Dr. Michael Amodei

Loyola Press

Dear Michael,

At the suggestion of Professor Daniel Smith-Christopher at Loyola Marymount University, I am writing you to promote an innovation in the vast field of spiritual direction which has been devised by Sister Maria Lai, C.S.J., a member of our Campus Ministry Staff. Basically, Sister Maria has capitalized on technological advances and created a program called eGroup Spiritual Direction.

As a participant in the program, I have been struck by its ingenuity and effectiveness and wish to promote it to Loyola Press in the event the idea would be of use to your many readers.

eGroup Spiritual Direction capitalizes on the pervasiveness of technology today and joins it with the Church’s mission of evangelization by encouraging participants to discover new ways of encountering the Lord and the Lord’s people. As the Church is continuing to discover the power of these tools for communicating with each other, we are also discovering their potential to lead persons to God.

eGroup Spiritual Direction is 60% online interaction and 40% face-to-face group meetings. The small groups (4 or 5 members) comes together to discover how the, by sharing and reflecting on their own sacred story, they will discover how God is inviting them to “tag along” in the continuing revelation of His glory. And as they witness to God’s splendor and mercy, they respond by helping one another to find God.

The participants learn the discipline of the gift of empathic listening and gentle questioning, assisting one another and experiencing the joys of taking this pilgrimage together.

Obviously, the Holy Spirit is the moderator, the guide and the ultimate Director of the process and participants learn to discern the voice of the Spirit for themselves and for others. It has been our experience that the participants continue to commit themselves to further spiritual growth.

Sister Maria is an amazing woman, blessed abundantly with both spiritual and practical wisdom. I would hope you could give her idea an attentive ear and, perhaps, be of some assistance to her in spreading the gospel in this novel and powerful way.

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend Gordon D. Bennett, S.J.

Bishop Emeritus of Mandeville