

Conveners Corner - February 2022

By Martin Lizarraga, Co-Convener of Illuman Texas

I am honored to serve the men of Illuman Texas as Co-Convener. I had the opportunity to serve as Shadow Convener for our unique year of 2021. I became personally acquainted with our men of Illuman Texas in late February 2020, when I attended *The Enneagram: Along the Journey of Illumination* with my brother Dan. It was a good opportunity to meet active members and board members and I decided to become more involved. Then the COVID-19 lockdowns began—but I digress.



In 1993, my parents attended a Richard Rohr seminar given in El Paso, and my dad purchased a copy of *The Wild Man's Journey: Reflections on Spirituality*, by Richard Rohr and Joseph Martes. *The Wild Man's Journey*, along with Richard's publication *Quest for the Grail*, are two books that made a life-changing impact on my life. My introduction to Richard's work in the arena of men's spirituality and men's work was a catalyst that inspired me to attend what I believe was Richard's first MROP event. It took place at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico in August 1994. The MROP integrated the two publications and was called The Wildman's Journey.

Now we must take into consideration that 23 years passed between Ghost Ranch in 1994 and the Enneagram event in 2020. 1994 was a big year for me. The original plan was for me, my three brothers, and my dad to all attend the event at Ghost Ranch that August. As it turned out, I was the only one who could make it. I came back from the August MROP with a determination and the strength to embrace fatherhood, as my first child, a daughter, had been born in April. As it happened, I turned 37 in May 1994. My son was born in July 1997.

Over the years, I would read several of Richard's publications and I would see him whenever he was in Central Texas: a one-day event in San Antonio that I attended with my brother Dan; a two-day event in Houston that I attended with my dad; a one-day event in Austin that I attended with my wife Rosana and my brother Dan. During this time, I also experienced the initiation rites of the ManKind Project initiated through the New Warrior Training Program.

For this Conveners Corner, I was asked to provide ". . . a short 3 paragraphs

on my journey—my approach to this work” that I have committed to with Illuman. So, let me suffice it to say that I will do the best I can as Co-Convenor. I am learning from the men around me. I am experiencing a crash course and catching up with all the progress Illuman has made during the last 28 years. I am soaking it all up and I am planning with our men of Texas Illuman and National to have an Umbrales MROP later this year: Wednesday, October 5 - Sunday October 9, 2022.