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Welcoming New Contemplatives • Starting Out as a Spiritual Director
Addressing Child Sexual Abuse in Spiritual Direction

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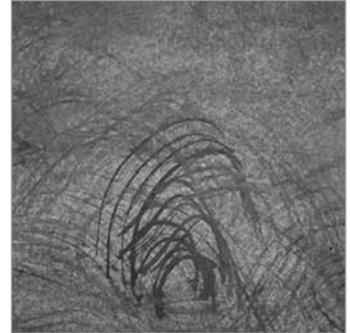
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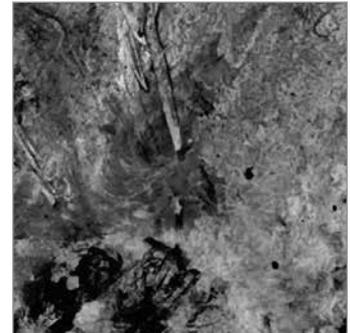
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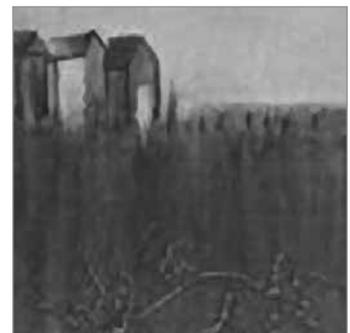
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(REVIEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 64)

through paradox, through the love of others. Share the story of how an experience with one of these helped put you back together and reconcile your humanness” (168).

Every section and individual story can serve as a stand-alone reflection piece but is also an integral component of the entire book. I am already meditating on the possibility of using this book in spiritual direction groups, classes, workshops, and retreats. Nepo draws on quotes and parables from a variety of cultural and spiritual traditions, which helps to give *Seven Thousand Ways to Listen* a broad appeal.

Nepo closes the book by writing: “There is no greater joy than to meet like this and ask, ‘What is it like to be you, to be alive, to eat the wind, to be eaten by the day?’ I wish you the chorus of an open sky and sure footing. Each time we give of ourselves, we add a precious hour to our time on Earth” (258). Every line, each phrase, every story is a poetic prayer coaxing the reader to listen and be listened to with more grace. *Seven Thousand Ways to Listen* has writing, meditation, and relationship at its core, woven with generous reminders of our fundamental interconnectedness with all of creation. ■

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Moving in God’s Direction: Essentials of Christ-Centered Spiritual and Vocational Direction

by Mary Sharon Moore

Eugene, OR: Awakening Vocations, 2012

234 pages, GBP£11.39, USD\$18.00

Reviewed by Kathryn Madden, RC

At the Coffee People kiosk in the Portland International Airport, Mary Sharon Moore noticed this sign by the tip jar: “If you fear change, leave it here.” In *Moving in God’s Direction: Essentials of Christ-Centered Spiritual and Vocational Direction*, Moore intuitively addresses our deep fear of the uncertainty inherent in chosen and unsought change. She engagingly invites us into the paradox that

in committing ourselves wholeheartedly to a particular option, even if it is the wrong one, we put our lives into play in a way that ‘keeping our options open’ never can.

The sense of movement in this book is palpable. From the simple premise that “if you are alive, you are moving” (5), Moore propels us to discover the trajectory of our lives as the trajectory of one of God’s anointed. We have each been sent, and we are each returning. Writing from the perspective of her Catholic faith, Moore sees that it is through baptism that people experience God’s direction.

Thus, for her, Christ-centered spiritual direction across Christian traditions is inseparable from vocational discernment, “because by its very nature, a robust experience of Christ-centered spiritual direction takes you directly into the heart of the mystery of life in Christ—specifically, the paschal mystery. This work of dying and rising to new life unfolds over the course of a lifetime, touching and shaping every dimension of human life and the life of all creation” (2). Our vocational calling, then, is not once given, but needs to be continually revisited.

Moore articulates how *Moving in God’s Direction* is designed to serve two audiences. First, the book is intended for spiritual directors seeking to integrate their own faith experience and deepen their understanding of the dynamics of spiritual call and response inherent in their privileged presence to others in spiritual direction. Second, the book is offered as a resource for individuals, including spiritual directees, who search for a deeper understanding of what to expect not only in Christ-centered spiritual direction, but in the lifelong endeavor to become an authentic man or woman centered in God.

I agree with Moore that *Moving in God’s Direction* covers a lot of territory and that this book is best to read one thoughtful step at a time. In Part I, “Getting the Conversation Going: The Spiritual Meets the Vocational,” Moore explores what goes into the formation of the Christ-centered spiritual director. She carefully highlights that this is not a “how to” book for would-be spiritual directors who clearly need rigorous formation in the context of a solid program.

Part II, “The Maturing Conversation; The Spiritual Meets the Vocational,” contains many intriguing chapters, such as “More Prayer, Less Words,” “Finding Freedom of Speech in the [Spiritual] Direction Session,” and “Living in God’s Economy.” One snippet of wis-



dom that stays with me from Moore's final appendix is: "Worry is the soul's unabashed declaration to God: *In this situation you are not enough*" (223). Moore leaves us plenty to ponder, and her book will become a valuable resource for spiritual directors. ■

Kathryn Madden, RC, completed spiritual direction training at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, USA, and at the Center for Religious Development in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. She is a longtime practitioner of centering prayer and is commissioned as a presenter by Contemplative Outreach. She serves on the ministry team at the Cenacle Retreat Center in Chicago, Illinois, USA, and can be reached at kathrynmadden@hotmail.com.

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**Sacred Space at Home:
Architecture with Soul**
by Anne Knorr

Boulder, CO: Home Design Publishing, 2012
164 pages, GBP£15.00, USD\$25.00
Reviewed by Teresa Di Biase

"Sacred Space at Home will make any reader more aware of how even the most humble dwelling can become a sanctuary." ■

**Forged in the Fiery Furnace:
African American Spirituality**
by Diana L. Hayes

Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2012
213 pages, CAD\$25.50, GBP£12.99,
USD\$22.00
Reviewed by Therese Taylor-Stinson

"Forged in the Fiery Furnace would be an excellent primer for spiritual directors who wish to understand more fully the spirituality of African Americans."

A Thousand Mornings
by Mary Oliver

New York, NY: Penguin Press, 2012
82 pages, CAD\$26.50, GBP£18.99, USD\$24.95
Reviewed by Reverend Monica McDowell

"Spiritual directors may find many uses for her poetry, including in rituals and ceremonies and for personal edification." ■

**Honest to God Prayer:
Spirituality as Awareness, Empowerment,
Relinquishment and Paradox**
by Kent Ira Groff

Woodstock, VT: SkyLight Paths, 2012
155 pages, CAD\$9.99 [Kindle], GBP£10.61,
USD\$16.99

Reviewed by Jacqueline Leksen

"The art of spiritual direction is about paying attention, and the book calls us to 'listen attentively to the Ground of our being' (15), to 'see the bush when it blazes' (17), reminding us that 'any experience is occasion for prayer' (17)." ■

**The Road That Teaches:
Lessons in Transformation through Travel**
by Valerie Brown

Philadelphia, PA: Quaker Books, 2012
151 pages, CAD\$15.65, GBP£9.34, USD\$14.95
Reviewed by Karen L. Erlichman

"Many people come to spiritual direction with tales of their own pilgrimage journeys, and this book is an extraordinary wellspring of cultural, theological, personal, and universal travel stories." ■

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mrcschoolforspiritualdirectors.mynetworksolutions.com - call 207-491-7524
Dr. Marie – joyologist@gwi.net

**Women's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:
November 2 – 12, 2013**

Women of all Christian faiths are invited to reflect on the Scriptures in places where women of the Old and the New Testaments lived. Visits to Galilee, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem. Led by biblical scholar and guide, Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ, with Marianne Race, CSJ, and Pat Kozak, CSJ. Contact mrace@csjoseph.org 708-363-6728



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