

From the National Chair

Universal themes of life

In 2017, Pixar released a children's musical fantasy movie called *Coco*, about the Mexican day of the dead or *Día de los Muertos*. Every year at the beginning of November, I watch this movie. I also use this movie for Eucharist Faith formation sessions with children and their parents. The movie's exploration of family, memory and tradition resonates deeply with me. In my family, we visit the graves of our loved ones more than once a year, and in particular on All Souls Day. All of us have experienced the loss of loved ones. *Coco* invites us to reflect on the importance of honouring our ancestors and keeping their legacies alive, a theme that is comforting and thought-provoking. The movie allows me to appreciate the rich cultural representation with the universal themes of life, death and remembrance. The movie also tackles the ideas of identity, purpose and forgiveness.



If you are with me on All Souls Day, you may get lucky, and know what movie I will be watching that night.

As we are in the month of November, may we keep remembering and giving thanks for we are standing on the shoulders of the ones who went before us.

With every blessing on your ministry
Rita Malavisi rsj
National Chair

CSD Australia News

2024 CSD Reflection Magazine is Now Available!

We're excited to announce that this year's edition, centered on the theme of **'Boundless Love,'** is packed with reflective insights, wisdom, and invitations to explore the sacred mystery of love without limits.

If you didn't receive your copy in your inbox, please contact [Karen](#), and she'll ensure you get one.

A heartfelt thank you to all our members who contributed, showcasing the generosity and deep spirituality of our wonderful community. Your voices make this publication truly special!



Our sincere apologies to Lianella Girardi, as her reflection piece, *Immensos Amor*, was inadvertently left out of the printed edition. We are pleased to share it with you here, and we hope you enjoy this beautiful and thoughtful piece. Thank you, Lianella, for sharing your work with us, and we regret the oversight in the print edition.

Melbourne Spiritual Directors Gathering 2025

Thank you to everyone who expressed interest in an in-person gathering! We're thrilled to announce that, after a fantastic response and discussions with the CSD reference team, we're organizing our first Melbourne gathering in 2025! It's the perfect way to kick off the new year together.

If you'd like to receive more details, please reach out to [Karen](#) to get your name added to the communication list. We can't wait to connect with you all!



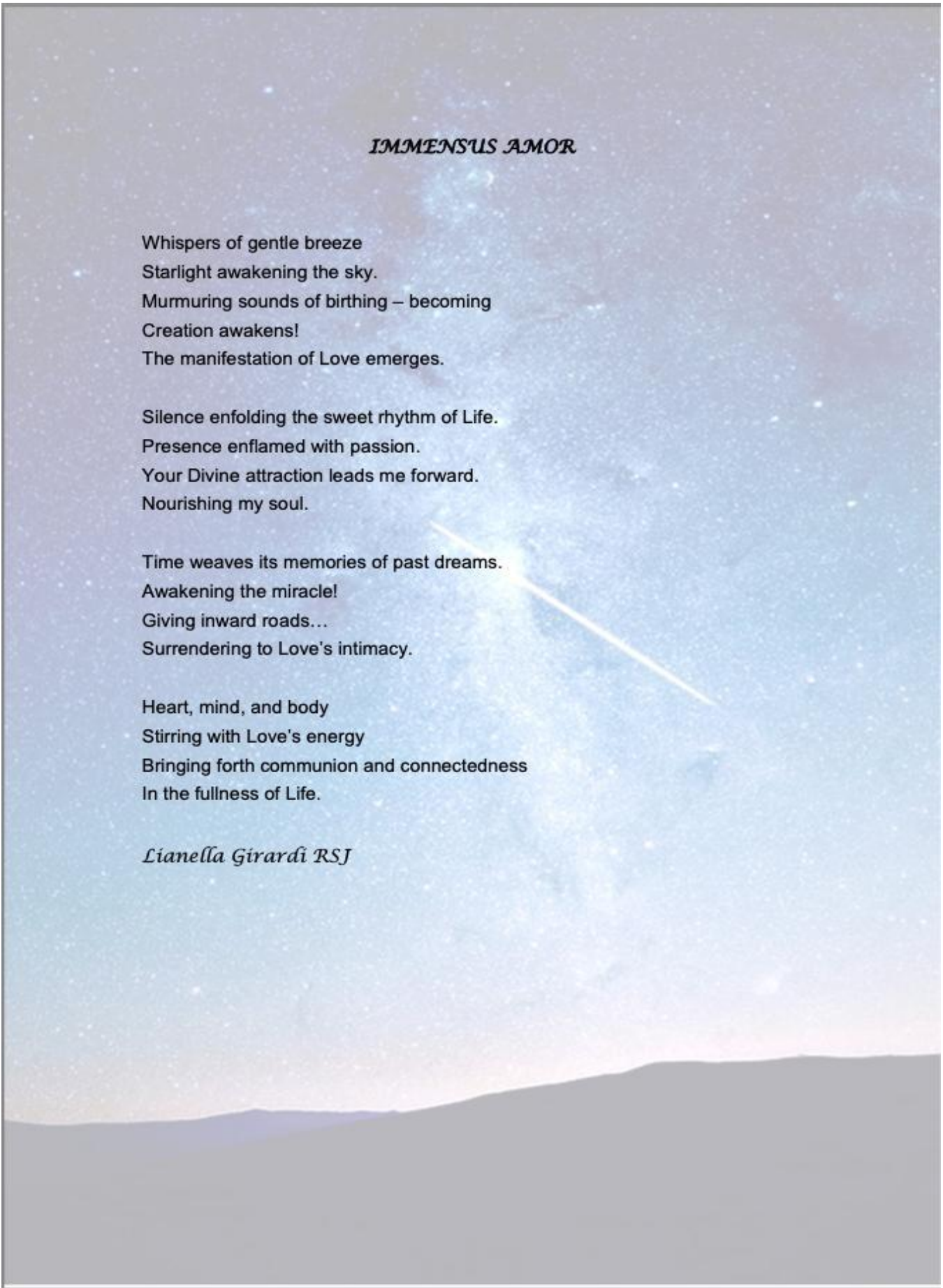
Update on the CSD "Find a Director" Directory!

One of the most valued features on our CSD website is the **"Find a Director"** directory, a crucial resource for those looking for a spiritual director. We've recently refreshed the site to ensure that all profiles include current photos and accurate information.

We encourage you to take a moment to review your published details. If you notice any changes needed, please reach out to [Karen](#) so we can keep our directory up to date.

If you haven't created a profile page yet and would like to include this feature in your listing, simply contact [Karen](#) or fill out our [Member Profile form](#).





IMMENSUS AMOR

Whispers of gentle breeze
Starlight awakening the sky.
Murmuring sounds of birthing – becoming
Creation awakens!
The manifestation of Love emerges.

Silence enfolding the sweet rhythm of Life.
Presence enflamed with passion.
Your Divine attraction leads me forward.
Nourishing my soul.

Time weaves its memories of past dreams.
Awakening the miracle!
Giving inward roads...
Surrendering to Love's intimacy.

Heart, mind, and body
Stirring with Love's energy
Bringing forth communion and connectedness
In the fullness of Life.

Lianella Girardi RSJ

CSD Australia Members

Profile of a Member

Cassie Love

My introduction to contemplative practice was while living in Phnom Penh many years ago. I joined a contemplative prayer group and after the first session felt 'born again'! This was the beginning of a journey that led to formation in spiritual direction 11 years ago, with Spiritual Growth Ministries NZ. I am passionate about supporting others to deeply know the spaciousness and invitation of the Spirit to 'be whole and be well', to re-member the song of our soul and know God's peace. Any opportunity to lead retreats and quiet days in the Brisbane area is emerging and I look forward to how this unfolds in the new year.



Favourite Scripture:

Micah 6:8 justice and mercy are important values in our family and lifestyle, and walking humbly with God underpins the best of our intentions. We have been passionate about this scripture through the various stages of our life, from living in a rural Qld town, to Cambodia, to suburban life. The need for justice and mercy is always present.

Favourite Book:

Too hard! "You can never get a cup of tea large enough, or a book long enough, to suit me." My current favourite Christian book is Jason Porterfield's 'Fight like Jesus' and current favourite contemplative book is Sister Wendy Beckett's 'The Gaze of Love - Meditations on Art.'

Favourite Movie:

Again, tricky, here are a couple...The Princess Bride, The Castle...a recent movie I found deeply moving was 'The New Boy' starring Cate Blanchett.

Memorable Moment:

While living in Phnom Penh my 24 year old neighbour offered to hold my baby while I was making dinner one day. Her young niece was also with her, and we all stood in the small kitchen while I chopped an onion. I understood more Khmer than I spoke and the niece said, "she just cut off the end of that onion and threw it in the bin!". Her aunt replied casually, "She's rich, they do that." I cannot cut an onion without hearing that, and ever mindful of the privilege of my life as a white westerner.



CSD Australia Professional Development

Save the Date

Welcoming in a time of reflection on Advent

Saturday December 14th 9.30am - 11.00am (AEDT)

As the Advent season approaches, we invite you to join us for a morning of reflection as we contemplate the journey of Mary and Joseph—navigating the unknown while embracing the call to welcome. This will be a time of quiet reflection, small group conversation, and setting your heart in preparation for the season ahead.

Stay tuned for more details and the registration link, coming your way via email in the weeks ahead. We look forward to gathering together in this sacred space.



October Professional Development

Dr. David Treanor, Director, Safeguarding and Compliance
Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who provided feedback on our October session with Dr. David Treanor. It was a rich and engaging event, filled with insightful discussions on the latest professional development requirements and standards. Dr. Treanor also shared practical, accessible strategies for directors to establish safe practices—not only for themselves but also for their directees.

We are deeply grateful to Dr. Treanor for his thoughtful presentation, which reflected his passion and continued commitment to staying current in the ever-evolving sectors. His expertise and enthusiasm were truly inspiring.



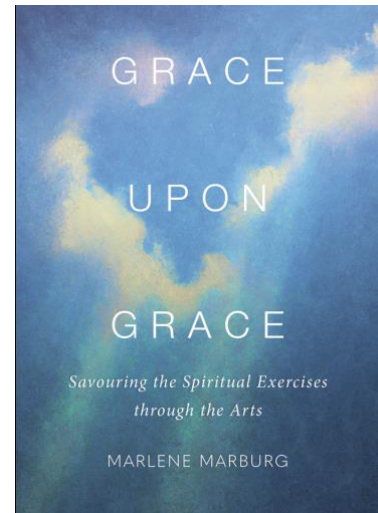
Book Promotion

“Grace upon Grace” by Marlene Marburg

Second Edition

In Grace upon Grace: Savouring the Spiritual Exercises through the Arts, spirituality meets creativity. Here are contemporary retreats for daily life that are fresh and creative adaptations of the original Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius. These innovative and unique retreats place a spotlight on the arts, using poetry, art, movement and music to explore the sacred Mystery. There is a special focus on poetry throughout the book, including the practice of writing poetry as prayer. Whether you’re seeking inspiration or simply fresh ideas for your next retreat, Grace upon Grace is a valuable resource you cannot do without.

Copies can be obtained from the author \$27 plus postage - Please email Marlene directly with your order and postal address at marlene.marburg@kardia.com.au)



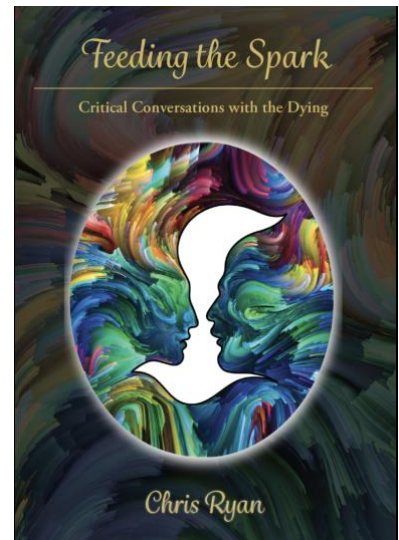
“Flutters from a Petrifying Heart” and “Feeding the Spark” by Chris Ryan

Chris Ryan has been busy publishing two books in the past twelve months. Feeding the Spark concerns his experiences as a provider of spiritual and emotional care in busy palliative units. His conversations with these most vulnerable of clients and their often very needy families, have drawn attention to the deep connections between what people find meaningful – both with and without a religious connection – and their often-unexpected experiences during critical episodes in their lives, especially around times of death. The book also includes a diverse range of near-death experiences. It is aimed at all spiritual seekers, including those preparing to farewell a loved one.

It can be sourced for \$20 at underthesun.net.au

Flutters from a Petrifying Heart is a curated collection of poetry in his authentic Australian voice. Across a broad range of topics from the mystical to the mundane, each poem is a doorway into a new world, inviting you to explore the myriad ways that a subtle Presence enlivens even our most fleeting moments with a grace that transcends and elevates us. This book is aimed at all those who search for meaning, and lovers of literature.

Copies can be obtained from the author \$40 plus postage - Please email Chris directly with your order and postal address at godgreen@outlook.com)



Other News

Heart of Life

Warm Welcome to Fr Peter Hendriks msc Incoming Director of Heart of Life for 2025

We extend our congratulations and welcoming to Peter who will take up Director of Heart of Life in 2025. Currently the Province Secretary of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Sydney, Peter brings academic qualifications in Spiritual Direction and other related fields.



WellSpring

Position Vacancy: Director of WellSpring

We are seeking a Director to lead the WellSpring community into its next phase of growth and development. The ideal candidate will be deeply committed to their own spiritual journey and the mission of WellSpring. This role focuses on fostering connections within the WellSpring community, promoting the organisation's vision and mission; and supporting spiritual growth and reflective engagement in justice, peace, right-relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the environment. The Director will develop strategies to engage and grow the community, overseeing programmes and operational functions while working with the board to support financial sustainability.



[For more information](#)

Heart of Life

Applications now accepted for 2025 formation programs

Siloam Program – full-time in-person program or part-time in-person or online program, for the formation of spiritual directors

Emmaus Supervision Program – part-time, in-person or online program for the formation of professional supervisors

Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program – part-time, in-person or online program for the formation of spiritual leaders

Let the Heart Listen Program – part-time, in-person or online formation program for people involved in listening to and supporting others in life's journey

[For more information](#)



St Francis College

Professional Supervision for Spiritual Directors

This course is intended to train people to work as:

Clinical supervisors of counsellors, therapists, social workers, youth and community workers. Pastoral supervisors of clergy, church workers and pastoral carers. Supervisors of pastoral care workers in hospitals and aged care facilities. Supervisors of students in training.

This course will also allow for:

Supervisors to upgrade their skills and knowledge

Individuals to qualify for membership of professional supervision associations.

[For more information](#)

ST FRANCIS
COLLEGE
SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND



Kardia

Grace Upon Grace: A formation course for Spiritual Directors in giving Spiritual Exercises

If you are a trained spiritual director who would like to further develop your spiritual direction skills in the area of giving the Spiritual Exercises from a 21st Century perspective, then this 12-month course is for you. Grace Upon Grace offers participants the opportunity to explore the Spiritual Exercises through a feminine and contemporary lens, using the arts, poetry, music and creativity in giving the Exercises. The program will be delivered on-line.



The Program 2025/26

Three four-day intensives online: Daily 9.45 am – 4.15 pm

7 – 10 March 2025: Graces of the Spiritual Exercises

20 – 23 June 2025: Discernment and stages of faith

17 – 20 April 2026: Giving the Spiritual Exercises in our Expanding Consciousness of God.

[For more information](#)

Contemplatio - Mystic Heart: Spiritual Pregnant with Nothing: Apophatic Prayer

Saturday 9th - Sunday 10th August 2024

Santa Casa Spirituality Centre, Queenscliff, Victoria and Online



This course is lead by Kerrie, who will draw on the mystical teachings of authors such as Denys the Areopagite, Meister Eckhart, Marguerite Porete, the Helfta Mystics, Jan van Ruusbroec, the Cloud of Unknowing author, John of the Cross and many more.

Two days full of teaching, meditation, prayer, opportunities for heart dialogue plus follow up sessions.

[For more information](#)