



a ministry of prayer and learning devoted to
the School of the Spirit

*is dedicated to helping all who wish to be more faithful listeners
and responders to the inward work of Christ.*

December 10, 2009

Dear Friends,

The first Spiritual Renewal Weekend hosted by SotS was attended by 37 participants. Participants from both the most recent classes of the *Spiritual Nurturer* and *The Way of Ministry* programs were represented, as well as a wide range of previous *Spiritual Nurturer* class years. From the evaluation responses, it was important to many that they were able to connect with former classmates and k-group friends. Others appreciated meeting new people, as well.

The presenter, Daniel O. Snyder, led an exploration of “Spiritual Restlessness.” His message was well received and provoked thoughtful questions and discussions. Friends especially noted that the diagram Dan explained, as well as the notes taken, would be helpful to them. Some commented they wanted to take Dan’s materials home to their meetings. The usual tension between those who wanted more from Dan (lecture/presentation) and those who wanted more participant interaction was reflected in the evaluations; even so, the reaction to the speaker was quite positive.

In general, participants were pleased with the Franciscan Spiritual Center facilities, though some were concerned that there were not enough meal options for vegetarians. A really significant, coincidental event occurred that impacted the weekend. Franciscan sisters from around the world were meeting at the Center on the same weekend that the Quakers were. They were trying to organize and deal with the anxiety aroused by a recently announced Vatican investigation of their work. This situation had a tremendous impact on our gathering, as well. Friends were prayerful, caring and tender toward the sisters, people of whom many participants had fond memories from their previous FSC interactions. In return, the sisters were touched by the concern from their Quaker friends. A chance event served to remind us of the depth and duration of love that is ever-present in the work of SOTS.

We would like to report that the weekend came in under budget. We had a line on the registration form where contributions could be made to scholarships. We received more contributions than participant requests for assistance. (We recommend this opportunity to contribute be offered for future events, as well.) We were also able to absorb support given to teachers.

The committee has shared all along that this project was a pleasure to carry out. It ended in the same way. It is truly a blessing to be able to work together, and with the Board, in peace and harmony---leaving all kinds of uncluttered space for God.

Adapted from the final report of the SRW Planning Committee: Nancy Fennell, Janis Ansell and Mickey Edgerton