
Winter, 2020

Dear Friends of SALC,

Next year the 25th Anniversary of SALC will coincide with my 70th birthday— which is why I have been anticipating the arrival of 2020 for some time. Many have been asking what my future plans are regarding retirement and SALC's future. I have put a lot of time and prayer into these questions and want to share both my personal journey with you as well as extend an invitation to support a renewed vision for SALC's future.

For myself, I am clear about two things:

First, it is time to shift my energy and focus into mentoring the next generation for our sacred work. Since 1996 when Mary and I founded SALC, we carried both the responsibilities of creating and teaching our programs around the world as *well as* providing the administrative support necessary to sustain the organization financially and practically. I know, both physically and spiritually, that I cannot continue to travel, teach and administer SALC at those same levels. SALC (and I) need fresh administrative support—which requires additional financial resources.

Secondly, since Mary's passing, I am especially aware that the success of our mission does not depend solely on the efforts of its founding directors. If there is to be a next generation for SALC, it will require enhanced staff and infrastructure to meet our growing potential. While we've accomplished miracles over the years with a staff of only five dedicated individuals, the status quo won't carry us to a successful rollout of these new priorities...

- 1) Hiring one new **full-time position** to begin shifting the burden of administrative support.
- 2) Creating teams to facilitate future programs in **Ireland/Europe, Canada and the US.**
- 3) Sustaining a **national director for SALC in Canada** with plans to expand SALC programming throughout its provinces.
- 4) Expanding our online **Soul & Science** website series which has earned international recognition for its quality in virtual education and inspiration.
- 5) Developing a new program series, **Healing the Healers**, in order to move our work 'upstream' into the wider community-- transforming the way our culture deals with whole-person suffering and spiritual pain.
- 6) Continuing to fulfill my role as a visiting professor with medical schools in **Poland** to develop a first-of-its-kind "spirituality in medicine" curriculum for medical students from **twenty-two countries, many of whom will serve the Third World.**

It will require two years to re-tool SALC for the next generation with an additional \$150,000 each year. If the mission of Sacred Art of Living is to continue beyond my personal lifespan, I believe that this year presents a crucial fork in the road for SALC. Here is how you can help lay the foundation for the future...

- 1) For the first time in over a decade, we will raise our **Annual Campaign Goal** from \$75,000 to **\$100,000.** SALC has been a good steward of its resources for the past two decades, consistently meeting our annual budget. Your generosity this year is more needed than ever!
- 2) We are creating a new **Circle of Partners** which we hope you will consider supporting-- in addition to your annual pledge. By contributing an additional \$10 a month throughout 2020

(using a recurring credit card charge) you will have access to all **Soul & Science** website programs. Those who can make a \$20 monthly contribution will also have free subscriptions to two special SALC webinars that will be offered in 2020. All **Circle of Partners** participants will receive a weekly inspirational email called the **Soul of Living**: a message designed to help us remember life's big questions. We trust that this annual partnership will also be an important way to expand our base of supporters. **Our goal is to enlist the support of at least 300 partners in 2020 in order to raise an additional \$75,000.** We hope that you will invite others who do not know SALC to benefit from SALC's teachings through these partnerships.

- 3) As a non-profit, education organization SALC depends on the support of **Foundation Grants**. This year we will require \$50,000 from these sources to complete our goal. We depend on our circle of friends to help us network with potential organizations; please let us know if you can assist!
- 4) Finally, please consider making a planned or legacy gift to SALC. You may donate through a Will, Trust or Stocks/Mutual Funds. For more details, please visit our website fundraiser page.

Mary and I could never have imagined that SALC's influence would spread to so many corners of the world. A verse from the Psalms has been speaking to my heart as I write this letter, "May I never take my days for granted... for our years are only seventy or eighty if we are strong." Mary only survived to her seventieth birthday and I certainly do not have a crystal ball concerning my own future. But I do believe that 2020 is a year for all of us at SALC to decide on whether "what we have been given to do" has been accomplished or whether we will create the foundation for a new generation of work. In a world of intense divisions, spiritual suffering and polarization, SALC has been a special place for healing and compassionate presence. Please consider partnering with me for a **20/20 Vision** that truly **Looks to the Future**.

With immense gratitude,

Richard F. Groves

Richard F. Groves
Founding Director



Richard and second-year medical students in his course "Spirituality in Medicine," Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Collegium Medicum in Bydgoszcz, Poland. December 6th, 2018. Students represent 20 countries from Europe, India, Africa, and the Middle East.