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RSCJ West Coast Coordinators met with U.S. coordinators in St. Louis

2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 17, 2011 - BACAR Core Committee meets, Belmont Provincialate.

June 17 to August 14, 2011 -- Women in Spirit (History of Women Religious in the US) Exhibit at Mt St Mary's College, Los Angeles **Saturday, June 25, 2011** -- Next BACAR gathering, 9 am to noon at Mercy Center in Burlingame, CA

September 8-10, 2011 -- Megan McKenna, sponsored by Holy Family sisters and Associates (more information to come)

October 15, 2011 -- Sacramento Gathering of Associates and Religious (SACAR) (more information to come)

January to March, 2012 -- Women in Spirit (History of Women Religious in the US) Exhibit in Sacramento (more information to come)

BACAR Meeting Notes

18 people gathered on March 12, 2011 at Holy Family Mother-house in Fremont, to discuss common issues. We decided to publish a quarterly newsletter which will include the following:

Announcements of congregational events, small prayer group gatherings, and spiritual development opportunities.

Open events to Associates and religious across congregations. If you are sponsoring a gathering that others could attend, please let us know, and we will list it here.

Include a section in the newsletter about spiritual development issues--good books, inspiring retreat leaders.

Introduce new Associates, with a short biography of each.

In our gatherings, examine how we can support each other in our Spiritual Development.

Spiritual Development

When we leap into the dark without faith, we're just leaping into the dark. When we leap into the dark with faith, we're seeing in the dark. The instrument of faith--of seeing in the dark--is the heart. Sufi master Kabir says we have subtle subconscious faculties we are not using. Beyond the limited analytic intellect is a vast realm of mind that includes psychic and extrasensory abilities; intuition; wisdom; a sense of unity; aesthetic, qualitative and creative faculties; and image-forming and symbolic capacities. Though these faculties are many, we comprise a mind in spontaneous connection with the cosmic mind, the total mind we call 'heart.'

--Cynthia Bourgeault
(from Michelle Hogan's notes)

Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault, Episcopal priest, writer, and internationally known retreat leader, is the founding Director of both The Contemplative Society and the Aspen Wisdom School. She is the author of seven books: *The Meaning of Mary Magdalene*, *The Wisdom Jesus*, *Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening*, *Mystical Hope*. Go to the Contemplative Society web site and hear Cynthia in her own words: <http://www.contemplative.org/>.