

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

NUMINOUS EXPERIENCE

This month's edition takes us on a thoughtful journey into how and where we experience the 'Sacred'.

One of the practices I have built into my day as I seek out the sacred, is prompted by one of the inspirational quotes I have blue-tacked to my office wall at home, right in front of my desk. The quote is attributed to Victor Frankl, Austrian neurologist, psychiatrist and holocaust survivor. It reads, "There's a space between stimulus and response. In that space there is power to choose. In that power to choose lies your growth and your freedom." As I practice creating the 'pause' between thinking and speaking, listening and responding, thinking and feeling, planning and actioning, I find I have the capacity to separate a little more each time, from the automatic, egoic reactions that we humans fall into, and instead step into something far deeper in me. The more connected I am to that place the more opportunity I find I have to 'see' the sacred in the everyday-ness of my life. It becomes the lens through which I view my day, my relationships and interactions, my work, my community involvement, all of which bring meaning and purpose to my life. It is in this space that Frankl says "lies our growth and our freedom". For me, the growth and freedom comes as I detach from the worldly interpretation of who I am and instead deepen my connection with the Source of all life.

We begin this month with an article by Malcolm Stephenson titled "Change: What we do, how we do it, where we do it, why we do it", where he explores Christendom's (and our own faith community's) relationship with the Sacred, in particular, highlighting the physical spaces we have come to view as sacred. He raises questions which will be imperative for us as a community to answer as we continue to navigate our way through, and out of this current global pandemic. Following this article are beautifully told sacred stories, shared by folks around our land, testifying to the understandings and truths of their relationship with the Divine, and the meaning that brings to their lives; Emma Ghazarian shares about the blessings



she's discovered during lockdown in Melbourne, then Peter Lawson testifies of finding the sacred in the Australian landscape. Jan Thompson draws us into her family time and tells us of the sacred she finds there; Barry Ballard describes the places he has found to be sacred during his life. Candice Care-Unger paints a beautiful image of the sacred in the simplest of moments with her young children, extended family and the outdoors, while Tim Prescott walks us through time, pointing to historical connections of places and experiences that have

influenced his life, and Charmaine Unger talks about her intentionality over the years, carving out space to experience the sacred in her everyday life. An added blessing along with these stories is the photographic images demonstrating the incredible beauty of this planet we're privileged to call 'home'.

The final article this month is written by Rick Bunch, a member of the Earth Stewardship Team, titled "Poverty: an adjustment in thought". Rick reflects on the definition of poverty, how it's portrayed globally and challenges us to expand those constructs. In thinking about what we define as being a 'sacred space', the call to action around poverty would sit in there for me. Poetry by Jan Richardson offers a soothing balm to our souls as we move into the future, and learn of upcoming events in which we can share on the following page.

A very special edition I think; and I trust as you read, and then reflect upon your own 'sacred experiences in sacred places'- you will be warmed by the Spirit of the Divine that connects us all.

Leigh Lonsdale

Editorial Team Member



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