

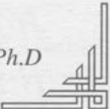

The Prayer of My Heart

*When I am alone
I find a resting place
inside all my desires,
beyond all my concerns,
in the midst of the darkness and light
that are One.*

*When others are near,
how I miss my repose.*

*Can I find my way back
in the midst of a crowd,
around trusted friends,
in the presence of beloved family?*

*Lead me home:
teach me to pray.*



-Jill Kimberly Hartwell Geoffrion, Ph.D



The Re-Imagining Community is an ecumenical, radical, feminist, Christian movement. Together we pursue creative and relevant ways of understanding feminist theology, opening space for dialogue in the church and in the world. We are impassioned to participate in re-imagining by our love and search for God, justice, and a challenging, empowering and inclusive church.

Members of the Coordinating Council of the Re-Imagining Community are:

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Table of Contents

Out of the Box - Baya Clare, CSJ	inside front cover
Home Is a State - Jean L. Hammond	2
Calming My Urge for Going - Kristin Bolden	3
Can We Talk? Re-Imagining Home: A Conversation	4
Re-Imagining Home - Patricia Mack	10
The Prayer of My Heart - Jill Geoffron	20
Turtle - Ting Ting Cheng	11
Dust Puffs - Rev. Deb Geelsdotir	11
Lot's Wife: Journey from Home - Rev. Deborah Boucher-Payne	12
Little Noticed: A Found Poem - Sandra Larson	13
The Journey Is Home - Arminie Grosert	14
Burial - Sandra Larson	14
Book Review - Carolyn Schueller	15
10th Anniversary Re-Imagining Gathering	16
News	17
Re-Imagining Small Groups	18
Events and Announcements	19
Membership Form	inside back cover

All photographs in this issue by Baya Clare, CSJ.

Looking Ahead...

The February 2003 issue of *Re-Imagining* will take up the theme "Re-Imagining Suffering." We invite you to use essays and stories, poetry, music or art to explore our theme. You might consider questions such as these:

- Does suffering have a purpose? Can it be redemptive?
- Should we ever seek out suffering? What happens if we reject that thought?
- What is it about suffering that sometimes brings about growth and change?
- What makes the difference in the ways different people respond to suffering?
- What does it mean to be in solidarity?

For creative guidelines for writers and artists, send SASE to the Re-Imagining office or visit our website. The due date for the February 2003 issue is December 10, 2002.

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Re-Imagining is a forum for the exchange of ideas and information. Articles represent the opinions of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor, editorial board, the Re-Imagining Community Coordinating Council, or community members.

Unsolicited editorials are encouraged, and guidelines for writers and artists are available at www.reimagining.org or by mail with SASE. Submissions must be received six weeks prior to publication. Enclose SASE for response; include sufficient postage if you want editorials returned. Pay is in copies. The editorial board is responsible for submitting pieces for publication. Copyright reverts to contributors upon publication.

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How to get this publication:

Annual membership in the Re-Imagining community entitles you to four issues in addition to other benefits; membership is \$35.00 (\$20.00 limited income; \$45.00 dual). A membership form is included in every issue of *Re-Imagining*.

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Out of the Box

Baya Clave, CSJ
Editor



Nancy Berneking and I worked together on covers and/or written pieces five or six times over the years she was editor of this magazine. Sometimes I'd get a call from her, and other times a letter, occasionally an email, inviting me to create a cover or a ritual for an issue. I was always delighted to contribute and found Nancy easy to work with and generous with the encouragement that creative types thrive on. Interestingly though, given our many collaborations, we never actually met until I was hired as editor of the *Re-Imagining Quarterly* this summer after Nancy decided to move on to other things. One Saturday morning I made the long drive from one side of our metro area to the other to meet with her in her leaf-enclosed porch. She handed on not only the *reala* of the job: the transcribing machine, the many carefully-kept files of contributors and correspondence, and the zip disk full of useful bits of data; but also the tips, gossip, advice, cautions, information and suggestions gleaned from six years of work on this publication. I appreciate her thoroughness, which has made the transition much smoother than I could have hoped for. She did a great job over those years, and it is an honor to follow in her footsteps with this important work.

Let me introduce myself. I am Baya Clave, CSJ, the new editor of this publication. I am a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, which is an apostolic community of women in the Roman Catholic Church. I have been a member of the CSJ community for almost 10 years, and am presently in initial profession. That means I've taken the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience for a period of three years. I will be renewing those vows for another three this December. I grew up a Presbyterian and then a Lutheran in Missouri and Colorado. A few years after moving to Minnesota I converted to Catholicism in my mid-30s, though I'd been dancing with that call since high school. My call to religious community is even older than that, but I had to do some other living and growing before I could answer it.

My community was founded in 1630 in LePuy, France, by six women who, with the assistance of a Jesuit priest, developed an enduring, concrete spirituality based solidly in urban reality. We "divide the city" and then go out to help meet the needs we find there. We are called by the writings of our founders to "do all of which women are capable."

The spiritual discipline of the Sisters of St. Joseph is a practice called "sharing of the heart." At its core is a recognition that telling each other our daily, ordinary and extraordinary stories and helping one another find God in them, is also prayer, is also the work of the Holy One, is also church. And if it isn't also *Re-Imagining*, then I don't know what is! I look forward to continuing this great work of the community of all Christians with you.

You have undoubtedly noticed some changes in the publication. The photographs on the cover of two of the participants in the *Can We Talk?* feature beginning on p. 4 are a first for the *Re-Imagining Quarterly*. The colored cover is another. Look for more changes to the look of the magazine in upcoming issues. As always we invite and appreciate your contributions and feedback.