

Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—October 7, 2010

Mentor Notes:

Some folks have asked if my role as mentor will change after we become a mission and I am “priest in charge” or “vicar.” I don’t think it will change much, but this might be a good time for me to say more about how I see my role as mentor, vicar or priest in charge/vicar of Spirit of the Wilderness.

While many clergy I know see their job as doing most everything on Sundays and telling the church what’s next, I see my job as guiding and leading. Just as in a classroom experience, a lecture format doesn’t work as well as one of learning together—so I believe that we will all learn together by *doing* at Spirit of the Wilderness. But at the same time, in a good classroom the person with more expertise and experience (the professor for example) does guide and lead, offering a perspective based on years of learning. In other words, just as the best classroom experiences tend to be somewhere between lecture and free for all, so my leading at Spirit will not be despotic, but I will bring my educated, experienced perspective to bear, for the good of our church and our community. (If I were to go into an acupuncturist’s office, for example, I would assume that her education and experience have given her helpful insights and perspective—otherwise I wouldn’t want those needles near me!) So I trust (and the bishop assumes) my education and experience will help us grow at Spirit.

What we’re doing is more challenging than the traditional way of doing church, with all the authority placed in one person. But I believe it leads to greater involvement and growth for all.

Peace, Mary Ellen+

Dates:

October 17th: Adult Forum
October 19th: Spirit business meeting (evening)
October 20th: Social at WindCradle
October 30th: We are introduced at Convention
November 11th: Empty Bowls
November 14th: Shakes and Lectio at Emily’s
Thanksgiving Eve: service



For your prayers:

- Those who are part of our fellowship who are suffering—body, mind, or spirit.
- For on-going guidance as we at Spirit of the Wilderness seek to follow the Holy Spirit’s leading.
- That our introduction at Convention might be an encouragement to the rest of the church in Minnesota.
- For those in Cook County who need a church home. That we might be bold in inviting them to join ours.
- For those in Cook County in any kind of need.