Richard Rohr’s “Five Truths of Male Initiation”

Franciscan priest Richard Rohr has spent years studying and teaching men how to move along the Spiritual Journey. These Five Truths (or Promises), which he calls The Common Wonderful, are like koans and are taught experientially in his Men’s Rights of Passage (MROP). They are gleaned from studying men’s initiation practices globally, and work for women as well. These practices have all but died out in Western culture. Facing and accepting these Truths on a deep level allows us to let go of false ideas that bog us down in our spiritual and emotional growth. The Five Truths:

-Life is Hard.

-You are not that important.

-Your life is not about you.

-You are not in control.

-You are going to die.

As we see in this chapter, for each Truth, there is a consoling, positive addendum. These redeeming views are intended to be learned through challenge and reflection. They give us keys to letting go of unproductive futile wishes and allow further growth.

Over the next months, as these chapters unravel, the other Truths will be explored. Meanwhile, see if you can determine a redeeming addendum yourself to these Truths in your own life’s challenges.