

A MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE OF LANSING



Institute for Spiritual Direction

703 E. Main Street DeWitt, MI 48820 | www.isdmichigan.org | 517.388.5291

Spring 2019 | Issue 1

THOUGHTS FROM FR. DAVID



The Institute for Spiritual Direction was founded to help Christians grow in their faith. It began its program for training spiritual directors in the Fall of 2016. It came to life based on the inspiration of my first spiritual director who was an essential mentor along the path of my spiritual development. He talked and prayed with me about my life. Wisdom and direction emerged from the spiritual dialogue between us.

I grew in my commitment to the spiritual disciplines and accountability for living a spiritual life. In hindsight, I see that the Holy Spirit led me to this spiritually mature and wise person of faith. I was inspired by his willingness to sacrifice his time to pray and respond with wisdom to my questions about living a spiritually discerned life in a world filled with ambiguity and distractions. At his urging I set aside time in my day for solitude and prayer. I found that it was virtually impossible to live the spiritual life without it. As my prayer life grew, so did my love and connection with my faith community.

Now I invite you to take a quiet moment, relax and enjoy our newsletter. We hope you find it inspiring.

WHAT'S IN YOUR CROCKPOT?



Tasty ingredients for your spiritual stew

A high impact spiritual insight took place in a class discussion about the “Dark Night of the Soul” by St John of the Cross.

I saw a glimpse of the infinite God beyond the veil. It was Elijah’s moment when he heard God in the silent, gentle wind. I started then to see with new eyes. This was one transforming moment in my faith that makes all things new.

Michael Schasser, class of 2017

IN OUR PARISHES

St. Andrew’s parish in Saline is blessed to have three graduates of the spiritual director program at ISD. We have a pastor who is eager to support this ministry and is encouraging others to take advantage of the opportunity. “I have met with a Spiritual Director for over 40 years. That time together has made a great difference as I sought to discover God’s presence and see His love and strength not only in my life, but also in the world. I encourage you to meet with a Spiritual Director. Give it a try, you won’t be sorry.” From Fr. Jim McDougall

Louise Pare, class of 2018



WHAT'S NEW AT THE INSTITUTE

Congratulations to the 2018 graduates of the Spiritual Direction program. This is the second group to finish the training and the third group is slated to graduate in December 2019. This marks a total of thirty-two new spiritual directors serving in our parishes and at our retreat weekends. Thank God for His abundant blessings!

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Institute for Spiritual Direction (ISD). Every quarter we will update you on what is going on at the ISD to continue the growth of this ministry. We are excited to see the interest in our parishes for spiritual direction.

A long-term planning committee has been formed to provide for growth and new initiative for ISD. Stay tuned for future developments.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- FaithFest 2019: June 22, 2019
- Ignatian Retreat: July 14-20, 2019
- Beginning 4th Cohort: Sept. 10, 2019



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.

SAINTLY INSPIRATION ST. THERESA OF AVILA

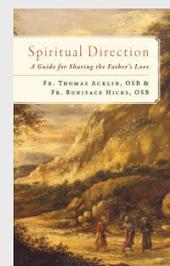


So I return to the advice —and even if I repeat it many times this doesn't matter —that it is very important that no one be distressed or afflicted over dryness or noisy and distracting thoughts.

If people wish to gain freedom of spirit and not be always troubled, let them begin by not being frightened by the Cross, and they will see how the Lord also helps them carry it and they will gain satisfaction and profit from everything.

Brian Pickard, class of 2018

ONE LAST THING



I recently read, "*Spiritual Direction: A Guide for Sharing the Father's Love*," by Fr's Acklin and Hicks. The authors stress

the importance of the director sharing the love, mercy and compassion of the Father, and remind directors that we are simply a conduit for the work of the Holy Spirit. The authors reference both scripture and saints in order to support their message.

Anne Burr, class of 2019