

A MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE OF LANSING



Institute for Spiritual Direction

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THOUGHTS FROM FR. DAVID



He is not here - He is Risen! (Matthew 28:6)

The Easter celebration of the Church reminds us once again of the mystery within which we are baptized. Throughout these past 40 days of Lent, we crafted ourselves to be Ambassadors for Christ as we journey through death to life, through darkness to light, through blindness to sight, through enslavement to Truth. With great power and purpose God has revealed himself and has reached out to us in a most

personal way. He is Risen! Alleluia!

The Resurrection of Jesus means new life for humanity – a new hope, a new beginning, a new way of seeing, a new opportunity to rightly establish our relationship with God, a new and lasting home. Let this Easter be a reminder to us of the gift of our Catholic faith. Give thanks for all that God has done for us and hear the Lord speak to our hearts.

The Easter promise of Jesus is given to his Mystical Body, the Church through the love of the Father and the power of the Holy Spirit. Through the Trinity we are guided and protected. We are corrected and unified. We trust that we are secure and empowered so that we might share with the world the reason for our hope, the cause of our joy, the source of our healing, the Giver of eternal life.

Let us share this Good News with the world. ISD has many ways to accomplish this: Join St Francis Retreat Center for FaithFest June 26. Next are our July Ignatian Retreats where I encourage you to invite those in need of this special grace. And spread the news about our Fall session for ISD.

Let our Easter response be bold and strong, fitting of an Easter People! Trust, and anticipate God's presence and action in your life. Trust, and invite the Holy Spirit to show you the way. He is Risen! Alleluia!

Blessed Easter to all!
Fr. David

WHAT'S IN YOUR CROCKPOT?



TASTY INGREDIENTS FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL STEW

“He died not for men, but for each man. If each man had been the only man made, He would have done no less.”

– C. S. Lewis

This quote from C.S. Lewis is an important ingredient for our spiritual crockpots. Jesus died and rose for each one of us. This is the foundational truth for each person I meet with in Spiritual Direction. This ultimate truth of Jesus' victory over sin and death applies to each individual and this gives infinite hope and courage in facing every obstacle.

Too often people believes that God loves us generically, as part of a big group of human beings. And that is true. But a greater truth is the love He has for each one of us. He has provided everything each of us needs to follow Him and to spend eternity with Him in heaven. This reality gives us every reason to stir up our faith when we are struggling and to act on our faith.

Jesus said in John's gospel that we would know the Truth and the Truth would set us free. The truth of Jesus' death and resurrection, offered for each person, is a tremendous truth that we carry and can use to remind each person of the greatest gift from God they will ever receive.

IN OUR PARISHES

When is the last time you talked about Spiritual Direction in your parish bulletin? Many parishes are happy to include a short piece in the bulletin periodically to remind people of the availability of spiritual direction in the parish. People's interest in meeting with a spiritual director changes at different seasons in their life, so a reminder of the availability of this service is helpful periodically. Especially in the uncertain times we are experiencing, it is a great gift to remind people that there is help available to keep our focus on the Word of God, our faith and our life in Christ.

It also strengthens the connection between parish life and our service as spiritual directors. One supports the other and everyone benefits. Why not suggest a simple announcement for your parish bulletin and see what happens to support spiritual life for all involved.

SAINTLY INSPIRATION: POPE BENEDICT XVI



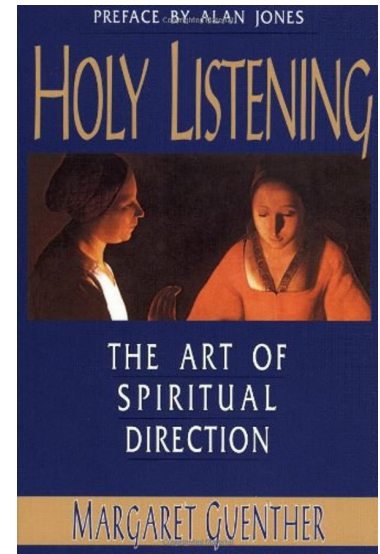
"Faith in the resurrection of Jesus says that there is a future for every human being; the cry for unending life which is a part of the person is indeed answered. God exists: that is the real message of Easter. Anyone who even begins to grasp what this means also knows what it means to be redeemed."

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Alumni Journey Group: April 12 & May 10, 5-7 PM via Zoom
- FaithFest: Saturday June 26, 2021
- Ignatian Weekend Retreat: July 9-11, 2021
- Directed Ignatian Retreat: July 11-17, 2021
- ISD Alumni Retreat: July 30-31, 2021

Visit www.stfrancis.ws for more information

THE LAST WORD



If you have been attending our recent monthly Alumni Journeying Group meetings, you have been enjoying the spirited discussions on Holy Listening: The Art of Spiritual Direction by Margaret Guenther.

If you have missed these meetings you might want to catch up on these discussions by picking up a copy of this book. It is available both new and used on a number of websites. Guenther offers many helpful insights on spiritual listening and creating an environment that will foster healthy communications. Her section on the right kind of teaching to do in spiritual direction is especially insightful.

Guenther's experience as a woman doing spiritual direction will give encouragement and wisdom to other women in this ministry.



Institute for
Spiritual Direction

For more information on the Institute for Spiritual Direction, on how to become a spiritual director, or how to find a spiritual director, please visit www.isdmichigan.org, or email Fr. David Rosenberg at drosenberg@isdMichigan.org.