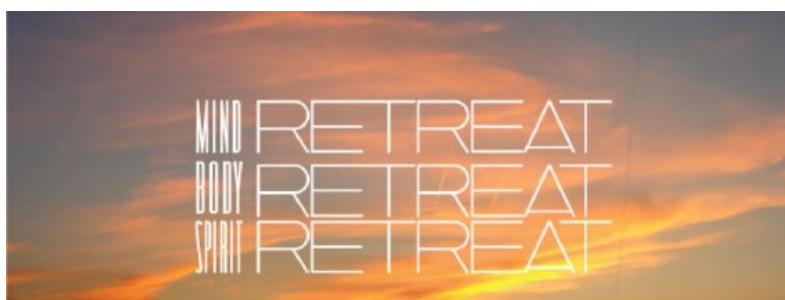


Additional Board Members, L-R below: Jane Hebert and Denise Donahoe.



A Few Comments from the 2016 Conference Evaluations:

- Fr. Barry was awesome! Depth of wisdom from the heart at all levels of development and his experience as a spiritual director. I will reread his books with renewed enthusiasm and reconsider peer review.
- I am so grateful; I believe I left the conference with more love and wisdom for the future sessions with directees. I know I gained confidence in the simplicity of our role to bring others to friendship with God.
- Wonderful presentations; evidence of more vibrant organization especially during business meetings.
- I have been truly blessed to attend this conference; gained a deeper appreciation for friendship relationship with God and the importance of "bringing it to God;" "Did you talk to God about it?"...
- Fr. Barry was the face of God...the "icon" of the spiritual director.
- Exactly what I needed.



MIND/BODY/SPIRIT
RETREATS FOR YOUNG WOMEN
OPEN MY HEART, LORD
June 3-5, 2016

A two-night silent retreat for young adult women, early 20's to mid-40's.

Jesuit Spirituality Center
Grand Coteau, Louisiana
Friday, June 3rd @ 5:00 PM to Sunday June 5th @ 1:00 PM
Contact: Yvonne Hymel yhymel09@gmail.com

Registration and more information:
www.retreatsforyoungwomen.com
www.facebook.com/retreatsforyoungwomen
www.jesuitspiritualitycenter.org

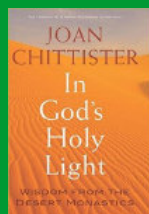


READER'S CORNER

*In God's Holy Light:
Wisdom from the Desert
Monastics*

By [Joan Chittister](#)

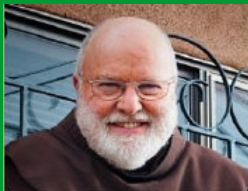
In God's Holy Light: Wisdom From the Desert Monastics gives us Chittister's take on the wisdom teachings of the Desert Fathers and Mothers who lived in the Egyptian wastelands between the third and fifth centuries. She calls them "the Olympians of the spiritual life." They separated themselves from the world, denied the desires of the flesh, and sought to sanctify their bodies through rigorous practices of self-denial. Yet these monks were considered to be revered spiritual teachers: they became "the mystics, the spiritual directors and the counselors of the age." People came from near and far to hear a word from them that would be a catalyst for their transformation. [Read more . . .](#)



SOMETHING TO PONDER . . .

"True spirituality is about keeping your heart space open. It is daily, constant work."

-Richard Rohr, OFM



TAKE NOTE

Voices of Grace & Gratitude are joyful expressions of grace and gratitude from the worldwide community of Contemplative Outreach for the gift of Centering Prayer in their lives and its meaning for all creation. During this year of celebration of the 30th anniversary of Contemplative Outreach, a new video will be presented every Monday. Watch this short [video](#) from a Louisiana person who has recognized the riches of centering prayer in his life.



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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