

A criticism sometimes levelled at Ignatian spiritual guides in recent years has been that the rediscovered practice of individually directed retreats can encourage an individualistic spirituality. This book reclaims the communal as the basic dimension of Christian and human living, as John English explores and shares the riches of the *Spiritual Exercises* of St Ignatius Loyola.

*Spiritual Intimacy and Community* brings together John English's Jesuit expertise with his own experience of small faith communities, both as participant and as guide. He focuses on the ongoing process of discernment undertaken by small groups of Christians who are discovering the significance of their unique corporate identity. He offers guidelines through the stages of self-discovery and decision-making as communities seek to recognise and follow out their own particular call to serve God and humankind, and indeed the whole created world.

All those who are involved in communal Christian ventures but are uncertain how to relate the personal and communal dimensions of their Christian faith, will find here a guide who is enthusiastic, well-informed and challenging.

'This is a very important book: it nudges our emphasis on ourselves as individuals in the direction of seeing ourselves as members of a community, indeed, as members of the human race. John English wants us to move from an 'I' relationship with God to a 'we' relationship. He demonstrates the importance of reflecting on the communal in every discernment process which concerns itself with 'my' personal salvation and 'my' search for the will of God.'

Patrick Purnell SJ

JOHN ENGLISH SJ is a founding member of the Institute for Communal Life (ICL) at Guelph, Ontario, Canada. He is also the Ecclesiastical Assistant of the National Christian Life Community (CLC) of Canada. Much of his work in the last ten years has been the conducting of workshops on personal spiritual discernment and assisting decision-making groups to learn the technique of communal discernment. His previous books include *Spiritual Freedom*, *Choosing Life* and *Communal Graced History*.

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