

# Elder Profile

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## Jim Clarke: My Journey

I have been involved in Men's Work since 1992 and made my MROP at Ghost Ranch in 1997. I am a Weaver and Wisdom Elder from Southern California.

I have found the men who participate in Illuman/M.A.L.E.s to be more open, honest and humble in their approach to life and men's gatherings. Recently I participated in an Illuman leadership gathering where we practiced using the Way of Council with great effect. The sharing was heartfelt and direct. I came away with deep gratitude for the real presence and participation of each of us. This is the type of intimacy with men that I have longed for all my life. I felt like I had come home.

My participation in Illuman has helped me to be more open and appropriately vulnerable in my relationships with family and friends. My family regularly gets together to create this type of authentic intimacy; it is truly refreshing. I have noticed some real healing taking place in our family.

Illuman has encouraged me to express myself more courageously and professionally as well. As a priest I have become more grounded on Gospel values and the work of transformation. I have written two books ([\*Creating Rituals: A New Way of Healing for Everyday Life\*](#) and *Spirituality for the Busy Person*) and created two [CD/DVD series](#) as well as developing several different retreat formats for men. This has been an enriching experience for me, pushing me out of my comfort zone.

The two things that I would recommend for a man starting out on the spiritual journey are to commit to silent prayer for 20 minutes a day and to connect with another man to talk honestly about what is going on in his life.

One book on male spirituality that has helped me is [\*On the Threshold of Transformation\*](#) by Richard Rohr.