



# HOMECOMING

Bethany Retreat House

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BRH  
BOOKSHELF



## *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation*

by Richard Rohr, OFM with Mike Morrell  
Whitaker House, cloth, 220 pages, \$24

Reviewed by Deb Szrom Steppe

Richard Rohr introduces this book by stating that while the Blessed Trinity is a foundational doctrine of our Christian belief system, it seems to have almost no practical or pastoral implications in most of our lives. This work by Rohr with Mike Morrell sets out to change that by calling for a paradigm shift, a major religious conversion in how we see, understand, and relate to God.

This paradigm shift offers to the reader the image of God as Life Energy...God as with us in all of life...the Divine Reality that replicates itself in us and in all the array of creation...the flow who flows through everything, without exception and who has done so since the beginning – to name a few images Rohr suggests.

This work is heavily based on scripture. I find that helpful. Inviting readers to change their perception of the image of God is a tall order. Basing so much of this book on scripture as well as insights of mystics and wisdom figures throughout history makes that change easily reachable.

This book is based on two workshops Rohr delivers. Mike Morrell's writing skills provide a seamless transition from workshop material, which might be tiresome to read, to an engaging and easily readable book.

I am quite taken with this book and find that I'm continuing to process and reread the material. What struck me most and continues to resonate with me is the discussion on the sign of the cross, the physical action of belief in the Trinity. As a Catholic, it is impossible for me to count how many times I have made the sign of the cross in my lifetime. What was often an automatic gesture done without even thinking is now something I do consciously, prayerfully, and most lovingly.

The book's appendix provides seven spiritual practices, including the sign of the cross, to discover this new way of living within the Trinity in our daily lives.

Richard Rohr is a spiritual and theological master. That is evident in this superb work!

*Deb Steppe, a former Hammond resident, writes from New Berlin, Wisconsin.*

## SEASONAL MUSINGS

by Joyce Diltz, PHJC

I recently caught myself in conversation calling Thanksgiving a "holy day" and quickly switched to "holi-day." But there *is* something very sacred about this celebration – a time when our nation comes together to thank God for the multitude of blessings with which we are showered, so much more than many people of our world can even imagine. We have much to be grateful for! It is especially good this year to come together after the grueling political campaign we have just lived through. Thanksgiving gives us the occasion to focus on what we gratefully hold in common, even in the midst of significant difference.

The current season of Advent helps us situate any dissatisfaction and discontent in the primal longings of our hearts for a way to live together that is appreciative, reverent, and just. Jesus called this way "the reign of God" and came to establish it among us. The readings of Advent invite us to move more fully into that reign where we live out God's dream for us.

*Continued on page 2*

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

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(Ancilla Domini Sisters, Inc.)  
congregation of women religious.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

by Joyce Diltz, PHJC



When you call or visit the retreat house these days, you will be greeted by Robin Horbovetz, our new assistant to the director. Robin has pretty seamlessly moved in to the chair recently vacated by Susan Steinkraus who is enjoying her retirement. I'm grateful to both Susan and Robin for their ably and graciously providing the infrastructure that undergirds our services here at Bethany.

Please remember our bookstore as you fill in your Christmas gift list. We have so many books that feed our souls and help hone our ability to recognize and respond to our God. For non-readers on your list, we have music CDs and an array of sweatshirts and tote bags. There are also cloth gift-wrap bags that enhance any gift, live on from year to year, and keep paper out of the landfill. Consider stopping by for our December 9 Christmas sale, or another day that works for you. Since we have a very small staff, it is a good idea to call ahead to be sure we are here when you have time to stop by.

I wish you a blessed Advent season, one of longing for God's coming in fulness and of celebrating the daily ways God is with us in the nitty gritty of our lives. May this holy season give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to embrace God-with-us. May your Advent dreams guide you in your search for God as they did Joseph and the magi of old!

SEASONAL MUSINGS *continued from page*

The Isaiah readings of the season describe life in God's reign – living under God's guidance, peacefully, justly, with enemies living in harmony together. God's reign is about life. Death does not have the last word. Life does – as God brings life out of death and meaning out of meaninglessness!

As much as we long to live God's dream for us, God depends on us to help it take shape. St. Teresa of Avila tells us how in her words put to song by Liam Lawton\*:

Christ has no body now but yours,  
no hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now but yours.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.  
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes; you are his body.

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\*from the album *Castle of the Soul* by Liam Lawton and Tony Alonso, GIA Publications.