

HOLY TRINITY PARISHIONER COMPLETES TRILOGY



Steve Georgiou, Ph.D., Professor of Religion and the Interdisciplinary Humanities at San Francisco City College, has completed a spiritual trilogy, published by Novalis. The three books, (*The Way of the Dreamcatcher*, *Mystic Street*, and *The Isle of Monte Cristo*), explore the mystery of the divine Presence in everyday life. The Holy Trinity *Familian* interviews

Dr. Georgiou on his recent publication.

What inspired you to write this trilogy?

I think it all began when I traveled to Patmos on a spiritual retreat. I met an old poet-hermit in the hills named Robert Lax who had converted to Christianity. He was a close friend of the famous Catholic monk Thomas Merton and had lived on Patmos since 1964. His creativity and rustic simplicity pointed to how everyday living—if conducted mindfully and reverently—can impart a kind of holiness. I went back to visit him numerous times until his death in 2000. In my journey from searcher to student to teacher, he was certainly a mentor.

What is one of the greatest lessons Lax taught you?

To place one's faith in God's love. *Agape* was for him a vital "flow." He believed that we best meld with this divine current when we relax, become still, let go of trivial desires, and quietly pray ourselves into our Maker. In this transcendent state, our daily activities have the potential to impart blessings because they are wholly rooted in God.

Why is the title of your most recent book similar to the title of Alexandre Dumas' famous classic, "The Count of Monte Cristo"?

In *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Edmund Dantes (the hero who became the Count), is wrongfully imprisoned. When he escapes fourteen years later, he finds an enormous treasure hidden on an isle called "Monte Cristo," (the Mountain of Christ), and uses it to inflict vengeance on those who imprisoned him. But ultimately he realizes that all vengeance must be left to God—all we can do in this life is keep on loving, praying, and wait on His justice and mercy, otherwise we add to the pain engulfing this world. That's where my book begins. The real treasure is found in the inner

isle—the "Monte Cristo of the heart." This precious treasure must be used for good, only for good. Hence the subtitle of my book: *Finding the Inner Treasure*.

What are some major themes in your book?

That the real journey in life is interior—everything we do in this life is preparing us for our ultimate meeting with Christ. So as we move through life, we become increasingly aware of His Presence. There are many signs and clues along the way, in nature and in everyday happenings. Like St. Maximos the Confessor expressed, we are called to find the Christ in all things. We are called to be ministers of creation.

Do you consciously go through life this way?

I certainly try. There's lots of light and darkness to move through. But that is why the Church is here, to help guide us on our inner journey. *The Isle of Monte Cristo* actually ends inside Holy Trinity Church. The last chapter takes place beneath the dome of the Pantocrater. In so many ways, our beautiful house of worship on Brotherhood Way is an ever-accessible sanctuary in a passing world.

How can readers find out more about your work?

They can visit my website at www.spiritcurrents.com. And I'll be giving book talks throughout the coming months.

