

Consciousness, Conversion, and Grace

Being Grasped by Religious Love - b

Carla Mae Streeter, OP
 Aquinas Institute of Theology
 St. Louis
 streeter@slu.edu

The Scriptural Base

- "... God's love has flooded our inmost heart through the Holy Spirit he has given us." (Romans 5:5)
- "... you in me and I in you." "... we will come... and make our dwelling place..." (John 14:20, 23)
- "Dwell in my love." (John 15:9)

The Recovery of Awareness

- The Mystery is present whether we are aware or not.
- The Mystery is the source of our being, our very humanness.
- The Mystery is always open to us: one-way grace.
- When we become aware, when we "remember," we "turn."
- Turning is "conversion."
- Turning toward the Mystery at the ground of our being is "religious" conversion.
- Conversion signals the beginning of a relationship.

Religious Conversion

- The shift from self-preoccupation to the "Other."
- Early prayer: the "asceticism" of the soul
- Mature prayer: the "gaze"
- The goal of prayer: being filled with the Other
- Early behavior change: "This doesn't fit."
- Mature behavior change: "No more."
- The goal of behavior change: "Deepening the relationship."

God comes bearing Gifts

- The Gift of God's Self: Healing (sanctifying) grace
- The Spirit's imprint: Charity
- The Father's imprint: Hope
- The Word's imprint: Faith

The Dance Begins: Questions for Discussion

- What effect does the Divine Presence have on the human consciousness?
- What is the interaction between the Divine and the Human?
- If God is the source of all response, what role does the human freedom have?
- What happens to human consciousness as the interaction begins, grows, and develops?

Consciousness, Conversion, and Grace

Webinar series by: Carla Mae Streeter, OP
 Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, MO.
streeter@slu.edu

Sponsored by: [Heartland Center for Spirituality](#)
 A sponsored ministry of the [Dominican Sisters of Peace](#)
 Supported by free-will donations: <http://tinyurl.com/gsw8x6r>
 Webinar archives: <http://heartlandspirituality.teachable.com/courses/>