



Spiritual Directors in Europe

January 2022

WELCOMING 2022!



After two very difficult years, we begin a New Year. We know that there are still difficulties to be lived through, but we look ahead with faith and hope.

At the last EC meeting, Liina opened with this prayer which our Members may also find useful.

Welcome, welcome, welcome.

I welcome everything that comes to me today

Because I know it's for my healing.

I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations, and conditions.

I let go of my desire for affection, esteem, approval, and pleasure.

I let go of my desire for survival and security.

I let go of my desire to change any situation, condition, person, or myself.

I open to the love and presence of God and God's action within.

Amen.

- **What do I welcome?**
- **What do I let go?**

Mery Mrozowski developed the basic practice and structure of Welcoming Prayer, based on ideas from Jean Pierre de Caussade and Fr. Thomas Keating. This prayer can be found in Richard Rohr's book "Just This". Published 2018, the Center for Action and Contemplation, Albuquerque, New Mexico

EC—KEY UPDATES

The EC met on 7 January. Here are a few details of what was discussed.

Training

EC was joined by Rafaël Maria Theuvenet and Seamus Cullen who explained how a programme for training in spiritual direction had been developed by a group of members. They spoke of how people in Poland and Iceland have been keen to set up courses but how the pandemic has stopped this. Hopefully, in 2022, this will become possible.

Training and SD-Europe will be the main item on the agenda for our next online meeting. This will be an Extraordinary General Meeting so that we can vote and decide how to proceed.

Iceland 2022

Our Treasurer, Teemu, has negotiated with Skálholt and managed to get some reduction in prices. He has arranged monthly payments through our website to make it easier for Members to spread the payments. You will soon receive a letter inviting you to Register and more details will be on the website.

EC also looked at the planning and will be working closely with the Iceland Team to ensure a blessed and fruitful time in this amazing country!

SD-Europe Finances

The Secretary, Kathryn, reported that we had notified Members about the idea of moving to a regular membership subscription in the newsletter and there had been no objections. We will bring this to the EGM so please read the item overleaf and think about this.

The Minutes will be online shortly.

GETTING IN TOUCH

SDE Chair, Lehel Lészai

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Booking and membership details: Kathryn Turner

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Membership fee and finance enquiries: Teemu Salminen

✉ treasurer@sd-europe.eu

Gatherings and Meeting programmes: Liina Sander

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MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS

SD-Europe is growing! There are now 115 members and we hope that more people will be attracted through our website and personal contacts. This is a great blessing but highlights an issue we need to consider.

Until now, SD-Europe activities have been funded by an administration fee paid by Members at the Annual Meetings. This has worked very well when most Members were able to attend. As we know, we have had no Annual Meeting since 2019, so this source of income has not been available. It is also unlikely that all 115 (and more) of us will come to every Annual Meeting!

We are also offering more opportunities through the year—online meetings and the website, for example.

This has led the EC to think about changing the way we fund administration and to consider an annual subscription. One suggestion is that those who have an income of more than €1000/ month could be asked to pay €50/ year; those whose income is lower, €30. A small annual subscription from Life Members would be helpful and voluntary donations to the Scholarship and Administration Fund would always be welcome. This would ensure that any Member or Candidate Member who cannot afford the subscription can still enjoy membership of our SD-Europe Family.

Please contact EC with your thoughts on this—or to offer other suggestions.



ANNUAL MEETING 2022

PILGRIMAGE:

HEAR THE LAND SPEAK

4-9 MAY 2022

Get ready to book your place!

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Date for your Diary:

Saturday 19 February 2022

In February, we will have an opportunity to reflect together on SD-Europe and the training of Spiritual Directors as well as hearing more about the planned pilgrimage to Iceland.

Here is an idea of the timetable for the event. The link and background documents will be sent nearer the time.

- 08.45 Log-in opens
- 09.00 Welcome and Opening Prayer
- 09.15 Spiritual Direction Training and the Spiritual Directors in Europe.
Input, time for reflection, questions, vote.
- 10.30 Short break and social time.
- 11.00 Membership subscriptions (please read the item on the left)
- 11.20 Iceland updates—information and time for questions.
- 11.50 Closing Prayer
- 12.00 Meeting ends.

RESOURCES FOR LENT!

We hope that you enjoyed the resources our Fourth Member, Liina, put online in Advent. We are always looking for suggestions for the website and are now looking for ideas for Lent.

If you have something to offer, please contact Liina as soon as you can. It can be for Members or something you are happy for them to share as part of their ministry.

