



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the March edition of *Mission and Spirituality News*. This month a number of our regular contributors have reflected on the experience of the Spiritual Journey. I'm confident that you will find food for your journey.

I vividly remember climbing the Lighthouse at Palm Beach on a clear spring day back in September 1972. The journey was perfect: I struggled up the hill, arrived at the summit and was swept away by the beauty. The wide expanse of deep blue water shimmered like diamonds as the abundant sunlight illuminated life.

My spiritual journey is nothing like a lighthouse climb. You'd describe it more like a climbing a spiral staircase.

The treads turn back around on themselves. There doesn't seem to be a discreet beginning or any particular end in sight. I often find myself in the same spot; "My God I'm here again, exhausted and tired from the climb and I don't where I'm going?" There are times when the spiral stair case feels like a treadmill and despite my best efforts I remain stationary. And yes there are times when the sheer sweetness and joy of life allows me to glide along effortlessly.

Thomas Merton's prayer gives me the inspiration to keep on, a day at a time and gently reminds me I'm not alone.

**My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am
following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you
and I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.
And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road although I may
know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and
in the shadow of death,
I will not fear, for you are ever with me and you will never leave me to face
my perils alone.**

In this edition I have also included Brendan Byrne's SJ faith formation resource **St Paul Parish Resource Kit Session 2** and Sr Margaret Ghosn's Holy Thursday Liturgy for secondary school teachers.

St John of God Health is supporting the Mondorla Art Award worth \$20,000 and a Youth Art Award worth \$5,000. Please check our *What's On* section for all details or go to www.mandorlaart.com . I encourage you to pass this information onto family and friends. Good Luck.

Please contact me if you would any assistance or information about **Mary- First Disciple** eConference on May 18th. This will be a faith formation day for secondary school students, teachers and parishioners across the country. A beautiful mother, Jacinta, contacted me last week and said that she was organising the eConference for mothers and parents at the local primary school. What a great idea: priests, parents and parishioners enjoying the day together. Give it go!

I hope you're enjoying your Lenten journey and I'm keen to hear if you've viewed the Bishops' Lenten project <http://thereflection.vividas.com/> . I have 5 books to give away to people who send me their reflection on The Reflection. Please contact me with your response via email at the address below.

God Bless

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