



**The Sanctuary heals me. It has brought peace and serenity to me in the chaos of the Twenty First Century by regularly reminding me of the serenity that comes through the stability of following the teachings and life of Jesus in good times and difficult times.**

**Ron**

## *Dear Friends of the Sanctuary,*

2018 has been a tumultuous year. I listened to the questions and struggle of many of you as you work out for yourselves what it means to be a Christian in the early decades of the 21st Century. You spoke of grief and anguish of soul over the suffering around us. You rethought your call, your spiritual practices, and asked what is required of you in these difficult times.

You spoke up in your communities. You attended rallies and protests. You fasted from too much news and made choices about where you spend your money. You shared your anger and frustration with each other and made plans for constructive action. You reached out to help the oppressed, the hungry, and the imprisoned. You may have shared your own hidden experience of abuse, harassment, or violence.

Many gathered to pray, to hold vigil, or sit shiva. Others sat in healing silence until the air was palpable with the Spirit's breath. Many of you attended church, finding solace in the old songs, and hope in the new ones. There, among the beloved community, you drew peace and strength. You found fellowship and love to carry out into the world. Still others took classes in contemplative living and practice. Some started groups of centering prayer and offered special events to teach about the contemplative life and practices to your communities.



2018 brought big changes to The Sanctuary as I moved to Iowa City, Iowa in October. It is good to be closer to family. After 37 years in Kansas moving was a difficult challenge, and yet a persistent call. From Iowa I continue to work with individuals and faith communities in Kansas, while

at the same time, I am developing relationships here in Iowa.

Your prayers and support through the years have sustained and enabled the Sanctuary to thrive and to meet more and more needs for faith formation. At least once a week I come across another ministry of spiritual direction, or faith formation on the internet. There are dozens of books and courses offered today. None of these existed in the fall of 1989, when I sent out the first issue of Holy Ground. I am grateful for the groundswell of interest and work in contemplation across the world.

Please continue your support by renewing your subscription to Holy Ground, as it comes due, and by giving a little extra to help us make ends meet. We run a tight ship and are careful in our spending. Maintaining a website and internet presence are expensive. Your gifts will help us get some new projects off the ground in 2019.

With love and gratitude,

Loretta F. Ross



## STORIES FROM THOSE WE SERVE

“Thank you so much for our time together Friday. As I was spending time with God this morning I read your Autumn newsletter. My dream certainly lined up with the thoughts that you shared in your writing. It is so good to have a place to go that speaks my language. It does help with that sense of isolation.” Vicky

“I simply can’t tell you how much your words on prayer blessed me this morning. You write more beautifully than anyone and I needed to read your eloquent words.” Janet

“Your writing always moves me in some way, but this Autumn issue of Holy Ground resonates in a special way. . . . Your comparison between waking up to the ugly truth of our world today and Pandora’s opening of the box is masterful. Then when I was mired in despair over the evil being meted out, you got to the bottom of her box and lifted out the hope. I so need that in these times, as I suspect you do, as well, and offer thanks from the bottom of my heart for you. I am especially grateful for how you helped me wake up to see hope in many personal situations over the years.” Sandy

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