

Tired or Busy?

In her book, *Leaving Church*, Episcopal priest Barbara Brown Taylor confesses that she was so immersed in the life of the church that she occasionally forgot that the life of faith is not always the same thing.

Taylor writes, "In my (pastor's) role, I could act out of my best nature for hours at a time. I could produce kindness when all I felt was fatigue. I could present patience when circumstances warranted irritation. I could shine like the sun until long after dark when I needed to, but my soul did not operate on a solar calendar. My soul operated on a lunar calendar, coming up at a different time every night and never looking the same way two nights in a row. Where my role called for a steady circle of bright light, my soul waxed and waned."

When do pastors find time to tend to their inner life?

Who encourages you in your prayer life?

Where can we find guidance and creative challenge to enliven our lives?

The past four years pastors from our synod have gathered together at the Franciscan Spirituality Center (just west of Franciscan Skemp Medical Center on Market St) in La Crosse for monthly Group Spiritual Direction sessions. Group spiritual direction is where people seek God together and explore work, relationships, prayer and life experiences. To determine whether this might be a possibility for you, call Sr. Joan Weisenbeck (608-791-5297) or Linda Kerrigan (608-791-5276) for information.