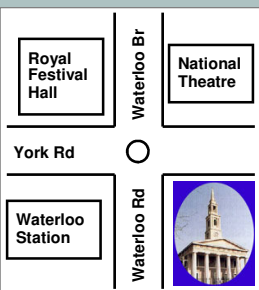


SOUTHERN IGNATIAN NETWORK NEWSLETTER

SiGN

Nicky Woods
Secretary, SiGN
136B
Chestnut Avenue South
LONDON
E17 9EL

Email:
Nicky@signetwork.co.uk



Autumn Gathering - Saturday 16th October 2004 The Examen — *The Wider Picture*

To be led by **Alfred Agius—Interfaith Adviser to the Cardinal of the archdiocese of Westminster** on **Saturday 16th October** at **St John's Church, Waterloo Road, London SE1**. 11 am—4.00 pm (doors open at 10.30 am and close at 4.30 pm!). Please bring a packed lunch; coffee and tea will be provided. Donation * for the day is £10 for members and £15 for non—members.

* The cost of the Gathering is to cover materials and expenses. It is recognised that financial situations differ and some people travel long distances. It is important that no one is prevented from coming because of financial hardship. A donation that is less (or in some cases more!) is acceptable. Please pay whatever you can afford.

As well as Interfaith Adviser, Alfred is also on the staff of the diocesan seminary at Chelsea teaching Inter Faith Dialogue. Alfred proposes the following plan:-

- 11 am—1 pm Session One with a coffee break in between
- 2 pm—4 pm Session Two with a tea break in between

Alfred will give some input about his back-

ground on the day to enable us to see why he says what he says. We will set aside some time for him to answer questions, give clarifications, or be challenged.

We propose a time for discussion about SiGN after our lunch break.

We look forward to seeing you! [Ed]

The year 2006 is the 450th anniversary of the passing of Saint Ignatius. Some of the Core Group wonder how much interest there might be from SiGN members for a conference in that year along the lines of 'Experiencing the Spirit of the Exercises!' If you're interested - bring your enthusiasm on Oct 16 [Ed].

NEXT YEAR'S SPRING GATHERING

5th March 2005 at St. John's Church, Waterloo Road starting at 11 am on the theme of "Social Justice and the First Week" led by Elizabeth South. The SiGN AGM follows with elections. Do you have gifts you could offer the Core Group?

Articles for Spring publication by end of January 2005.

Please send them by email to :
alanphodgetts@netscape.net

Or write to:

The Editor, SiGN
c/o St. John's Centre
222 Epsom Road
MERROW Surrey. GU4 7AA



The SigN Core Group:

- Chair** **Andrew Walker**
The London Centre for Spirituality
The Church of St. Edmund the King
Lombard Street
London EC3V 9EA
Tel: 020 7621 1391
Email: rector@marywoolnoth.org
- Vice Chair** **Diana Witts**
107 Gloucester Court, Kew Road
Richmond, Surrey TW9 3DZ
Tel: 020 8940 5680
- Treasurer** **Laurence Benkhaleb**
11 Wintergreen Close, Beckton
London E6 5UQ
Tel: 020 7511 3586
Email: L.Benkhabeb@rbgkew.org.uk
- Secretary** **Nicky Woods**
136B Chestnut Avenue South
London E17 9EL
Tel: 020 8521 6099
- Membership Sec.** **Margaret Palladino**
56 Courteney Street
London SE11 5PQ
Tel: 020 7735 9435
Email: margaret.palladino@btinternet.com
- Bill Hawes**
94 Southern Road, Plaistow
London E13 9JD
Tel: 020 8471 8124
Email: we.hawes@virgin.net
- Alan Hodgetts**
St John's Rectory, 232 Epsom Road
Merrrow GU4 7AA
Tel: 01483 504311
alanphodgetts@netscape.net
- Malcolm Rothwell**
Burnt Ash Farmhouse, Steep Marsh
Petersfield, Hants GU32 2BB
Tel: 01370 263317
Email: revmar@lucy87.fsnet.co.uk
- Diana Tear**
39 Stamford Green Road, Epsom
Surrey KT18 7SR
Tel: 01372 812 912
Email: d.tear@ntlworld.com
- Jesuit representative** **Gero McLoughlin sj**
28 Lauriston Street
Edinburgh EH3 9DJ
Tel: 0131 477 5782
Email: gero@talk21.com

Tell me 'When did I fall!'

The Spring Gathering with Margaret Silf was an extremely full and rich day. Margaret's unique challenging and experiential style provided many insights and challenges for the First Week. We were invited to look with fresh eyes and an evolutionary perspective. A few thoughts from her hand-outs to refresh and/or encourage the journey onwards.....

At the beginning of the day we were invited to take **A Walk on the Dark Side** and look at **The Killer Within**

Beloved of God and created by God we are declared 'very good'
'Our true and personal identity is a part of a greater whole that still lies beyond our imagination'

'But the truth is that our lives are grounded on an illusion – the mistaken assumption that the island, which is me, is the reality and the largely invisible 'bedrock' of our being can be safely sidelined and ignored. The next stage down the sinful spiral is to make the rest of the world fit our false assumptions.

Once enmeshed in compulsive tendencies, we are in real danger of re-arranging creation to fit our false assumptions. Indeed history itself gets re-written to turn inconvenient truth into more palatable untruth.

And so the cascade of sin comes brimming down the cliff sides of creation in a potentially lethal torrent, The cascade of deception and illusion affects all we do and our individual choices and actions affect the whole of creation.

'If we had to give a name to the arch enemy of life, we might call it 'fear' of loneliness, of isolation, of rejection, of emptiness, of meaninglessness and non-existence. Fear makes us into cowards or bullies, doormats and tyrants, perpetrators and colluders in the inherent evils of our systems.'

'God, whether we are aware of God or not, is totally and eternally present in the very ground of our being – the ground of being in each creature and the ground of being of all creation.'

'Our encounter with the darkness within us must leave us humbled, yet also with a true sense of wonder. The wonder is that in all this mayhem, in which reality itself has been utterly distorted and overturned – in ourselves, in our relationships, in all our human society and in the cosmos itself – we not only survive but grow.'

'We are called to be Easter People, pilgrims in hope, not in despair, travelling into life not death. Love always has the edge over fear. The margin may be small, but God's preferential option is always for Love'.

Springtime Nativity and God's Unfinished Symphony move us forward into the next stage of our evolutionary journey in response to the call of Jesus to 'Follow Me'; where the first shall be last, we are only rich in what we give away, we enter 'life in all its fullness.

Thank you Margaret for daring to risk and sharing your insights with us.

A Core Group has existed since the beginning of SigN in 1994 in one form or another. It meets twice a year, in February and September. In between times, members serve on small sub-groups to prepare Gatherings, produce the newsletter, consider matters relating to the membership, and to monitor financial matters. Currently the Core Group is aiming to help engage afresh with the materials of the Spiritual Exercises.

Our **Spring Gathering** focused on "**Sin and the first week of the Exercises**" our **Autumn Gathering** will deepen our consideration of the First Week and next year, **in 2005, we meet on March 5th and October 15th** to take us further into the dynamic of the Spiritual Exercises.