



Sacred Quest

Dates: October 20–31, 2010

Venue: SFTS, San Anselmo campus
and Mendocino wilderness

"This quest was an unparalleled invitation to pare down to my most essential being, to let go of old habits and perceptions, and to ponder the new thing that God is wanting to birth in and through me as I prepare to turn 50. The desert was amazingly rich and deeply nurturing – hardly what the landscape conveys when one first arrives."

—Sheila Denton, Occidental, Calif.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit the Sacred Quest web site or contact the Program in Christian Spirituality at:

Web: www.sfts.edu/pcsevents

E-mail: dasd@sfts.edu

Phone: 415.451.2838

San Francisco
Theological Seminary
105 Seminary Road
San Anselmo, CA 94960

THE PROGRAM IN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

invites you on an extraordinary holy adventure—Sacred Quest. Join a small community of questers and enter into a time of holy silence and personal integration, deepening your relationship with self, others, creation and God.



SAN FRANCISCO
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Whole Leaders for the Whole Church

Sacred Quest



Program Staff

The Sacred Quest will be led by **Nancy Wiens**.

Nancy is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a spiritual director and teacher. She began guiding Sacred Quests in 1996. She has a doctorate in the area of Christian Spirituality and has trained as a guide in both wilderness rites of passage and eco-psychology.

Program Dates & Costs

ARRIVAL: Wednesday, October 20
by 7 p.m.

DEPARTURE: Sunday, October 31
after 7 p.m.

PROGRAM COST: \$800 pp includes
transportation costs to
wilderness area and food.

ADDITIONAL COSTS:

On-campus lodging and meals
for 3 days/4 nights.
\$55/night for a single room.
\$32.50/night for a shared room.

Application

A letter of intent is due by July 5, 2010. Please visit the web site for guidelines about the contents of the letter. No previous backpacking, camping or outdoor experience is required.

Why a Sacred Quest?

Sacred Quest invites you to join with others in a wilderness experience, where you may abide in the wonder and giftedness of who you are—and then re-emerge to serve your community with renewed energy, imagination, clarity and love. Sacred Quest is a time to discern how God is present in your life and, in so doing, rediscover your own gifts, talents and call to service.

Who makes a Sacred Quest?

People who...

seek to live a more spiritually attentive life...

desire to be in balance with all living things...

search for clarity in making major life-transitions
or passages...

hunger for a deeper relationship with God, self,
others and creation...

“The time in the desert was one of the most freeing experiences in my life. My understanding of creation, self, God, politics, community, the human condition was challenged in beautiful ways.”

—The Rev. Scott Hardin-Nieri, *Fort Collins, Colo.*

Sacred Quest

THE FOUR STAGES

Severance Stage

This stage begins when a person decides to engage in a Sacred Quest and turns toward the preparations for such an experience. From the outset one needs to clarify the purpose for going, naming as clearly as possible what transition she or he seeks to mark, what new life stage will be taken on and how to serve God's people more fully. Severance includes physical, psychological, mental and spiritual preparations. You will receive material about these preparations once you have been received into the program.

Threshold Stage

This stage begins at dawn in the wilderness when you step through the threshold circle for the four-day solo time. The option to heighten your experience alone by fasting is a personal choice. The time alone in the wilderness invites you to discover your way with rituals, prayers, songs and personal ways to make meaning. The final night some choose to remain awake, consciously attending to the dying of the old self and the birthing of new life with the rise of the fifth morning's sun.

Reincorporation Stage

This stage involves moving back into the body of our questing community. We will invite you to tell your story and listen to each other's stories, discovering meanings and new gifts, confirming each one's passage into a new life stage, sharing support, journaling and celebrating. And eating, of course!

Integration Stage

This stage presents the greatest challenges, calling for the most courage and commitment to what is life-giving. Discovering how to tell your story to family and friends helps you begin to integrate what you learned in the wilderness into your daily life and how to offer your gifts to your people.

“Ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will teach you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you... In God's hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.”

Job 12:7-8, 10