Dear SSCS Colleagues:

As our current academic year ends, I want to draw your attention to our annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality in the fall. Registration has been open for some time for the AAR. As a Related Scholarly Organization of the American Academy of Religion, we will be meeting in conjunction with the AAR and the SBL once again in San Francisco, November 18-22, 2011.

Our two pre-AAR sessions will be stimulating and enjoyable. Our Friday afternoon pedagogy workshop (3:30-5:30) has been organized by Barbara Quinn and will build on the energy and interest in spiritual formation demonstrated at our last meeting. This year, the session will focus on assessment and pedagogy in spirituality course work. Rev. Donald Schell will lead the evening session: Liturgical Practice, Traditional Learning Technologies, and the Science of Human Formation” at St. Gregory of Nyssa’s Episcopal Church, 500 DeHaro Street (94107) designed to support the singing, movement, silence, touch, and dance we will share together—all practices which nurture compassion and connection. We will provide for a bus leaving the convention area at 7:00 p.m. and departing the church at 9:30.

The Saturday morning session (9:00-11:30 am) will include my presidential address entitled “Spiritual Identity and Narrative: Fragmentation, Coherence, and Transformation” followed by the SSCS business meeting presided over by President-Elect, Ann Astell.

The Christian Spirituality Group of the AAR is sponsoring three sessions guaranteed to stretch us: “Calvinism Deep and Green: A Review of Belden C. Lane’s Ravished by Beauty: The Surprising Legacy of Reformed Spirituality.” (Sunday 1:00-2:30), “Michel de Certeau and Mysticism/ Spirituality: Twenty Five Years Later.”(Saturday 1:00-3:30p.m.) and “Reconfigurando Contemporary Spirituality — the Contribution of Latino/a and Hispanic Cultures,” Co-sponsored session with the Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Group. (Monday 4:00-6:30pm) More information will be posted on the SSCS website http://sscs.press.jhu.edu/ index.html as well as in the AAR program with times and locations, bus reservations for the evening session, as well as public transit information to the church.

When we gather in San Francisco where our Society began nineteen years ago, we hope to have achieved non-profit, tax exempt status for the society, and we will be looking forward to celebrating our 20th anniversary in Chicago next year. See you in San Francisco!

With every blessing of this season,

Janet K. Ruffing, RSM
President, Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality