

January/February • Due 05/01/12
Civility (Practice: Listening)

This January/February issue follows closely behind a presidential election with the presidential inauguration on January 20. We hear a lot about the lack of civility in our world. It's hard to read a news article or listen to a news program without witnessing people tearing each other down. Does Christian faith have a role to play? Jesus didn't mince words when it came to speaking the truth to the powerful in his day. What is the responsibility of a person of faith to the societal climate of today? Ash Wednesday falls on February 23, so this theme will take us into the first weeks of Lent.

March/April • Due 07/02/12
Forgiveness (Practice: Forgiveness)

There's probably not a tougher spiritual task than that of forgiveness. We all share the basic human experience of wounding and being wounded by others, often those we love very much. So, then, what makes forgiveness difficult? What helps forgiveness happen? Is forgiveness an action, a gift, a calling? How does one learn the way of forgiveness? This M/A issue continues the Lenten journey. Easter falls on March 31, so the second half of the issue will be beginning the season of Resurrection.

May/June • Due 09/04/12
Addiction (Practice: Living one day at a time)

Addiction is a spiritual issue that affects all of us. We try to fill the empty spot in our lives with alcohol, drugs, food, work, relationships, social media, or some other substance or behavior until it becomes an addiction. No matter how hard we try, that empty space refuses to be filled. It's the "hole in the soul" that can only be filled by God. How have you experienced the hole in the soul? addiction? recovery? What are the truths that help you heal? (For this issue, we will be especially sensitive to the matter of anonymity. We'll be glad to work with authors in using pseudonyms or "anonymous" as citations.)

July/August * Due 11/01/12
Creativity (Practice: Journaling)

"Creativity is God's gift to us. Using our creativity is our gift back to God" - Julia Cameron.

"God created." (Genesis 1:1)

This issue will be a celebration of creativity. How is creativity connected with your spirituality? When do you find yourself part of God's creative spirit at work in the world? What people or experiences have nurtured creativity within you?

September/October * Due 01/03/2013
(In)Justice (Practice: Praying the News)

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8.)

The gap between rich and poor continues to widen. In the context of global wealth, we in the United States are the rich ones. How do we “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God”? How do we interpret Jesus’ parables about wealth in our lives? What are our confessions? Our callings as faithful Christians? How do concepts of biblical justice fit into 21st century lives?

November/December * Due 03/01/2013
Peace (Practice: Silence)

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”
(John 14:27)

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”
(Matthew 5:9)

What are the barriers to peace in your personal life, community, world? Where do you find reminders to God’s call to peace? We close the year of 2013 with a focus on peace. Peace in our hearts, families, community, world. This issue will include Advent and Christmas.