A Brief Introduction to this Section

We are pleased to offer the final section of the symposium on “Sacred Teaching and Spiritual Learning,” edited by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and Michael J. Shire. In their introduction published in the Winter 2014 issue of the Journal, Rabbis Sasso and Shire wrote that the symposium has attempted to respond to the following questions:

1. In what ways can we provide Jewish spiritual education to children and adults?
2. What is the impact of teaching for spiritual awareness? Why is it important?
3. How can we prepare educators to view Jewish education as holy work?
4. What do we know about children’s spirituality? What does Jewish tradition have to teach? What can we learn from other spiritual traditions about transmitting spiritual practice in an authentically Jewish mode?
5. What are the different ways of introducing children or adults to traditional and nontraditional modes of spiritual practice in ritual, prayer, or the performance of mitzvot?
6. How can Jewish spiritual practice be an integral component of the goals for Jewish education?

The first four sections were then presented. They were: “The State of Jewish Spiritual Education,” “Children’s Jewish Spiritual Education,” “Jewish Spiritual Guidance and Formation,” and “The Arts and Jewish Spirituality.”

Here is the final section—“Nurturing the Sacred in Individuals and Community: Engaging Prayer and Theology.” Its articles focus on engaging and teaching prayer and theology as a means to form and nurture God’s presence in the lives of individuals and communities.