

March 2009

It has been two years since I began the application process for the LWS program, and from the beginning it has been a gentle, gradual formation process. I felt led to this program, and I am very grateful to Sisters Laura and Mary Giles for their wisdom and their gifts of teaching and hospitality. They have created a learning environment that is respectful and encouraging. Over the past year and a half, I have learned a lot about Spiritual Direction, and discovered more about myself in the process. My experience in the program has been a parallel process to that of receiving spiritual direction.

Like a beautiful work of art, it is sometimes difficult to describe spiritual direction. It is a process of attending to another, "listening with the ear of the heart" for the working of Spirit within that person's experiences, perceptions, longings, joys and struggles, and helping the person discover something in themselves or their life that deepens and enriches. I thought I was already a "good listener" when I came into the program, but I have learned to listen more deeply for the whisper of Spirit, and it is a joyful discovery. Like a child who is lovingly encouraged to look over there, and listen here, then seeing something for herself, in her own unique way, I joyfully discovered God/Spirit at work in others, and in myself.

I look forward to meeting with Directees in their spiritual growth and discoveries, feeling the seeds that were planted in me during this program blossoming, and trusting that with God's help they will be passed on to bear fruit in another's life.

Gratefully,

Linda Sims