



CONVERSAR NEWS

May 2015

COMPANIONS – A COMMUNITY OF CONSOLATION



A word from our Chair, Anne Wakatama ...

Dear Companions

As the end of our membership year approaches we have the exciting prospect of our Wellington Conference to look forward to. The Conference offers the prospect of gathering with your fellow Companions to learn more about Ignatian Spirituality in a New Zealand context. In addition our Conferences provide a precious space to share your experiences of ministry and spirituality in quite a unique and ongoing way.

On a more formal note, please make sure when renewing your membership that the Secretary of Companions has a copy of your current Police/Working with Children's Check. This can be sent to The Secretary, Companions in the Ministry of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, P.O. Box 2260 Kew Victoria 3101.

Finally I hope you will join with me in welcoming our new *Conversar* News Editor, Lynette Toohey. I am sure Lynette will bring to the role fresh insights and ideas to make *Conversar* more informative and helpful to you in your ministry.

Companions Conference 2015 - Wellington New Zealand Thursday 13th August 3pm to Sunday 16th August 2pm 'Composition of Place'

Pre-Conference Pilgrimage to Huriharama

Bus leaves Home of Compassion at 10am Wednesday 12th August returning 2pm Thursday 13th August. The pilgrimage includes an easy 1½ hours walk beside the Wanganui River from Ranana (Rome) to Huriharama (Jerusalem). Shared dormitory style accommodation is provided on the night of 12th at Huriharama, a significant site for the Sisters of Compassion.

Conference Begins 3pm Thursday 13th August and Concludes 2pm Sunday 16th August

Guest Presenters

Sr Kathleen Rushton 'Rediscovering the Spiritual in God's Creation': Place in the Inherited Tradition of Jesus; 'Rediscovering the Spiritual in God's Creation': Towards a Spirituality of Place

Mark Chamberlain *'The Spiritual Exercises and Composition of Place'*

Kathleen Rushton, Nga Whaea Atawhai Sister of Mercy, lives in Otautahi Christchurch where she delights in her vegetable garden, teaches as a student of Scripture for the Catholic Institute of Aotearoa New Zealand, works in spiritual direction and tramps (hikes) in bush-clad mountain valleys. Her research in John's Gospel includes the cosmology of the prologue, water and harvest imagery and the implications of science for spirituality today.

Mark Chamberlain is a parish priest in the Diocese of Dunedin where he also works as a Chaplain, to the Hospital and the University, a spiritual director in the Ignatian tradition, and a psychotherapist. Mark is also a lecturer with the University of Divinity teaching on the Arrupe program in New Zealand.

Conference Location— The Sisters of Compassion, Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine St, Island Bay, Wellington New Zealand

Registration by 17th July. Go to www.trybooking.com/128742

YOUR NATIONAL COMMITTEE AND THEIR ROLES

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Companions Blog Moderator : Dale Keenan

Conversar News Editor: Lynette Toohey

New Committee Members: Iain Radvan is the Director of Campion Centre of Spirituality in Melbourne. Until recently he taught in Jesuit schools for 20 years (humanities). Iain has a Grad Dip in Counseling, and in Spiritual Direction, and completed a year of CPE. Presently he is completing his research for a Master's thesis in Theology. Iain also enjoys learning languages and working gently in the garden as often as possible. We welcome Iain's presence on the Committee.

Holistic Spirituality: God's Unconditional Love and the Healing of Shame & Gratitude as a Spiritual Pathway with Wilkie Au and Noreen Cannon Au

<http://wilkieandnoreenau.com>

This January- early February, we were delighted to welcome Wilkie Au and Noreen Cannon Au and experience their extraordinary work in a series of workshops in Melbourne and Sydney. Wilkie Au, PhD is a spiritual director and professor emeritus of theological studies at Loyola Marymount University where he taught in the area of spirituality and pastoral ministry. Noreen Cannon Au, PhD is a practising Jungian analyst and a faculty member of the CG Jung Institute, Los Angeles.

There was a fantastic response to the workshops offered. 55 people attended the five-day and three-day workshops on 'God's Unconditional Love and the Healing of Shame' and 110 people attended the day workshops on 'Gratitude as a Spiritual Pathway'.

Participants came from a diversity of backgrounds, some travelling great distances, from country to city, interstate and even internationally to gather and engage generously. These weeks saw a lively and big-hearted collaboration between Sentir Graduate College of Ignatian Formation, the Jesuit Parishes of Our Lady of the Way, North Sydney and the Centres of Ignatian Spirituality in Sydney and Melbourne.

The framework from which the Aus work is that of holistic Christian spirituality. This inclusive way, 'takes seriously the knowledge-bearing capacity not only of the mind, but also of the body, emotions, senses, imagination, feelings, intuition and dreams.' Holistic spirituality speaks richly to our Ignatian understanding – that God's Spirit can be encountered in all aspects of life and invites us to healthy human growth. The integration and demonstration of Jungian Dreamwork into the workshops on God's Love and the Healing of Shame were a particular highpoint and generously supported by participants

Frances Tilly, *Assistant Director, National First Spiritual Exercises Program*

In a couple of recent conversations, it emerged that some people were not aware of a website called gratefulness.org. We know that Ignatius encouraged the development of an attitude of gratitude, and this site is a wonderful resource. A Network for Grateful Living (ANG*L) provides education and support for the practice of grateful living as a global ethic, inspired by the teachings of Br. David Steindl-Rast and colleagues. Gratefulness – the full response to a given moment and all it contains – is a universal practice that fosters personal transformation, cross-cultural understanding, interfaith dialogue, intergenerational respect, nonviolent conflict resolution, and ecological sustainability.

In those same conversations, some were not familiar with Margaret Silf's book 'Landscapes of Prayer.' Of particular interest was the landscape of the Seashore which is a beautiful presentation of an examen. She invites us to go beachcombing where the beach is simply the experience of your day...with wonderful images such as beautiful shells and its stinging jellyfish., letting the incoming tide wash everything away and walking on virgin sand the following day.

There are so many resources in existence and it is not possible to keep up with everything. You would be doing your fellow companions (and me) a great service if you could draw attention to those that you find particularly helpful...workshop write-up, article, book, website ... whatever!

I would welcome any contributions that you can offer to make this a voice of companions and that assist us in enriching this special ministry we have entrusted to us. Send at any time to lynettetoohy@hotmail.com They will be received with gratitude!!

Lynette