

# My Journey

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**By Jim Cadiz**

Jim Cadiz is the Southern California Chapter Convener.

*How and when were you introduced to male spirituality?*

In 1996, I stumbled upon Fr. Richard Rohr's tapes in the Diocese of Orange library. I was so impressed with his teaching that my wife and I went to his retreats and conferences. In 2001, I made my MROP in Ghost Ranch, NM. In 2003, I attended a gathering of all initiated men from Southern California with the plan to organize. I have been involved ever since.

*How has your participation in Illuman/M.A.L.Es fostered the use and development of your gifts?*

My participation in Illuman/M.A.L.Es gives me a sense of purpose and the opportunity to serve. Working with men who are on the same spiritual path is just a wonderful experience. As we serve, we develop authentic relationships with other men. Yes, there are hurdles, but they are rare. Illuman/M.A.L.Es is a unique organization because men want to serve and their spiritual journey made them aware of their egos. It makes leading revitalizing. It is the creeping ego that we have to watch for.

*Describe a recent Illuman/M.A.L.Es event you attended. What was the impact on you?*

In Southern California, which we divided into 6 regions, we have regional gatherings that the local small men's groups organized themselves. I recently attended one of our Illuman SoCal Regional Gatherings in Orange County. In our gatherings, we always have teachings, ritual, and a small group session using the Way of Council. This enriches my soul every time. It reinforces my belief that we are on the right path in our spiritual journey. The use of Way of Council gives men the permission to be authentic, to bring down their walls, and to dive right into a deeper place. Watching men go quickly to this place of authenticity impacts me.

*What's one thing you'd recommend to a man starting on the spiritual journey?*

My recommendation is to "show up." This is in our Journey of Illumination brochure. But really, we learn to be present by being present. There is no substitute for it. Even the contemplative practice of sitting in silence is also "showing up" consciously in the presence of our God.

*What's the best thing about doing this work?*

By doing this work, we are also helping ourselves go through life while keeping us aware of the gifts that we receive daily. In effect, we want to

continue and do more because there is a desire to share the beauty of it all. It is like discovering a hidden secret that is beautiful and precious and we want to share it.

*Concluding thoughts?*

I am glad that God led me to Fr. Richard Rohr's teachings, which deepen my understanding of my faith. I am very grateful that I am involved with Illuman which gives me this opportunity to serve. I am in gratitude to all my brothers in Illuman SoCal for their support and their wholehearted involvement in the Chapter. Ultimately, I am thankful to God for his presence.