



Deacon's Corner



We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God.
- 1 Corinthians 2:12

What is Spiritual Direction?

Spiritual direction is the contemplative practice of accompanying (or joining with) a person or group as they awaken to the spiritual in everyday life, and it is the shared intentions and supports for the directee to have a deeper relationship with spirit through all phases of life.

We define Christian spiritual direction as help given by one Christian to another which enables that person to pay attention to God's personal communication to him or her, to respond to this personally communicating God, to grow in intimacy with this God, and to live out the consequences of the relationship. (*William A. Barry, SJ and William J. Connolly, SJ, Center for Religious Development, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA*)

Spiritual direction is, in reality, nothing more than a way of leading us to see and obey the real Director — the Holy Spirit hidden in the depths of our soul. (*Thomas Merton, Trappist monk, USA*)

The whole purpose of spiritual direction is to penetrate beneath the surface of a person's life, to get behind the façade of conventional gestures and attitudes which one presents to the world, and to bring out one's inner spiritual freedom, one's inmost truth, which is what [Christians] call the likeness of Christ in one's soul. This is an entirely supernatural (spiritual) thing, for the work of rescuing the inner person from automatism belongs first of all to the Holy Spirit. (*Thomas Merton*)

Spiritual Direction is offered at St. Francis Church on a regular basis, by a certified spiritual director.

If you feel the Lord is calling you to spiritual direction, please call the parish office at 978-452-6611.

Spiritual Direction is available with:
Deacon John Hunt
Joyce Dyer
Or
Marcy Venskus

God Bless.
Deacon John