

My Journey

By Tom Reid

Tom Reid is an Illuman Board Member.

How and when were you introduced to male spirituality?

I began reflecting on male spirituality in the late 1990s and benefitted from reading a couple of Richard Rohr's books. His writings provided a framework and foundation for a presentation I first delivered to a gathering of men in California at a Catholic parish in 2001.

How has your participation in Illuman/M.A.L.Es fostered the use and development of your gifts?

Working in my local chapter and nationally on the Board continues to provide opportunities for the expression of my gifts in the areas of spirituality, and spiritual and organizational development.

My gifts have been fostered and developed through retreats, the experience of being an MROP teaching elder, and being a part of the Board.

Describe a recent Illuman/M.A.L.Es event you attended. What was the impact on you?

At the Oracle leadership retreat this past May, there were a number of opportunities to be in nature. These experiences on the land at Illuman events have continually been personally grounding and powerful.

In one experience, I wandered into a forest. As the path became blocked, I scrambled, navigating across a hill, while noticing a stream below. I eventually came to a small waterfall. I stopped, sat down, and meditated in that setting. The impact of these and related experiences continues to slow me down and open me to the reality and beauty of the more-than-human world.

What's one thing you'd recommend to a man starting on the spiritual journey?

Take practical daily action to nurture your continuing human and spiritual growth.

What's the best thing about doing this work?

The fraternity of men/brothers is a gift and a joy. Being part of our growing work on behalf of men making a difference in the world is something I am very grateful for.

Concluding thoughts?

In the almost ten years since my MROP, I have come to know who I am, Whose I am, and that I am here to serve the community of life.

I look forward to continuing to journey together!