

SOUTHERN IGNATIAN NETWORK NEWSLETTER

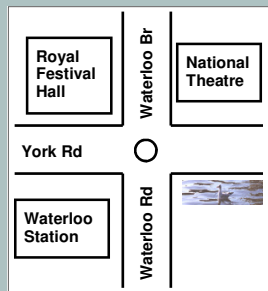
In this issue:

- Page 1—Spring Gathering with Margaret Silf
- Page 2—Autumn Gathering October 16th 2004
- Page 2—Reflections on last year's Autumn Gathering in October 2003
- Page 3—Annual Accounts
- Page 3—Something about our printers
- Page 4—the SlgN AGM and nomination form

Spring Gathering—Saturday 13th March 2004

Tell me, when did I fall?

A workshop to help us engage with 'Sin and the first week of the Spiritual Exercises.'



To be led by **Margaret Silf, an ecumenical lay Christian**, at St John's Church, Waterloo Road, London SE1. 11 am—4 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.

Please note: The SlgN AGM starts our day at 11am. Doors open at 10.30am. Coffee at 11.30am moving into Margaret's presentation.

* 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.

During the day we will reflect on what we think we mean by "sin".

We all know that we are entangled in a mesh of deception and self-deception that pervades not only every human heart, but all our structures and institutions.

- 📖 *How does this manifest itself?*
- 📖 *How did it begin?*
- 📖 *Did we "fall" from some perfect state, and if so, how, when, and why?*
- 📖 *How do we move beyond sin? What does "redemption" mean?*

And if we believe in "fall" and "redemption", how can we share our Christian understanding with the wider world?

About our leader for the day

Margaret Silf is an ecumenical lay Christian, committed to working across and beyond the denominational divides. For most of her working life she was employed in the computer industry and recently left paid employment to devote herself to writing and accompanying others on their spiritual journey, especially through retreats and days of reflection. She is the author of a number of books on the spiritual journey for 21st century pilgrims who may or may not identify with institutional religion.

She is currently especially engaged in trying to get "underneath" the language and (sometimes fixed) ideas of traditional Christian doctrine, to discover what meanings it holds for a 21st century spiritual pilgrim within the context of the vast and expanding story of the evolution of life on earth, and the exciting new insights emerging from the world of science.

We are continuing our reflections on the **Spiritual Exercises** of Saint Ignatius Loyola as this year we move into the **First Week**

Spring 2004

Reflections on our Autumn Gathering last year



**THIS YEAR'S
AUTUMN
GATHERING
OCTOBER
16th 2004
Is at St. John's
Church, Waterloo
Road from 11am
will keep us mov-
ing through the
dynamic of the
*Spiritual Exer-
cises* as we con-
tinue the Spring
Gathering reflec-
tions on the *First
Week*.**

“As an Angel Came Down from Heaven”...

The very thought of the giver of the Spiritual Exercises being “as an angel who came down from heaven” was enough to draw me to the SiGN Gathering in October. The imagination was already awakened, albeit at this point more in humour than reflection.

Gero McLoughlin, Jesuit priest and Promoter of the Ignatian Spirituality, offered us a rich day of reflection on the stance of the giver as crucial in the relationship offered in the giving of the Spiritual Exercises and in Spiritual Direction. There is in all of us a potential and sometimes very real gap between what we profess and what we do, and within the immensely trusting relationship of one person alongside another this can lead to power imbalance. The move towards reducing that gap is essential if we are to work both effectively and ethically. Externally imposed restraints of a rule-bound Code of Ethics may serve to widen the gap, whereas the inner framework of awareness of God-with-us is more likely to close the gap through congruence of our values and attitudes in our being with another. In Gero's words we need “**a per-during sense of God's relationship with us as we help others**”. Openness and humility are at the heart of it all.

Gero took us back to source, in this case with reference to the Directories, in order to reflect on what it was that the early givers of the Exercises did and valued. This, together with our own reflection on what values and attitudes we hope to bring to accompanying others, gave us opportunity to refocus on our disposition in the ministry of Spiritual Direction. One of the key phrases seemed to be the “**ability to give an account of oneself, or someone will do it for us**”. The directee can then feel freer to stand, not in our place, but in their own, out of their relationship with God.

What are some of the **values** we hope to bring? Gero offered material for reflection in areas such as

- **Humility** A director is never dominant. We are instruments of God “A Kind of Jeeves” The director is not perfect, and needs to know there's something more important.
- **Judgement** The director is not a “passive bystander, and does need to exercise some judgement, it being within the director's role to draw things to the directee's attention.
- **Focus** The work we do is focussed, rather than diffuse.
- **Trust in the process** and a desire to let the directee go at their own pace, having time to process.
- **A desire to act appropriately & helpfully** relating to the person's life experience
- **Respect** for the directee, their autonomy and their personal relationship with God.
- **Openness** giving information, encouraging an adult, non-dependent relationship
- **Flexibility** adapting to each person and focussing on the needs of the individual to grow.

Finally, Gero urged the recognition of the gifts given to each by God, and encouraged a freer sense of using these gifts “zealously” in this ministry, a ministry increasingly offered by those in lay ministry.

Thanks, Gero, for the food for thought for potential angels.

Lyz Mole

Articles for Autumn publication by end of July 2004. 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, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7AA**



Do you know why?

An article about the printers of our Newsletter



The business exists to provide a vehicle for the delivery of our rehabilitation services to 'employment trainees'

I often wondered why SigN used the printers they did. It seemed such an out of way place. John Ruming had always been their contact and the newsletter just appeared, but last September John was on holiday and so I made a long and difficult journey down to Garrett Lane to pick up the newsletter.

Seagull printers is a small business, set up to help young people with difficulties back into work. Richard Lynn runs

it and to talk with him about the way things work is inspiring. The business works with Wandsworth and the young people do as many or as few sessions as is possible for them. Funding means the need to set targets, e.g. A certain number of the young people to be placed into paid employment each year. Richard is confident that targets are achievable and the needs of the young people are catered for and the ethos and purpose are safeguarded..

From the moment I entered the printers my frustrations at the journey ceased and I would not hesitate to recommend the printers to you. If you ever need the services of a printer do give Richard a call.

Margaret Palladino

Contact:
Richard Lynn,
Seagull Printers,
667-669 Garrett Lane, London
SW17 0NOTel:- 020.8944.7366
Email
enquiries@seagullprint.co.uk



SIgN Core Group

A Core Group has existed since the beginning of SIgN 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. The Core Group are helping us engage afresh with the materials of the Spiritual Exercises.

Our **Spring Gathering** enabled us to reconnect with the **Principle and Foundation**. The **Autumn Gathering** entitled '**An angel come down from heaven**' was a continuation of this theme from the Spiritual Exercises.

This year, our **Spring Gathering** will help us reflect on "**Sin and the first week of the Exercises**" and our **Autumn Gathering** will deepen our consideration of the First Week.

Southern Ignatian Network—Annual Account (01/01/2003 - 31/12/2003)

This account has yet to receive the Examiner's approval

| Accounts | As at 31/12/2003 | | As at 01/12/2002 | |
|--|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | Expenses | Income | Expenses | Income |
| Opening balance as at 01/01/2003 | | 3250.03 | | |
| Direct expenses | | | | |
| Core Group expenses | 256.18 | | 347.60 | |
| Facilitator's salary | | | 2,485.24 | |
| Gathering Expenses | 717.41 | | 562.03 | |
| Inland Revenue Tax/NI | | | 1,302.08 | |
| Insurance | 99.75 | | 78.75 | |
| Mailing Expenses | 60.47 | | 65.90 | |
| Newsletters & Directory | 195.35 | | 216.24 | |
| Other Expenses | | | 25.00 | |
| Software | 142.79 | | | |
| Software Support | 58.79 | | | |
| Total Expenditure | 1530.74 | | 5,082.84 | |
| Other Income | | | | |
| Donations | | | | 95.00 |
| Gathering Admissions | | 857.00 | | 935.00 |
| Interest earned | | 34.05 | | 39.93 |
| Other income | | 2,500.00 | | |
| Subscriptions | | 1,725.00 | | 1,215.00 |
| Total Income | | 5,107.73 | | 2,284.93 |
| Cash at bank | | 6835.34 | | |
| Break down of assets | | | | |
| Bank Account | | | | |
| 5036881 High Interest Business Account | 5,202.93 | | 2,668.88 | |
| 90997269 Community Cheque Account | 1,632.41 | | 581.15 | |

The accounts above show that SIgN is in a position to sustain its activities, be creative with its programme and maintain a cushion for the future.

Spring 2004

The SIgN AGM begins our day at 11am on **13 March 2004** at the **Spring Gathering**

A Core Group has existed since the beginning of SIgN in one form or another.

SIgN

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

Email:
Nicky@signetwork.co.uk

AGENDA:

- ❖ Minutes of the previous AGM, 15th March 2003
- ❖ Matters arising
- ❖ Chair's report
- ❖ Treasurer's report (See Accounts on Page 3)
- ❖ Membership secretary's report
- ❖ Appointments to the Executive Committee/ Core Group (ballot if needed)
- ❖ Any other business

Nominations are invited for 6 places on the Core Group following the resignations of Margaret Palladino (resigns by rotation), Lynne Galloway and Diana Stainer. Alan Hodgetts who was co-opted during the year also stands down.

Any member of SIgN may make nominations and is eligible for nomination. Please ensure that those nominated are willing to serve if elected, and ask them to provide the Secretary with a brief biography of up to 100 words.

Current committee members are: *Chair:* Andrew Walker, *Vice Chair:* Diana Witts, *Treasurer:* Laurence Benkhaleb, *Secretary:* Nicky Woods, *Membership Secretary:* Margaret Palladino, Alan Hodgetts (co-opted), Malcolm Rothwell, Diana Tear.

Please send nominations on the slip below to the Secretary as soon as possible to arrive no later than **Friday 27th February 2004**

NOMINATION FORM

Cut off and fill in the form below and send to:
The Secretary of SIgN, 136B Chestnut Avenue South, London E17 9EL



Names and Addresses of Nominees:

| | |
|----------|---|
| 1) | Name and address of sender: |
| ... | |
| | |
| | |
| 2) | Are the nominees willing to stand for election? |
| | Have you asked them to send a short biography? |
| | Signed |
| | |