



*The Holy Listening:
The Art of Spiritual Direction
by Margaret Guenther*

"Margaret Guenther shares with the reader a loving and evocative meditation on the experience of spiritual direction from the perspective of a wise and hospitable spiritual director, who is also a woman, wife, mother, teacher, and priest."
— JANET RUFFING —

"This warm, untechnical and thoroughly contemporary guide to spiritual direction, more than any other, invites us into one direction encounter after another, so that we sense the creative process of direction and can reckon with the many facets of the wisdom and sensitivity it calls for, not least a sensitivity to women's gifts, struggles, and issues."
— MARTIN L. SMITH, SSJE —

Introduction:

The following questions are offered to help continue your reflection on our conversation with Margaret Guenther. Feel free to use these questions as a guide for your reflection individually or to start a dialogue with other spiritual directors. You will be able to hear a recording of the Q&A after our February 25, 2010 meeting at the following web page:

<http://www.spiritualworldnet.com/>

Reflection Questions:

1. Reflect on your own path to becoming a spiritual director or another aspect of your ministry. How would you describe it?
2. Margaret Guenther uses the image of "Midwife to the Soul" to describe what spiritual directors do. What image or images would you use to describe what you do as a director?
3. During the discussion around sitting with the dying, Reverend Guenther spoke of a day when she would stop companionship and look to being companioned. What thoughts or feelings arise in you around that concept?

4. What thoughts or feelings do you have around Rev. Guenther's statement that spiritual direction is too sacred a gift to charge for?
5. Rev. Guenther calls spiritual direction a ministry of presence. If you had to distill spiritual direction down to one word or a few words, what would you call it?

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