



# HOMECOMING

Bethany Retreat House

Volume 17, Number 3

December 2013

## TRUE COLORS

by Joyce Diltz, PHJC

Not long ago when the leaves were still changing colors, I was surveying the trees along the roadside as I drove. I would look for brightly colored trees, at first not finding many. But then I would notice a brilliant one, and then another. Some were crimson, some the translucent yellow I've come to call "autumn gold." I mused as I drove that as each tree finds its true colors, it becomes magnificent.

And then it occurred to me that is exactly what happens with us humans! The more we become our own authentic selves, the more beautiful and stunning we become. Carl Jung called the process *individuation*. Jesus called it *transformation*. It is our life work, becoming our true selves. When we meet people who are wise and authentic, isn't it comparable to seeing a magnificent tree?

See *COLORS*, page 2.

### Annual One-day Christmas Sale! Bethany Retreat House Bookstore

Friday, December 13, 2013, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
(No need to call ahead on sale day!)

- All enneagram & grief books 50% off
- All dream & Jungian books 20% off
- All journal books & blank journals 20% off
- All children's books 20% off
- All music CDs 20% off
- All greeting cards 20% off
- Drastically reduced bargain basket books.

And more!

— along with our usual array of  
spiritually nourishing books, quilted sweatshirts,  
and environment-friendly gift-wrap bags and totes.

Markdowns off original price on in-stock items only.  
Excludes special orders.

Christmas sale guests are eligible to win a  
\$25 gift certificate.

## BRH BOOKSHELF



### *Prayer, Our Deepest Longing*

By Ronald Rolheiser

Franciscan Media, paper, 70 pages, \$8.99

Reviewed by Deb Szrom Steppe

I love books on prayer! This work, by internationally known writer and speaker Ronald Rolheiser, is a gem among them. It is a collection of essays that guide the reader into a deeper intimacy with God – into that which is our deepest longing.

That intimacy, a product of a steady and faithful prayer life, is not automatic for any of us in our hectic and noisy world. Starting the book with essays on struggling in prayer is helpful and makes much sense.

The wisdom of the author is reflected throughout this deceptively short book. I was often touched and intrigued by what Rolheiser was saying. Several of the images have stayed with me long after finishing the book.

One of those is from Chapter 6 – “Listening to God’s Heartbeat.” In it the author recounts the image of the Beloved Disciple at the Last Supper in John’s Gospel. The disciple is relaxing with Jesus with his head on Jesus’ chest. This, the author says, is John’s ultimate image of discipleship – looking out at the world while being attuned to the heartbeat of Christ, content and intimately connected with God.

As someone who has been working on developing an intimate prayer life for a long time, I learned from and was well challenged by this book. Because the author is so good with clearing up misconceptions about what a prayer life is and difficulties one encounters, I think those beginning to develop a prayer life would benefit from this work as well.

Deb Szrom Steppe writes from Milwaukee where she lives with her husband Mike and two sons.

### SAVE THE DATE!

*Drawing From Our Dreams* workshop with Cheryl Kaper  
Saturday April 26, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
at Bethany Retreat House

Details will follow in the new year.

# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

by Joyce Diltz, PHJC



I'm aware this year that fall has so many faces. There is the "face" of crisp, rustling leaves and changing colors, of brilliance. There is the aspect of bare trees and colder temperatures, damp and rain. And there is the face of early darkness and bitter wind. Soon there will be snow. Each of these mini seasons take their turn constituting fall and lead us eventually to Thanksgiving and to winter's doorstep.

As we move through the seasons at Bethany, we have successfully hosted another autumn tea, we have welcomed guests for retreat, we continue with our ongoing dream groups, and we prepare for the Christmas season in the bookstore. We have said good-bye to Liz Chagolla, our talented and competent office assistant, and we search for someone to replace her. (We're looking for someone with excellent computer and bookkeeping skills for this part-time position.) We look forward to hearing from friends and benefactors at Christmas time, and we invite you each to contribute to our annual appeal to help Bethany continue its good and important work.

And we enter into the season of Advent, watching and listening to discover God's presence and invitations for this time in our history. May the shortening days, the Advent prayers, and the Christmas lights bring us to our true home where God is born again and again to live among us!

COLORS, *continued. from page 1*

Our hearts skip a beat at the incomparable beauty! May we each be deeply engaged in that process that transforms us into the rich, full human being God dreams for us.

As we enter the season of Advent, we open ourselves yet more to this transformative process. We learn virtues of waiting, watching, listening. We become acquainted with the darkness of the season which reflects the darkness of the womb in which new life develops, both Jesus' and ours. We wait on inner growth and on the fullness of time. We listen with Mary and Joseph for God's promptings of fidelity, of where to go, with whom to stay, where it is safe for the new life we tend. Advent invites us into the stillness and the darkness of inner things. May we each tend this year to the inner spirit of the season, even as we bustle about preparing gifts for those we love.



Bethany Retreat House  
*a place away close by*

Please consider purchasing some of your Christmas gifts from our bookstore or giving a gift certificate for a retreat or a book at Bethany. Such a gift will last long into the new year!

**Bethany Retreat House**  
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**East Chicago, IN 46312**

## HOMECOMING

a newsletter of Bethany Retreat House  
published four times a year at

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Bethany Retreat House

is a ministry of the

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

(Ancilla Domini Sisters, Inc.)

congregation of women religious.

The retreat house is further subsidized

in 2013 by a grant from the

Foundations of East Chicago.

## IN MEMORY OF

**Pat Marzec** by Agnes Marzec

**Bernice Rak** by Nancy and Bernard Baltrushaitis

**Catherine Gasior** by Nancy and Bernard Baltrushaitis

**Molly Simon** by Linda Sue Baker

**Gladys Hilmes** by Vickie Michalak

**Norah McFarland** by Vickie Michalak

## IN HONOR OF

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