

Photo by Susan Supak

Psychology and the Spiritual Journey

by Thomas Keating

When I first entered the monastery, the role of psychology was not addressed in helping one to understand human nature or its interaction with spiritual formation. Of course I had heard of Freud and Jung for some time before actually encountering their works but it was when I was a young monk that a member of our monastic community, Fr. Raphael Simon, who was a psychoanalyst, offered a course in some of the basic teaching of Freud. Apart from that course, I read books about Freud, Adler, Jung, and others and learned a lot more from people who had studied them closely. Perhaps I learned the most from working with Fr.

Raphael in the screening of candidates for the monastery and in spiritual companionship with nuns, priests, and retreatants.

The field of psychology as an experiential science has to be taken into account by the world's religions and by those who are seeking personal transformation. To take an example from Roman Catholic theology, the consequences of original sin are believed to be three: illusion, concupiscence, and weakness of will. Illusion means that we do not know where true happiness lies and seek it in the wrong places. Concupiscence means that we pursue alternate means of happiness as far as they can be found in our environment. Finally, weakness of will means that if we ever discover where true happiness lies, the will is too weak to pursue it.

The science of psychology has given us a more thorough diagnosis of the human condition. Besides the consequences of original sin on the conscious level, we now know from the findings of psychology that the unconscious contains all kinds of damaging tendencies—repression of traumatic events and feelings, compensatory activity for the privation of instinctual needs, and many other consequences—that obviously bear on the development of the spiritual life and on one's ability to practice one's beliefs.

Continued on Page 16.

A Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Greetings to all of the members of our spiritual network! It was such a pleasure to meet many of you at the Annual Conference in St. Louis. The conference was an exciting event! If you were unable to attend, please be sure to see the montage of photos in this newsletter, courtesy of volunteer photographers Susan Supak and Adalberto Henriquez. Special thanks to Abbot Joseph Boyle for his

thought-provoking presentation, to facilitators Nancy Margulies and Ed Groody, to our host chapter in St. Louis, and all the wonderful volunteers for their dedication and efforts on our behalf. The theme of the conference was "A Year of Listening", and listening is the theme of this issue of Contemplative Outreach News.

In response to listening to the needs of the network, this issue includes the first installment of a new column titled, "Board Corner." This column, penned by Vice Chair Susan Rush, provides an update on recent Board activity and will be a regular feature of the newsletter.

We are pleased to announce that we have been able to respond to your requests for increased access to training tools with a new reduced pricing program for *The Spiritual Journey* and other series, including identical pricing for both VHS and DVD formats. See Page 15 for additional information.

We have also heard the expressed need for additional organizational and support resources throughout the network, and are pleased to present the four Regional Chapter Service Representative positions. An article introducing the "Regional Reps" and explaining their function appears on Page 5.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you who called upon your own listening skills and responded to our appeal for member-driven sponsorship of the newsletter. If responding has simply slipped your mind in the day-to-day shuffle of everyday life, we have also enclosed an envelope in this issue for your convenience.

We look forward to the coming New Year and the opportunity to continue our individual spiritual journeys in community. Turn to Page 11 for information on a third praxis series from the Contemplative Life Program.

In the meantime, best wishes to you and your loved ones for a Blessed Christmas and the Happiest of New Years!

With a grateful heart,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dyane".

Dyane McMahon, Executive Director

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Lord said,

*"Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord,
for the Lord is about to pass by."*

*Now there was a great wind,
the Lord was not in the wind
after the wind an earthquake,
the Lord was not in the earthquake*

*after the earthquake a fire,
and the Lord was not in the fire
after the fire the sound of sheer silence.*

*Elijah covered his face and went
and stood at the entrance of the cave.*

A voice said to him,

"What are you doing here, Elijah?" 1 Kings 19:11-13

When listening for sheer silence we have to be very still. Listening is the basis of all contemplative practices. We wait on God to speak in the silence and we open to deepening levels of listening in silence. True listening is one of the most precious gifts to share with a loved one. We learn first to listen with the ears of the head and we gather facts; we begin to know about things. As we practice listening, we listen for deeper meaning and our own response to what is heard. Moving even more deeply into listening, we listen for the voice of response and we listen to the moments between the words. As our moments expand to silence, we wait in them and hear the sound of sheer silence whispered by the Beloved from within. We now know that a baby in the womb listens to the voice of the mother and begins bonding with her through her voice, tones, and moods. All of creation exists in the womb of God, which offers us an ever-present, listening heart and opportunities for bonding in the oneness of spirit.

Contemplative listening is the opportunity to learn patience, respect and trust for others. We listen with the ear of the heart, that is to say

Contemplative Listening

with compassion, kindness and openness to the Spirit present in conversation with others. It is not always easy to listen to another person. It takes time to listen to others, ourselves and God. Patience is a key disposition for open listening, the ability to wait. Listening is non-threatening and a safe place for open sharing and discussion. It isn't outcome oriented; it is simply hearing and accepting another's point of view. We are receptive and can reflect on what is being said, which informs and enlightens our own perspective in a way that debating and analyzing cannot.

In contemplative listening, the pace is slower and we expect periods of silence during the conversation. We make room to ponder what others have said and then respond. As with all contemplative dispositions, the disposition of listening flows from the inside out. How do we take contemplative practices to a deeper level. By listening! We listen and learn to discern our inner voice and to trust it. We learn from Mary of Bethany that the better part is a listening presence. It is the gift of ourselves that we give to the other. Perhaps that is why it is the better part, as it is most difficult to stay focused and attentive to the other, letting go of self-interest and offering an open-hearted presence. Listening requires inner space and freedom to hear the voice of God in the words of people and the events of daily life.

We began "A Year of Listening" at our annual conference in St. Louis in September 2006. We introduced the updated Vision for Contemplative Outreach. We took the time to read it aloud and ponder together. Contemplative Outreach has expanded over the past 22 years and we want our vision to reflect that growth.

Our purpose is to support one another in the process of Divine transformation through the practice of Centering Prayer.

We will be circulating our updated Vision and we ask that you reflect on it, listening deeply for what



speaks to you. We will gather next year before the annual conference in Houston to share reflections and recommendations, as we prepare to vote on the updated Vision of Contemplative Outreach, which includes the Theological Principles, Administrative Principles, and the Structure of the Network. In the near future, we will be circulating these materials to our Chapters. We hope you will plan a day with everyone in your area to listen to the Vision with the ear of the heart.

In the meantime, let's continue to listen to the Spirit that dwells within us, between us and surrounds us.

With a listening heart,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Gail".

Gail Fitzpatrick-Hopler, President

The Board Corner



Greetings,

I am pleased to have an opportunity to share the recent work of the Board of Trustees with you. We have been talking about developing a way for the Board to communicate with the entire network for some time and the newsletter seems to be a perfect vehicle!

At our September meeting, we honored exiting Board members Barbara Cook, Aldalberto Henriquez and Fr. Justin Langille, and welcomed new Board members Kathy Kotas, Mark Nowak and Patrick Uhm. During recent months, the Board has taken an objective look at how we function and serve the network. We have carefully considered your feedback and are making every effort to effectively meet the needs of the network. Some of the Board development activities we have engaged in to date include the development of an operating agreement and the draft vision documents that were shared at the annual conference in September.

Please know that we are taking this important and rewarding work very seriously. We have engaged the volunteer services of a facilitator to assist us. The Board of Trustees embraces contemplative service principles as we welcome the responsibilities we have accepted. We are striving to be a whole, holy and healthy board serving our international spiritual community. Join us in prayer as we listen to Holy Wisdom.

Yours on the journey,

Susan Rush

Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

New at Contemplative Outreach

We are pleased to announce the creation of a new position titled Regional Chapter Service Representative. The Regional Representative position was developed in order to provide increased support, information, and resources to the chapters, and will become effective on January 1, 2007.

The Regional Reps will serve as working members of Chapter Resource & Communication Services (formerly the CCC); network and support the leadership of CO chapters in their role by providing ongoing communication, assisting in the development of new chapters within their regions, and maintaining a current database of regional leadership.

During on-site visits to the chapters, the Reps will present models for chapter growth, collaborative leadership, service teams and use of the Resource Handbook. Other purposes of on-site visits include facilitation of the visioning process, facilitator enrichment and formation, re-establishing communication with non-active chapters and leadership, and new chapter orientation and planning. The Reps were trained to present topics of CRCS Program Modules, developed for use in serving chapters, during an intensive five-day training program in New Jersey last October.

Currently, the regional design is limited to the United States, divided into six regions, with four regions covered by an individual representative, and two regions that will be served by Susan Komis, Director of Chapter Resources & Communications.

Please join us in welcoming the Regional Chapter Service Representatives and wishing them well in their new roles!



Pictured from L to R are: John Kelsey, Regional Rep Southern Region; Kay Powers, Regional Rep Midwest Region; Susan Komis, Dir. Chapter Resources & Communications; Marie Howard, Regional Rep, Pacific West Region; Roseanne Havird, Regional Rep Eastern Region.

If you would like to contact your Regional Rep, please email Susan Komis at susankomis@charter.net for contact information.

Farewell to a Dear Friend

In a peaceful way, **Fred Eckart** passed on October 30, 2006, with his five children by his side. We hold Fred, his family and friends, as well as the prisoners, the homeless, and the transitional prison groups that Fred so dearly loved, close to our hearts in prayer. We are grateful for his dedication to Centering Prayer, for founding the Prison Outreach and for his many gifts and talents that he so freely gave to Contemplative Outreach. Fred's life speaks loudly of the fruits of Centering Prayer in daily life. We will miss Fred very much.

Reaching Out to Prisoners in New York

Ministry rooted in prayer bears fruit with divine effects, effective ministry depends on our fidelity to a daily life of prayer, a balanced and prayerful prayer life often depends on our connectedness and willingness to serve others, and our call to reach out to others protects us from isolation and self-serving piety. So, naturally I was pleased to receive an invitation from the Catholic chaplain at McGregor Prison, Fr. Matthew Conlin, O.F.M., to attend a Sunday morning session with the prisoners. It was an unexpected joy to meet Fr. Joe Curran, the Episcopal Chaplain at McGregor. Ed Horgan and I were brought into the prison chapel, built by the Episcopal Diocese of Albany but now used by all denominations. As some 20 or more prisoners read poetry, I was struck by their gifts and talents, their hunger and thirst for something deeper in their lives, and by the gracious spirit of giving us a sincere welcome. It was evident to us that most of these men had untapped potential. In fact, Fr. Matt is working with a number of them to obtain college degrees. Their literary compositions revealed their capacity to excel and it was evident from their poetry that these men entertain desires for deeper, more meaningful lives. Words expressing the need of relationship with God, Higher Being, Allah, and Christ Jesus flowed from their hearts to their lips. Their poetry gave them the opportunity to let us know that their spirits and hearts are as restless as our own unless Someone greater than ourselves fills up this emptiness. Many of the prisoners welcomed Ed and I personally as we stood next to Fr. Matt, not fully secure within ourselves. Quickly our insecurity disappeared as some of the prisoners reached out to shake our hands. I was pleasantly surprised when they approached us as the evening came to an end just to thank us for coming. Ed and I received more from this experience than we gave. Before leaving, Ed gave Fr. Matt an excellent book, *The Way of the Prisoner*, by Jens Soering. Fr. Matt extended an invitation to facilitate an Introductory Workshop on Centering Prayer at the prison. We are grateful for these expected and unexpected graces. *Fr. Joe Byrne, Lake George, New York*



Photo by Susan Supak

20th Anniversary Fundraising Tour, Transforming the Heart of the World By Fr. Carl Arico

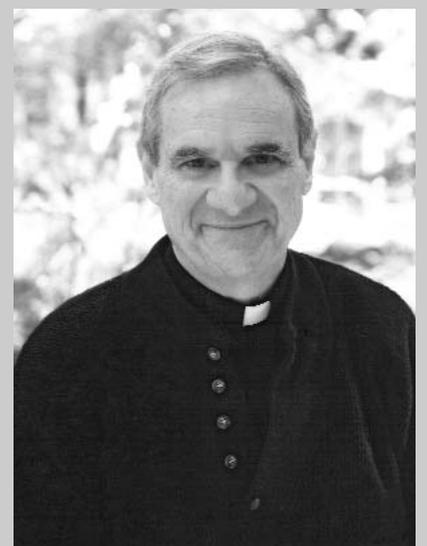
As the 20th Anniversary Tour comes to an end, Fr. Thomas, Gail, Marie, and I would like to acknowledge all the hard work of the chapter coordinators and the many volunteers of the host chapters throughout the network. Thirty-two chapters have participated in the campaign. The hands of many were needed to plan and execute the anniversary weekend events, and we are thrilled with the overwhelming positive response. We received many warm welcomes throughout this long journey.

Your generosity has deeply touched us all. We have surpassed our goal of \$2,500,000 over a five-year period. Over the course of the past five years, 2,883 individuals made general contributions at the events, and 639 entered into pledge agreements.

The campaign funds continue to be utilized to support our growth in areas such as chapter support, website and resource development, Fr. Thomas's Legacy, support and training, as well as various outreach programs, such as prison and 12-step outreach.

The tour is winding down with one event planned for next year in Seattle. Once again, thank you to all who shared their gifts of talent and/or resources with us along the way. We cannot continue to fulfill our mission without the help of others.

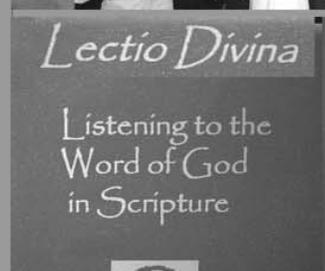
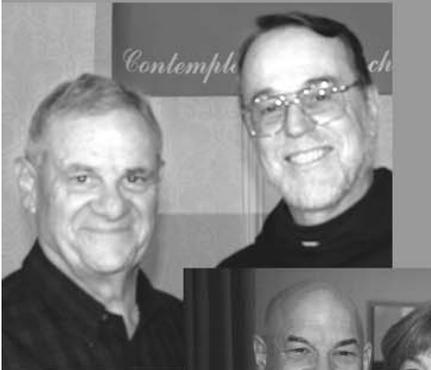
Thank you for holding us in your hearts.



Contemplative Outreach 2006 Annual Conference

St. Louis, Missouri, September 27 - October 1

Photography by Adalberto Henriquez and Susan Supak



A Year of Listening





Photo by Adalberto Henriquez

Pregonamos La Unidad en La Diversidad . . . Unity in Diversity



Extensión Contemplativa

For information in Spanish

San Francisco, CA	Cristóbal Padrón	415-759-0943	
San Diego, CA	Cherie Herrera	858-453-8662	<i>cherieherrera@SoftHome.net</i>
San Diego, CA	Christina Romero	858-457-4120	<i>cgr@san.rr.com</i>
San Dimas, CA	Acelia Ledesma	909-592-2428	
Merritt Island, FL	Adalberto Henriquez	321-453-8040	<i>adabhenri@msn.com</i>
Altamonte Springs, FL	Ilse Reissner	407-767-8271	<i>ireissner@juno.com</i>
Miami, FL	Ricardo Lopez	305-223-7329	<i>ricardol@camilo.com</i>
Miami, FL	Isabel Castellanos	305-673-6206	<i>castella@fju.edu</i>
Atlanta, GA	Terri Gagnier	404-321-7385	<i>t-t@mindspring.com</i>
San Antonio, TX	Homer A. Bain	210-492-1306	<i>hbain@satx.rr.com</i>
Milwaukee, WI	Fr. D. Shields	414-224-7565	<i>dsshieldsj@hotmail.com</i>

Extensión Contemplativa, the branch of Contemplative Outreach serving our Spanish-speaking members, handles the sale of books translated in Spanish. Contact Maria Lopez at 305-223-7329 for a complete listing or to place an order.

THE SPANISH CORNER

by Ilse Reissner **The Annual Conference:**

I realize that it's going to be next to impossible to express in just a few words how absolutely wonderful it was at the conference to see the fruits of the seeds we have been planting all over the Spanish-speaking communities to those interested in learning the practice of Centering Prayer. I was moved to tears at how grounded all of us are in our faith and in our relationship with God, as a result of just "showing up" twice a day for this very important appointment. Vicky Acra (Dominican Republic), Marilu Ason (Puerto Rico), Adal Henriquez and his wife, Margarita, Isabel Castellanos, Maru Ladron-Guevara and myself (Florida) were the "old-timers" at the conference. We also had Anna Belle Garrido representing Costa Rica, Marielos Zedan & Noemi Peñate for El Salvador, Guadalupe Marquez for Mexico City, and Gerardo & Mercedes Hinojosa, Rolando and Sara Alicia Lozano, Maru Barrera, and Elisa Colyer. There is no doubt that the Spirit is at work. We accounted for a whole ten percent of the total number of participants! Alabado sea Dios!

Upcoming events: For those that may be interested, we will be offering two Formation for Service workshops in 2007. The first will be during the first quarter of the year in Monterrey, Mexico, and the second in Central America. For more information, you may contact Ilse Reissner and/or Isabel Castellanos. We will also have two 5-Day Intensive retreats in Spanish next

year. Last, but not least, Fr. Thomas and I will be visiting Monterrey, Mexico the first week of March, 2007 for a couple of days. All of his conferences will be translated into Spanish. You may know someone who will want to attend.

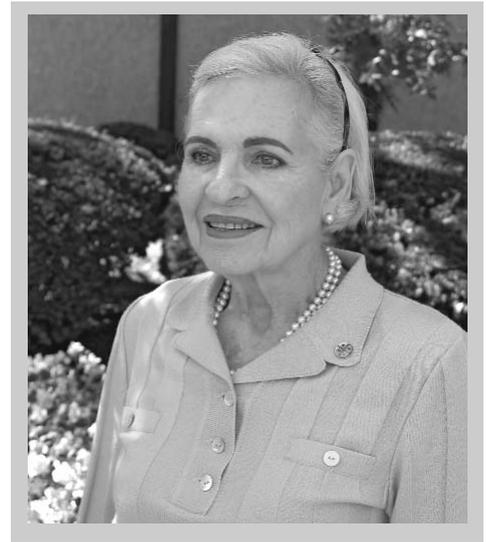


Photo by Susan Supak

Contemplative Life Program: The first three of the CLP booklets that we have all enjoyed reading so much are now available in Spanish. They can be ordered from Maria Lopez, our dear librarian in Miami, by calling 305-223-7329.

Mexico: Judith Bernal, in Mexico City, reports a full schedule for the first half of 2007. Sr. Margaret Funk has accepted an invitation to present a workshop on Humility, February 8-13. There will be a 5-Day Intensive retreat May 14, and several weekend Introductory to Centering Prayer retreats—two in March, one in April, two in May, and one in June. Congratulations to Judith and the rest of the staff in Mexico. Keep up the good work!

Centering Prayer in Costa Rica

An Introductory to Centering Prayer Retreat was presented in San Jose, Costa Rica, by Adalberto Henriquez. The first day of the retreat included the history of contemplative prayer, the history of Contemplative Outreach, and a discussion of the "Human Condition." On the second day, the first four of the seven introductory sessions were done in great depth, so as to be useful to people who have been practicing Centering Prayer for a while, and, of course, plenty of silence and prayer time. The local Extensión Contemplativa Staff facilitated the follow-up sessions. The coordinator of the San Jose Chapter is Anna Belle Garrido.



Photo by Adalberto Henriquez

The Contemplative Life Program

Study and Practice in Community

Is it possible to experience the Living God in the ordinary routines of a busy modern life? How do aspiring contemplatives live a life of practice—ever in relationship with the Indwelling Presence—in the midst of family, work and a societal context?

The Contemplative Life Program (CLP) explores how to be a practicing contemplative, abiding in the presence of God in the midst of ordinary life. The CLP provides the tools, the Christian contemplative teachings, and the community support necessary to live and embody the contemplative dimension of the Gospel.

Three opportunities to participate in 2007

It is recommended beginning the program with Year One.

Year One: For new subscribers, this program includes seven journeys through the core contemplative practices. Each booklet includes excerpted teachings, inspirational quotes, scripture, beautiful images, practices and suggested readings. Cost: \$140 USD

- Centering Prayer
- Welcoming Prayer
- Lectio Divina
- Discernment
- Forgiveness
- Active Prayer
- Attention/Intention



Year Two: For continuing subscribers, this program deepens practice by exploring contemplative attitudes and dispositions that emerge from the contemplative life. Subscribers will recognize the same beautiful, prayerful booklet format as presented in Year One. Cost: \$140 USD

- Developing Contemplative Attitudes Through Practice
- Spirituality of Money
 - Contemplative Service
 - Silence and Solitude
 - Simplicity
 - Discipline of Prayer
 - Hospitality
 - Faith: An Advent Companion



Photo by Susan Supak

Year Three:
Deepening
Relationship
With
God

This program includes two new praxis topics and a return to deeper experience with the three core practices of Contemplative Outreach.

- Centering Prayer: Living the Paschal Mystery
- Reflection Guide for Centering Prayer Praxis
- Reflection Guide for Welcoming Prayer Praxis
- Reflection Guide for Lectio Divina Praxis
- Community: Living the Mystical Body of Christ

Subscribers to Year Three must have participated in Year One, as three of the praxis booklets will be experienced again in a deeper way through new reflection guides. Cost: \$80 USD

**To
Subscribe:**

- Phone: 800-608-0096 US & Canada,
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- Online: <http://www.coutreach.org/clp.htm>
- Scholarships are available: Please contact CLP@coutreach.org, or call 973-838-8899 for a scholarship application.
- Gift subscriptions are available.
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Donations are encouraged to offset CLP operations and to provide scholarships for those who, at this moment in time, cannot afford a CLP subscription. Please indicate your desire to donate when you subscribe.

Contemplative Service Praxis:
Being a chronic, do-good do-er, the booklet about Contemplative Service is giving me a lot to chew on. What are my motives, indeed! Too often, I'm trying to pat down what I sense as chaos into what feels like good order. "But who's defining that?" is the question I'm now pondering.
- A.B.

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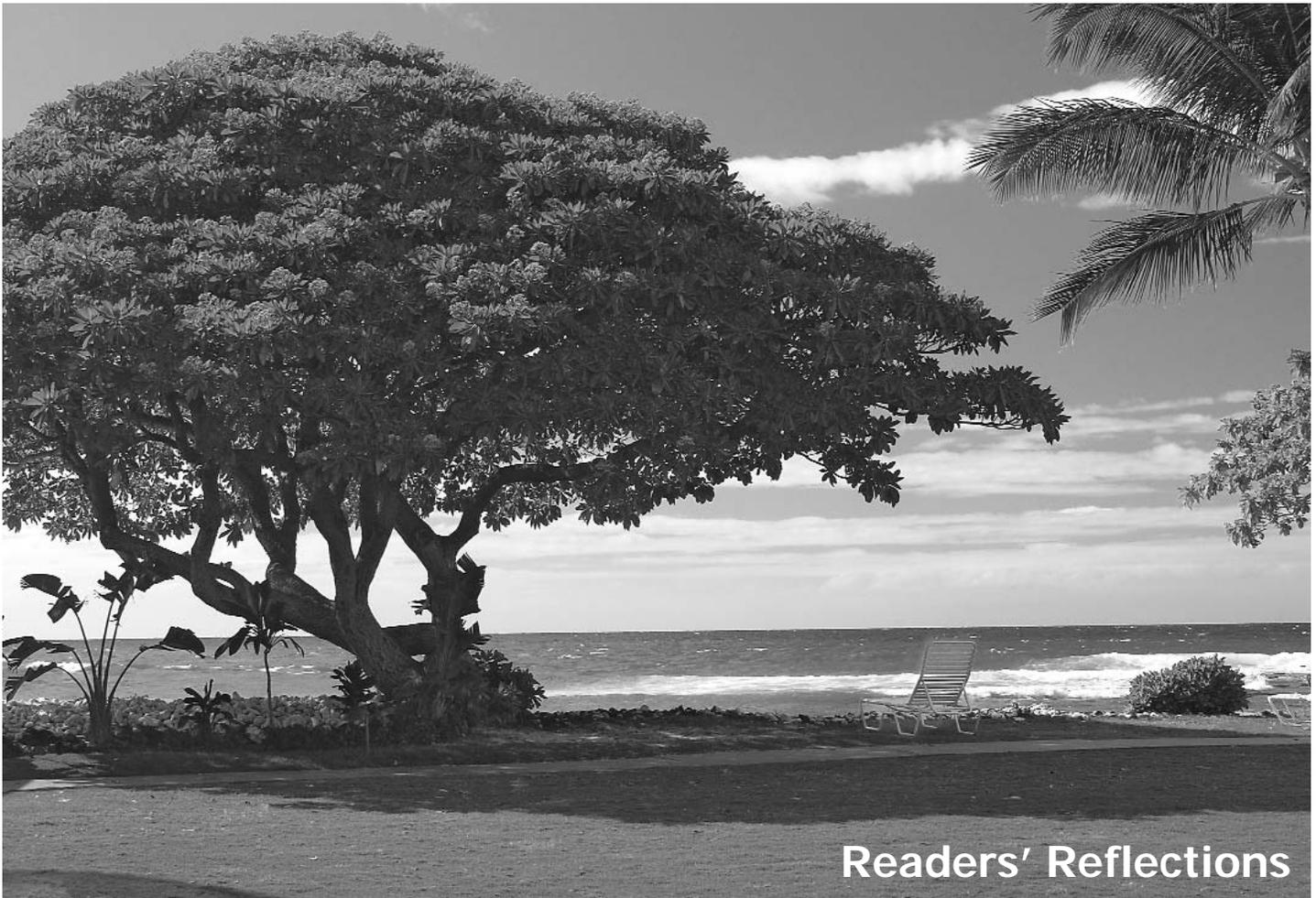
Attention/Intention Praxis:
During this module, I experienced the death of my mother, my cousin, a colleague, and a dear friend of our church. I also am in the midst of a transition and downsizing and newly emerging health concerns. To experience God's love through welcoming each event lived in the full attention of the present moment is a great and profound gift. The depth and breath of my life has been transformed through the Indwelling Grace of God.
- H.C.



Photo by Susan Supak

“The purpose of every true devotional practice and method of prayer is to bring us to a person-to-person, being-to-being relationship with Christ.”

Fr. Thomas Keating,
Crisis of Faith, Crisis of Love



Readers' Reflections

Photo by Susan Supak

SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE

Obviously Centering Prayer brings us to the heart of our baptism, the heart of God, and to the heart of our own hearts. The faith, surrender, and purity of the prayer cuts through the debris of our humanity, the complications of theology, and the unpredictability of our affections. The heart of our baptism is the entrance into and the living out of God's Presence in our very beings. Centering Prayer calls us to divine awareness. We are gently invited into the very power of our baptism that is the living and breathing power of God within us. This prayer of silence and stillness awakens us to the baptismal gift of the Holy Spirit working and acting within the depths of our own spirits.

As we discipline ourselves to be faithful disciples of the practice of Centering Prayer, God's wisdom enlightens us. We are enlightened about God's mercy, love, and tenderness. As our prayer unfolds in daily life, our consciousness grows in the healthy knowledge and understanding of God's love for us. We sense an ever-present tenderness waiting to accept, embrace, and even caress our entire being. As our prayer lives develop, we become aware that we ourselves are living personifications of God's mercy. His mercy is real as we are real. Our reality depends on His mercy. It is His divine mercy that brings us into Eternal Reality. How good it is to receive a glimpse of who God is.

Finally—yet it is never final for the depths of God appear infinitely, but because of our weak human needs and purpose we say finally—Centering Prayer brings us to the Lord of our own hearts. We come to realize, appreciate, and even desire that God's cleansing and purifying actions are taking place in our hearts. Thomas Keating refers to the process of the evacuation of our unbearable interior rubbish. Many saints, fathers and mothers of the church refer to the purgative stages of our spiritual growth. It is simply a period which repeats itself frequently in a lifetime process of detaching our hearts from numerous obstacles in order to attach our hearts more gently and firmly to the Lord himself. We become consciously aware of this process and eventually welcome it with patience and joy. The spiritual benefits of the practice of Centering Prayer are clearly beyond the three I mentioned. No doubt you have experienced many more and will continue to do so as you remain faithful to the practice.

Fr. Joe Byrne, Lake George, New York

SAGA OF THE THREE-IN-ONE

You began my beginning, Holy Spirit,
You who
Splashed Your breath upon my head
Rolling down like oil on Aaron's beard,
Cleansing, hallowing, releasing, restoring,
Changing my life forever
as the awakening sense of You
Coursed through the cells
of my shuddering flesh
As thoroughly as the parched soil
of my soul.
In sovereign charge, You who are Love
went everywhere in me, to the known
As well as the unknown
and the now known
Through Your measureless Self-pouring
Cascading down Your dizzying expanse.
Transfixed, You traversed across me;
It did not matter where You entered;
You filled
My totality like Air all at once.
Living pockets of You
remain scattered about my being.

Then You appeared, Beloved, You who
Ushered me into Your Temple invisible,
For meeting and mutuality ever cloaked
In luminous Mystery, where knowing and
unknowing commingle
And the Unspeakable is heard
echoing across
Realms of personal being
You opened in me
As you revealed Yourself to me.
You are the holy, wholly Other, The One
To Whom my days and nights belong.
Your creation will forever encircle round
You
Like planets around their single Sun,
Source and Sustenance.
You and I have been one
beyond time and space,
In Your time and space,
neither seeable nor provable
Yet more real and abiding
than anything of this creation.
I know You, yet cannot recollect the Who
but only the That of You,
Until You usher me at last
into the intimate chambers of paradise.

Finally came the wedding, O Christ,
You who
Appeared first with me,
then in me as my soul Mate everlasting.
You have made me a home in me;
You are my heart's height, depth and
breadth.
You are my daily Constant,
the immovable Rock
On which to build my life now
and forever in comforted confidence.
Yielding to You across time, I enter into
You and the Mysteries of mutual life.
You are that which I most treasure in me,
The prompting goodness
which clings to me, that I once
Believed belonged to me
as the best of me.
But it was You all along, You that I loved
and valued above all else in me.
In loving myself, I was in hidden truth
loving you, You who
Are my Center and Substance and Destiny.
My honored task is to know, cleave to and
delight in You perpetually,
And to share You with others
in the elusive orb of common life.

By Dr. Hal Green
Muscatine, Iowa



Photo by Brandon Supak

Gaudete

With chirp and song and excited call
Insistent in anticipation,
Expectant of day's delights
That light free wing for flight
In another day of joyful living.
Would that I so wake my day
Ecstatic with its coming
Wanting to see and meet and hear
The Word in the world that greets me.
Like a bird flitting expectantly
Searching out some surely good
And sometimes soaring
to treeless heights
To rest in glide upon the air.
Let me meet my days so well
Searching out Your sings
And resting in Your Presence.

By Robert Hope
Rockport, MA

Visit our website
www.contemplativeoutreach.org
 for a complete listing of resources offered by
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Photo by Susan Supak

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on

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of our

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See our website for complete listings.

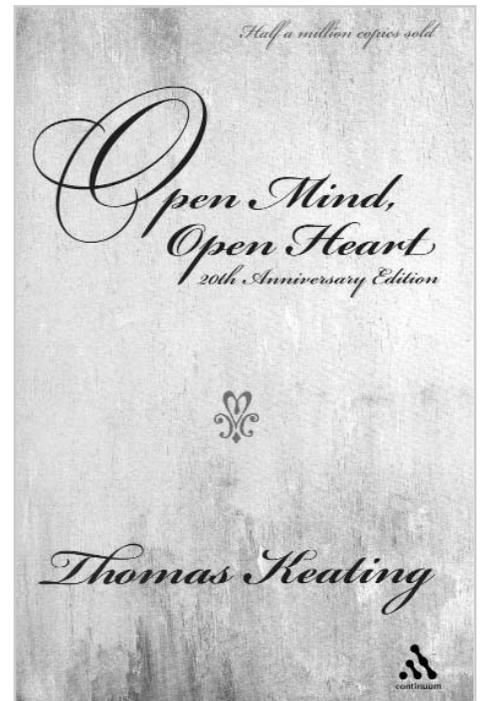


Revised

Open Mind, Open Heart

This is a **revised, 20th Anniversary edition** of the spiritual classic, which has sold well over half a million copies in the English language and has appeared in 10 foreign-language editions, including Croatian, French, German, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish. The new edition consists of a substantial new preface, an expanded glossary, some changes in terminology, and a reordering of several chapters.

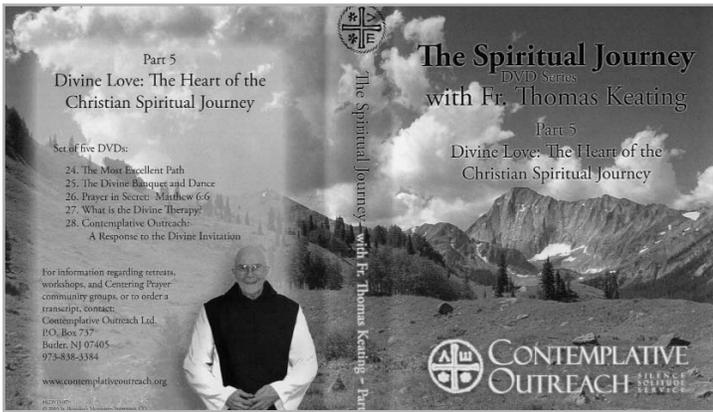
Open Mind, Open Heart is designed to initiate the readers into a deep, living relationship with God and provides step-by-step guidance in the method of Centering Prayer. B-01 \$14.95



Teleconferences with Fr. Thomas Keating

Featuring 20 to 30-minute talks by Fr. Thomas Keating, and 30 minutes of panel discussions with other guests. These teleconferences review the practices of the offerings in the Contemplative Life Program. Recorded live. Available as CDs or audio cassettes.

Discernment	CD-121 \$12.00	A-121	\$10.00
Forgiveness	CD-122 \$12.00	A-122	\$10.00
Active Prayer	CD-123 \$12.00	A-123	\$10.00
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The spiritual journey presumes a certain ego strength and hence any movement toward genuine human development is growth in the spiritual life. The healing of compulsions and addictions is conducive if not necessary for sustained spiritual growth. Thus, the treatment for various forms of neurosis must go hand in hand with the effort to practice the Christian virtues.

The gulf that has existed historically between psychology and spirituality is slowly closing. The contribution of transpersonal psychology with its acceptance of the spiritual nature of human beings has certainly helped, even though many schools of contemporary psychology do not yet accept this dimension. Transpersonal psychology tries to take the whole human potential into account and not simply part of it as in the case of certain behavioral sciences. It is a deliberate effort to bridge the gap between spirituality and psychology. The psychological disciplines need to address the whole of human nature with its spiritual dimension. Fortunately, there seems to be a recognition on the part of religion, at least the main line Christian denominations, that psychological counseling is often a necessary ingredient in spiritual guidance and is especially important in cases of mental illness.

The spiritual journey aims at ever deeper levels of healing because it has as its goal the transformation of the faculties of intellect and will by grace in such a way that we can truly share the divine life and love. Psychological counseling and treat-

ment, on the other hand, is aimed primarily at helping the person lead a normal human life and to relate well in society. These goals are not contradictory. The spiritual journey under the influence of the Spirit simply has higher objectives and hence, the healing of the unconscious is effected at ever deepening levels through the so-called Dark Nights of St. John of the Cross.

I understand the psychological

The gulf that has existed historically between psychology and spirituality is slowly closing.

unconscious to contain all the events of one's life, especially repressed emotional experiences that were never dealt with or resolved. These hidden and negative emotional energies constitute what Jung called the shadow side of our personality. The ontological unconscious contains all the human potential for growth communicated by the grace of Baptism that remains untapped. This includes the awareness of our spiritual nature with its faculties of intellect and will, the Divine Indwelling and the supernatural organism, as well as the creative energies which sustains our life at all levels. The true self might be described as the presence of God within us manifesting in our uniqueness. As the spiritual life unfolds we make contact with vari-

ous levels of consciousness, each one more integrated than the previous one. All of this human potential remains unconscious until we deliberately begin the spiritual journey. In some cases, God's presence may impose itself on us whether we like it or not, but we cannot count on this happening and hence need to take steps such as the practice of regular periods of interior silence, to prepare ourselves for the gift of contemplative prayer.

The best way I know of testing the theory of the Divine Therapy is by observing and reflecting on one's own experience. This reflection would probably be superficial unless one is sincerely committed to spiritual growth. My ideas about the emotional programs for happiness is a combination of the traditional Christian

teachings regarding the capital sins, especially the handling of thoughts and emotions as taught by Evagrius who sums up the experience of the Desert Fathers and Mothers of the fourth century, and the new science of developmental psychology. For example, the term "emotional programs for happiness" is a psychological way of explaining concupiscent as it breaks down into the first three energy centers which later develops into the seven capital sins. The capital sins are not actual sins but tendencies to sin. When the frustration of these instinctual needs becomes acute, there is a tendency to trample on the needs and rights of others, as well as our own true good, in order to get what we want or get away from what we don't want.



Photo by Susan Supak

The moderating of the emotional programs for happiness in the Christian tradition is called the practice of virtue. This consists of the four moral virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance and the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and divine love. The practice of these virtues moderate the excesses of the drive for gratification based on the instinctual needs which developed at a time when reason had not yet awakened and hence there was no moderating force for these drives in the face of difficult or unbearable situations. There are a number of hallowed practices for addressing the exaggerations of the emotional programs for happiness, several of which are taught as part of the Contemplative Outreach training. Not all spiritual disciplines in the various world religions address this problem.

One other aspect of the false self system that is very important is over-identification with one's group whether it be family, tribe, ethnic group, nation, peer group, or religion. By over-identification I mean the unquestioning acceptance of the values of the above mentioned groups from which we tend to construct our identity during the age from roughly four to eight. On the social level, naive loyalties may give rise to violence, war, and all kinds of social injustice. Part of growing up is to question the validity of those values, and the work of conversion is to evaluate them in the light of the gospel, or whatever the moral principles of one's particular religion might be.

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Servant Leadership Formation

By Anita Shaperd

The sprawling brick and fieldstone campus of St. Meinrad's Benedictine Archabbey rises unexpectedly out of the fertile, hilly cornfields of southern Indiana. Last July, some fifty Contemplative Outreach servant-leaders gathered there for a week of formation as either chapter coordinators or facilitator trainers. In keeping with their founder's injunction to "receive all guests as you would Christ", the monks extended a warm welcome to us through the comfort of their newly remodeled guest rooms and meeting facilities. During the dual-track workshop sessions, ably led by Gail Fitzpatrick-Hopler, Bonnie Shimuzu, Susan Komis and Marie Howard, participants were made aware of all the materials, resources and people available to help them as they serve their various chapters. Meeting, at times separately, at other times together, people in both tracks absorbed enormous amounts of factual information about the history, organizational structure, programs, and future plans of Contemplative Outreach.



Photography by Ed Tummillo

Much of the material covered in the chapter-coordinator track applied equally, not only to the facilitator trainers, but also to anyone serving a Centering Prayer group in any capacity. An example of which was Gail's definition of service as a way of being—a disposition of the heart—staying awake—listening moment to moment—reflecting on and pondering what we hear—responding rather than reacting to events—a movement from self-centeredness to other-centeredness. Another example was Susan's encouragement to try new ways of doing things, knowing that the Spirit will help us clean up any "mess" we might make in the process.

The days followed a balanced rhythm of prayer, teaching, and recreation. In addition to periods of Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina together each morning and afternoon, meals together (some silent), and excellent formal presentations by the Contemplative Outreach staff, highlights of the week included a talk by Sr. Maria Tasto, OSB, on Lectio Divina; informal evening sessions, during which participants engaged in hands-on planning activities and sharing of practical ideas; and an opportunity to attend an open 12-Step meeting.

The 35 individuals in the chapter-coordinator track possessed different levels of experience, came from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds, and exercise their servant leadership in vastly different ways, but uniting us was the desire to acquire the skills and information needed to do a good job on behalf of our chapters and the international network. That unity clearly prevailed despite the diversity in chapter-organizational structure, activity and leadership experience.

The week offered a wonderful opportunity to dig more deeply into contemplative life. Despite the death of one of Contemplative Outreach Hawaii's "founding mothers" during the week, emergency room visits by two participants, and severe thunderstorms that many encountered on their way to and from St. Meinrad's, there was an underlying spirit of joy as we learned how, as Sr. Maria put it, to willingly "step aside as the center of the universe" in order to become a conduit and messenger for God's activity.



**"Step aside
as
the center
of the
universe
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and
messenger
for
God's
activity."**

CHAPTER UPDATES

Alabama, Birmingham

The Alabama chapter has held an annual Contemplative Conference each February for 13 consecutive years. We have been blessed with outstanding speakers, such as Fr. Carl Arico, Mary Dwyer, Marie Howard, Gail Fitzpatrick-Hopler, Zoila Diaz, Sr. Meg Funk, Fr. Thomas Keating, Roberta Bondi, Sr. Bernadette Teasdale, Fr. William Meninger,

Elizabeth Anne Stewart, Victor Kramer, and Rev. Tom Ward. This annual gathering has provided "rich soul food" for contemplatives in the South East region. At the upcoming conference on February 10-11, 2007, we are pleased to welcome Cynthia Bourgeault as our speaker.

Diana Tschache, Coordinator, 205-991-6964, tschached@bellsouth.net

Brazil, Belo Horizonte

Fr. William Meninger first visited Brazil in 2004, and returned again last August. He went to three cities, starting with Rio de Janeiro, then Belo Horizonte, where I live, and finally, Sao Paulo, the biggest city in South America. The retreats in Rio and Sao Paulo had about 43 people, but in my city we had 75! In both talks the theme was, "The

Process of Forgiveness." We had about 300 people there each night. They were very interested both in the retreat theme, contemplative prayer, and in the forgiveness process. Marco Antonio and Maria do Carmo offered Fr. William their hospitality and home for the visit. We went on small tours in the neighbouring area so that he could get, at least, a "glimpse" of the city and the surrounding areas. He seemed to have enjoyed himself and his enthusiasm for everything reminded us of the simplicity of the children of God. He's a very kind and gentle man. It was such a blessing to have him with us! I had the privilege of having him to my home, where we talked a bit, had good coffee, and ate cookies and cheese rolls—which he likes a lot! Everyone who attended the retreats and talks were touched by his wisdom and love for God. His words seemed to go right to their hearts. We also had the opportunity to launch the translated version of his first book, *The Process of Forgiveness*, which was translated into Portuguese. In two months we'll have his second book, *The Loving Search for God*, available in Portuguese as well. When I started practicing Centering Prayer in 1999, after finding Fr. Basil Pennington's website, nobody seemed to have heard of it. Now, only seven years later, it has spread to many places and is attracting many people. Let's thank God and pray that many more people can experience this simple and effective method of contemplative prayer, so beneficial for us both physically and spiritually—and that they have the grace to make a discipline of it, so that God may work in them all.

Jandira Soares Pimentel, Resource Person, 011-55-31-3241-8129, oracaocentrante@yahoo.com.br

California, Long Beach

Greetings! We just want to let you know that we are still alive at the wheel here at the Long Beach South Chapter in sunny California. Since we're relatively new, we are still in the developing stages. We hope to have a weekend retreat later next year and build from there to lengthier ones. This past year we have had two workshops. We developed a

very viable Centering Prayer group that meets once a week, approximately 14 people attend regularly, with others "as the Spirit moves them." We also gave a 12-Step workshop in Irvine. A smaller prayer group meets there weekly. I co-presented a 12-Step workshop in Texas in August. Forty two people were in attendance. We are planning a facilitator workshop in 2007 to provide facilitator training for those who are requesting help with their meetings in St. Simon and Jude in Huntington Beach, to start other groups, and to help with the Introductory Workshops. Hopefully, we'll also have a fundraiser for our chapter, Introductory Workshops, and whatever else we can offer to support the gift of Centering Prayer.

Barbara Brown Thompson, Coordinator, 562-433-7901, barbmcbrown@charter.net

California, North San Diego

Our new Contemplative Outreach of North San Diego Chapter has had a productive and spiritually enriching ten months! We had two outstanding events that were enthusiastically received by our membership. Cherry Haisten taught us the Welcoming Prayer and Susan Komis led a two-day retreat on St. John of the Cross, "Night of Sense, Night of Spirit." The richness and depth of this information continues to inspire and sustain all of us on our journeys. Our dedicated 12-member Servant Leadership Team spent several meetings developing a Mission Statement and Core Values that will guide us in implementing CO Ltd's Vision Statement. We continue to plan for 2007 and actively support our 16 prayer groups.

Sue and Chris Hagen, Co-Coordiators, 760-745-8860, sue.hagen@sbcglobal.net; chris.hagen@sbcglobal.net

California, San Fernando

On June 11, 2006 about 22 members of the San Fernando Valley Chapter met at Holy Spirit Retreat Center in Encino to discern a new coordinator and service team leaders for our chapter. Through prayerful discernment, the San Fernando Chapter has selected Mary Shear as the new coordinator. We are very grateful to Marie Howard who led us

in the discernment process, a spirit-filled experience for all of us present. I am very grateful for having had the opportunity to serve these past years as co-coordinator in San Fernando. **Sr. Linda Snow, CJS, Contact Person, 818-784-4515, srlinda@adelphia.net**

Canada, Sherbrooke, QC

Many French-speaking people in the United States, Canada, and other countries in the world will be happy to learn that the book by Fr. Basil Pennington, *Centering Prayer*, is now translated into French. The title of the translation is *La Prière de Silence: Renouveler Une Forme Traditionnelle de Prière Chrétienne*. The book was published in January 2006 by

Novalis, Ottawa, Canada. In the second edition of his book in 2001, Fr. Pennington had written a foreword where he said: "One of the wonders of the written word is that it can travel far and wide and reach people in all walks of life." From now on, Father's book will travel and reach new readers who will appreciate this always easy book and its educational look.

Fr. Bernard Dionne, Resource Person, 819-563-3978, bdionne000@sympatico.ca

Colorado, Estes Park

It's been a busy winter/spring season in Estes Park, Colorado, for our Centering Prayer group. We continued our Contemplative Life Series, which we have been doing as a group since last Fall, taking a month at a time for each of the four books. It was such a valuable and profound experience, that we continued on to finish Series #1 last fall.

Fr. Terry Ryan, CSP, brought us an evening on Therese of Lisieux based on Fr. Thomas Keating's book on the subject. We also spent a day with Fr. William's enneagram video, which was enlightening and great fun. We took our 7th Annual, Estes Park group retreat at Snowmass, with Fr. Thomas Keating as our guest. I presented an Introductory Centering Prayer Workshop to the community of Estes, and a group of us attended Fr. Thomas and Fr. William's annual retreat on "The Cloud of Unknowing." By the end of spring, we were glad to make plans for our annual picnic in Rocky Mountain National Park. **Mary Ann Kundtz, Contact Person, 970-586-1779, marleek@charter.net**

Colorado, Denver

January through June is a vibrant time for our Center for Contemplative Living. We begin our second trimester of Spiritual Journey classes with an Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop on January 20, 2007. We continue to present new programs, such as our Thursday-night spirituality seminars and David Frenette's, "Heart of

Contemplation" to support prayer practitioners no matter what their level. Our retreat schedule kicks off with "Praying from the Heart, Praying with the Body," taught by Jim Reale. The Lenten Staff Retreat at St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass, Colorado is a long-standing tradition. Our Annual Conference in March welcomes Fr. Thomas Keating and Fr. William Meninger, building on last year's presentation on *The Cloud of Unknowing*, and speaking on "The Companions of The Cloud of Unknowing - the Mystics in the Following Century." People from across Colorado and the country come to experience our spiritual teachers and to reconnect with the greater community of Contemplative Outreach. Throughout the winter and spring, classes, special events, and programs such as our Half-Days of Prayer and Immersion Experiences reflect the attentiveness of our servant-leadership teams and volunteer staff to the needs and desires of those who seek to live the contemplative dimension of the Gospel.

Sr. Bernadette Teasdale, Coordinator, 303-698-7729, Srb@contemplativeoutreach-co.org, www.contemplativeoutreach-co.org

Florida, Tampa Bay

The Tampa Bay Chapter has established a 2007 Events Calendar which includes both national and local speakers. Fr. Bill Sheehan will present "The Inner Room," January 13, while the United Day of Prayer will have a few locations. Sr. Maria Tasto will conduct a Lectio Divina workshop on May 12, as well as training for our Commissioned Presenters on

May 13. Forgiveness will be Janet Gallagher's topic, September 8, and "Contemplative Service: Attention/ Intention" will be presented by Bob Fasulo and Ed Savoy on October 13. We will finish the year with "Reflections on Humility," presented by Marge Rafferty. We are blessed in Tampa Bay to have the use of the St. Anthony Hospital facilities, which include a chapel, auditorium, cafeteria and meeting rooms. Epiphany Cathedral in Venice continues to welcome our programs. *Continued on Page 20.*

CHAPTER UPDATES CONTINUED

Florida, Tampa Bay continued

Introductory Workshops are scheduled in the north, mid, and south areas of Tampa Bay. Rickey Cotton has been traveling to Pensacola, giving support to a small, yet dedicated group. Our core group is expanding and will be developing service teams to support our continued growth in future years.
Kaethe Perez, Coordinator, 941-756-3326, Kaethe_p@msn.com

Illinois, Chicago

Living Flame II, with 37 enrolled, will finish in April 2007. The weekend, silent retreat is January 19-21, 2007 at Cabrini Retreat Center. May 5, 2007, Gail Fitzpatrick-Hopler will give a Day of Enrichment, "Living the Contemplative Life in the World." The 8-day Post-Intensive was well received last summer and we will host another one in the summer of 2008. The 8-day Intensive/Post-Intensive combo-retreat will be July 7-14, 2007, led by Sr. Maria Tasto. The Chapter sent three people to St. Meinrad in July, two for Servant Leadership and one for Basic Facilitator Training. There are currently two "An Introduction to Centering Prayer," seven-session workshops scheduled for 2007. **Margie Tomlinson, Coordinator, 847-391-0997, matomlinson@comcast.net**

Ireland, Dublin

Hello. This is Ireland having been awakened from sleep. We had our second Centering Prayer retreat in August, 2006. All participants were hungry for God and their hunger was satisfied in the long sittings together, in the company of Pat and Bob Johnson. Waiting for God proved to be well worthwhile and was described as "real happiness." The highlight of the day was the Eucharist celebrated by one or the other of the four priest-retreatants. What was special about the Mass was the fact that it was preceded and followed by silence, and the sharing of people plunging us even deeper into the Mystery of Presence. The whole retreat was about Presence: presence to each other and presence to God as Ultimate Reality (to use Fr. Thomas's own words). When the last day loomed, we were loath to leave the spot. We wanted to linger on. Before departing we made a few resolutions. (1) To hold a retreat next year at the same place on September 23-30, 2007. As we are still infants, Pat and Bob have been invited back to accompany us. (2) To hold some weekend retreats in Ferns. The first one will be during Lent (date not yet fixed) (3) To create a website for Contemplative Outreach Ireland. David and Dee Salamon from Colorado Springs will come to help us. After all that, we feel we are coming of age and eager to enter into the Lord's Vineyard where silence is the best tool.
Sr. Marie Dolores, Resource Person, 011-353-53-9366634, staidansferns@eircom.net

Kansas, Wichita

We have four active Centering Prayer groups in the city. Three are open groups to whomever wishes to participate and the fourth group is a closed group, affiliated with an AA meeting. Another group or two may be forming this month and we have some interest from western Kansas for an Introductory Workshop. Our local presenter, Dan Rensel, made several trips to a suburban church, at the invitation of the parish priest, to introduce Centering Prayer in weeknight gatherings. I am not sure if they have yet formed an ongoing group. We recently hosted a two-day (Sept 28-29) Introductory Centering Prayer workshop and retreat for professional chaplains, that brought in 23 for the first day. Nineteen of those stayed for the second day. The theme was "Contemplative Prayer as Self-Care," and was clearly aimed at the people involved in professional ministry. I had applied for and received accreditation for this conference through the Association of Professional Chaplains, so participants were able to receive continuing education credits. The presenter for this event was Kathleen Muller, who is both a CO commissioned presenter and a board-certified chaplain. The entire event was very well received and the chaplains appreciated having their needs for spiritual renewal addressed, while also earning educational credit. Most of them expressed desire for another Centering Prayer retreat next year to go deeper into the practice. We will likely plan another two-day retreat to address this need.
Charissa Jochems, Coordinator, 316-685-4850, jochems@southwind.net

Kentucky, Bardstown

Our Chapter continues to grow, especially in the Owensboro and Lexington areas. In February, 2007, a Lectio Divina Workshop, led by Sr. Maria Tasto, OSB, will be held at the Methodist Church in Lexington. Sr. Maria was the presenter for our annual evening (attendance 40) and day workshop (attendance 25) for the Louisville and Bardstown area. Two members attended the St. Meinrad, week-long conference, one for the Coordinators and one for the Facilitators. We have Introduction Workshops planned for new centers in our overall area. They are ecumenical and we are quite happy about that!
Sr. Mary Otho Ballard, OP, Coordinator, 502-331-9074, maryochoop@bellsouth.net

Louisiana, Lake Charles

We had our third, annual Centering Prayer Retreat on November 3-5, 2006 with Fr. Justin Langille from San Diego. His topic was "Unmasking the False Self through Compassion." Our group has been meeting over 10 years for a monthly Day of Prayer. We meet at our beautiful, Diocesan facility, St. Charles Center. We also have two evening groups that meet, one led by Leah Picard and another by Midge DeBarge. Another of our monthly group, Charlotte Hine, attended the Formation for Contemplative Outreach Service at St. Louis in July. We are hoping to offer a 7-Day Intensive Retreat sometime in the future. Maybe some of you would like to join us in the deep South, on the Bayou! **Barbara Tomme, Coordinator, 337-855-4239, tommeb@bellsouth.net**

Louisiana, New Orleans

As a phoenix rising (hopefully!) we are slowly coming back together, here in New Orleans. Thirty of us gathered on September 8 and 9 to take part in the newly-refined Welcoming Prayer Workshop with wonderful Mary Dwyer. We have begun to get together for monthly "Afternoons of Prayer," and several groups get together, some every week, some when they can. We eagerly look forward to our first Post-Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat, July 20-27, 2007. For seven years we have hosted long Intensive and Advanced Intensive Retreats (sometimes 10-day, sometimes 8-day), but this summer Fr. William Sheehan will lead us in our first Post Intensive Retreat. It will be held at the Rosaryville in Ponchatoula, Louisiana, about an hour's drive from New Orleans, from July 20 though July 27. We invite you to join us! **Vivien Michals, Coordinator, 504-944-4000, vived2@cox.net**

Michigan (West)

In the summer of 2006, we held a facilitator training event. We began in the fall of 2006 to hold leadership-teams meetings at the location of Centering Prayer groups in our chapter. The visit from a few representatives from several other groups is an encouragement to the group that hosts the event. We pray with them at their usual time and have an hour of meeting around concerns of the chapter groups and plans for the chapter events. Also, in the fall of 2006 Mike Potter, Coordinator in Tennessee, led a retreat on Lectio Divina. The retreat was held on a Friday evening through to the following Saturday afternoon at the Dominican Center in Grand Rapids. **Rev. David Muyskens, Coordinator, 616-452-2234, jdavidmuyskens@cs.com**

Missouri, St. Louis

In July, we experimented with a double-track "Presenter Formation and Gathering for Formation in the Refined Essentials of the Introduction to Centering Prayer" at the Marianist Retreat Center. The Spirit worked in wondrous ways. A total of 29 participants from Alabama, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana and South Dakota, as well as from Missouri, were led by an inspired team from Georgia, Iowa, New York and Texas. It was a time blessed with laughter, sweat and tears—and growth—truly one that will be remembered for years to come. Later, in September, more than 60 local volunteers helped host the Annual Conference, making it a wonderful experience for all who attended. It officially ushered in "A Year of Listening," with immersion in unique, interactive sessions at Contemplative Cafés, offering time to connect with many interesting people from other chapters and countries. What a powerful experience Centering Prayer is with over 500 people in the same room! Both Abbot Joseph Boyle and Fr. Thomas Keating gave riveting presentations at the Saturday Day of Enrichment. We're very grateful for the many comments indicating how much people enjoyed this conference. Thank you for the opportunity to share St. Louis hospitality.
Marsha Hatfield-Baker and Jim McElroy, Co-Coordinators, 314-918-8288, 618-416-1767, hatfield-baker@charter.net and 314-725-7944, jmac150@sbcglobal.net

Contemplative Outreach of New Mexico will be hosting a 9-Day Retreat, July 20-28, 2007. This is a pilot retreat that uses various vestibules into Centering Prayer. Timothy Kooch and Susan Rush will serve as auxiliary staff to Jim Reale who will facilitate this retreat that includes chants he has created using Christian texts and prayerful movement. The "Praying from the Heart~Praying with the Body" retreat will be held in northern New Mexico, in the mountains outside of Santa Fe. It is pre-supposed that those attending have at least five years of Centering Prayer experience. No prayerful movement experience is required. Contact Susan Rush for more information or to register. **Susan Rush, Coordinator, 505-988-8886, susrush@aol.com**

New Mexico, Santa Fe

Our vision for the year 2007 is to encourage servant-leadership in each of our active areas and to faithfully continue to keep personal contact with our existing prayer groups. We are identifying individuals willing to make a Formation Workshop, we hope, sometime in the spring or early fall. Our present leadership, with the help of Ed Horgan, is setting up breakfast meetings to share information and receive individual commitments. We hope to have enough participants to be able to invite qualified conference leaders and trainers from Contemplative Outreach. We discovered personal visitations to prayer groups to be a source of appreciated encouragement. Most of our different prayer groups are 50 to 100 miles from the Glens Falls area. Our visits give a connectedness and also a kind of refreshed consciousness that we do not survive alone in the contemplative life style. We hope to continue these efforts. Because upstate New York is so big, we look for the best way to identify the areas of our ministry. We have prayer groups from Columbia and Albany counties up to St. Lawrence County, which borders on Canada. So, the Adirondack Region includes just about all the areas where Centering Prayer Groups practice in this part of the state. This is why it is important for us to encourage new leadership, because each area has the potential for being a Chapter. We invited our people to attend a Centering Prayer Retreat to close out the year in December at the Dominican Retreat House, Niskayuna, New York. Bruce Gardiner will facilitate a Formation Workshop, May 6-11, at the Dominican Retreat House at Niskayuna. To register see the information below to contact me, Fr. Joseph Byrne, or Ed Horgan at 518-792-0377. **Fr. Joseph Byrne, Coordinator, 581-745-7976, jimbyrne@capital.net**

*New York,
Adirondack Region*

Greetings from everyone in the Long Island/Queens Chapter of Contemplative Outreach. I am happy to report that the spirit is working, for we hosted a faith-filled Intensive Retreat in June at St. Ignatius Retreat House in Manhasset, which is a beautiful facility, conducive to the peace and quiet that allows the Lord to work in us. We had over 30 participants join us and it was wonderful that quite a few were new to Centering Prayer and we were able to share this first-time experience with them. This year we offered the chance for people to attend a beginners Yoga workshop in their free time and it was very successful. It was my first time doing the practice of Yoga and I feel that it went hand-in-hand with Centering. The feedback was very positive. We are preparing for the 20-Year Celebration here on Long Island for the weekend of October 20 - 22. We are very excited about Fr. Keating, Fr. Arico, Gail Fitzpatrick-Hopler and Marie Howard spending a day with the Prayer Group facilitators, and are hosting a dinner that Saturday evening. We are expecting a tremendous turnout the Sunday afternoon of the event at which Fr. Keating will give a talk and there will be a book signing. We are all so blessed by being called to embrace the gift of Centering Prayer!

*New York, Long Island
and Queens*

Barbara Sullivan, Coordinator, 516-481-0472, Sullivn2@adelphi.edu

This past year has been a very exciting one for New York with our primary focus being on sustenance and growth for the chapter, its members, and those seeking the contemplative path. Having just had six participants complete the Formation for Contemplative Outreach Service, we held four Introductory Workshops, Quiet Days in September and Advent, and a Welcoming Prayer Workshop during Lent, presented by Therese Saulnier. We started a "Sacred Silence on Saturdays" series. This year we are offering "Journeying in the Spirit," to be held one Saturday a month and will include opportunities for Eucharist, Centering Prayer, viewing of the *Spiritual Journey* videos, and brunch with fellow practitioners of Centering Prayer. Certainly, the highlight of the year was this past May when we hosted part of the 20th Anniversary Tour at St. Bartholomew's Church. We were visited by Fr. Thomas Keating, Gail Fitzpatrick-Hopler and Fr. Carl Arico. The weekend's events included an Enrichment Day for Leadership, followed by a fundraising dinner on Saturday, Fr. Arico as guest speaker at the parish's Rector's Forum, and "An Afternoon with Fr. Thomas Keating." Both talks on Sunday were open to the public. Special thanks to our Leadership Team, facilitators, and Anne Simpkinson, for her past two years of service and leadership as Co-coordinator. **Rebecca Barnes, Coordinator, 212-222-8109, r_barnes36@hotmail.com**

New York, New York

The year 2006 has been one of many challenges for our Chapter, Contemplative Outreach of Orange County. In early spring, the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, who own St. Andrew's Retreat House, made a decision to sell the property. This, in effect, meant that all the wonderful Contemplative Outreach retreats and programs offered at St. Andrew's for the past 10 years would now be held elsewhere or, in some cases, be discontinued as of January 15, 2007. We made a wonderful connection with Bethany Spirituality Center, Highland Mills, NY, close to Walden, and have already scheduled many retreats at that beautiful facility. We are also exploring other possibilities, and are excited about the new expansion opportunities within our Chapter. Our intention is to hold more Introductory Workshops, Monthly Days of Enrichment, develop new and support ongoing Centering Prayer Groups, and continue empowering our leadership, while deepening our own commitment and faithfulness to the contemplative dimension of the Gospel in everyday life. Another first for us is the Contemplative Wisdom School here on the east coast with Cynthia Bourgeault in the Fall/Winter of 2007/2008. During this grace-filled time of transition for me personally and the ministry, I continue to be grateful for all who continue to give incredible, loving support, and are a constant reminder that because it's all in God's Hands, we can trust that we will always have exactly what we need, even though it may not be what we want. Amen to that! My love and gratitude to all.

New York, Walden

Cathy McCarthy, Coordinator, 845-778-2102, cathymc@frontiernet.net, www.centeringprayer.org

Contemplative Outreach of Westchester (COW) now enjoys the talents of seven, fully trained, commissioned presenters of the method of Centering Prayer. Our proximate goal is to offer the Seven-Session Centering Prayer Program with the revised essentials to all our established Centering Prayer groups as well as accommodating new requests within Westchester County and its immediate neighboring communities. The 2006 September Forgiveness Prayer Workshop to Commemorate 9/11 raised over \$400 for our Prison Outreach program. The Irvington Centering Prayer group collected another \$220 for Prison Outreach, which included a generous donation from the pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Irvington, Father Raymond Byrne. COW volunteers continue to support inmates in their practice of Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina at Sing Sing and the Taconic Correctional Facility. Other fall programs included an October 2006 Graymoor Retreat led by the charming and Spirit-filled Father Bill Sheehan. In November, former COW coordinator Judy Blanchard-Young attracted a gathering for her thanks-giving contemplative program. We were blessed to have actress Rosemary Camas lead our December 9, 2006, Advent Prayer Day, which was preceded by a contemplative mass. Looking ahead to 2007: We are pleased to offer our first Lectio Divina weekend retreat at the Divine Compassion Center in White Plains, New York, May 4-6, 2007, with a Saturday only option (May 5). One-day programs at St. Patrick's Church in Armonk scheduled for 2007 include a Facilitators' Workshop and Recognition January 13; a chapter-wide Visioning Day on February 10; the annual United in Prayer Day on March 17; a spring contemplative program on April 14; and a 12-Step Centering Prayer Program on June 9. We will welcome summer on Sunday, June 24 with a contemplative mass, Potluck Supper, and Open Leadership Team meeting. No programs are scheduled for July and August 2007. We extend a special thanks to our leadership team and to our facilitators for their devoted service. **Stephanie Iachetta, Coordinator, 914-921-3264, stef60@aol.com**

New York, Westchester

CHAPTER UPDATES CONTINUED

Oklahoma, Broken Arrow

Our four-year old granddaughter was very excited to see me when I returned from the St. Meinrad's facilitator training. In her thinking, Grandma was gone way too long. I was napping when Aly rang the doorbell, ran upstairs, and climbed on the bed with me, where we tickled and tumbled together for a while. The beautiful refrain learned during the event at St. Meinrad's still sounded in my heart, when the thought came to me that this could be one of those special "memory-making moments" in her life. So I began singing it to her with everything in me while gently stroking her long brown hair. "Be still and know that I am God." "Be still and know that I am God." Aly settled down, listened with those big brown eyes wide open and on round three piped up: "Oh! Grandma, that's silly! You are not God!"
Barbara Schneeberg, Contact Person, 918-252-2966, MourningGlory@valornet.com

Pennsylvania, Erie

The Welcoming Workshop in New Orleans had been on the calendar since early 2005. In the aftermath of Katrina, I did not expect it to take place, but kept it on my calendar (what is the teaching on expectations: whatever you expect to happen won't!). So when Vivien Michals confirmed their plans to go ahead with it (9/8 and 9/9/06), I was utterly amazed. In the Spirit of humility (what could I share on "letting go" with folks who had been through so much), I ventured down to the Big Easy. The welcome was warm, hospitable and inviting. Folks embraced the Welcoming Prayer and delighted in being together as a CO Community. Each sharing their story... profound, moving, and real. What I was confronted with is the utter devastation to a magnificent city. Whole communities gone, and those that remain bearing the scars. I had followed the news coverage and considered myself relatively well informed, until I saw the depth and breadth of the damage. The hope and resiliency of those New Orleanians who remain is a teaching in itself. I committed to hold them in prayer, and ask the larger CO community to do the same. God is BIG, we are very little, and our sisters and brothers in New Orleans need our support.
Mary Dwyer, Contact Person, 814-838-6469, sycamore@velocity.net

South Dakota, Rapid City

The Oblates had a presentation, "The Hand of God," given by Oblate, Tom Durkin, using photos from the Hubble telescope, which he enriched with quotes from the psalms and other spiritual sources. This was followed by an ice cream social hosted by the Oblates to entertain the Sisters, Oblates and St. Martin staff. It was relished by all, and brought together the Religious members and Oblates. A confrere, Rick Wise, will be leaving to enter the Benedictine Monastery at Atchison, North Dakota. We will miss his presence and his description of the time he spent in Alaska, helping the mushers.
Sr. Marmion Howe, OSB, Resource Person, 605-343-2688, Srmarmion@aol.com

Tennessee, West

Our leadership has undergone a lot of training over the past year and we now feel that we are prepared for significant growth in our area. Our Chapter now has three Commissioned Presenters and five Presenters-in-Training of Centering Prayer, and one Commissioned Presenter and six Presenters-in-Training for Lectio Divina. After attending the Formation for Facilitator Training at St. Meinrad in July, Pat Pavetto, with the help of Rev. Carol Scrivener, presented a Facilitator Training for ten facilitators and other interested persons in Jackson, TN in September and October. We held our first Centering Prayer Weekend Retreat at Our Lady Queen of Peace Spiritual Center in Dancyville, TN in December. An Introduction to Lectio Divina Program is scheduled at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Memphis for February 10, with six weekly follow-up sessions. Also, we have been invited into the Catholic Diocese in Memphis. Finally, our monthly half-day Centering Prayer mini-retreats continue to be popular. This is our fourth year of offering this program and we have been averaging 30 people in attendance over the past few months.
Mike Potter, Coordinator, 901-274-3488, mikep@bellsouth.net

Texas, Corpus Christi

Contemplative Outreach Corpus Christi has two new Co-coordinators as of June, 2006—Olivia Kelly and Debbie Boss. The Corpus Christi Chapter also serves the surrounding areas, including Rockport and Portland. Thanks to the strong base built over the past three years by the outgoing Co-coordinators, the chapter is moving ahead quickly in introducing Centering Prayer to more groups in the community and training new members of the Servant-Leadership Team and Servant-Facilitators. We held Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshops in August, September, and October. The September workshop was an Introduction to Centering Prayer as an 11th Step Practice. The October workshop was presented in a retirement community. A mini-retreat is planned to bring all Centering Prayer groups from Corpus Christi and the surrounding areas together for silent prayer and fellowship. We trust in God's guidance to help us carry out our contemplative service in the community.
Olivia Kelly, Coordinator, 361-949-9773, oliviak@stx.rr.com & Debbie Boss, Coordinator, 361-949-8673, dboss@stx.rr.com

Texas, San Antonio

This year we are celebrating our 5th anniversary as a member of the Contemplative Outreach family. To commemorate the event, representatives from our leadership team have visited each of the small prayer groups in the area and informed them of the many programs our Chapter offers. In August, COSA hosted a 3-Day Retreat, "Centering Prayer as an 11th Step Practice," led by Roberta Oster, Barbara Brown and Myrna Toohey with 41 participants. In October, a facilitator-training workshop was given, and the next day our leadership team engaged in a Chapter visioning process for our next five years of growth and service. Susan Komis led us in these two events. In December we were blessed to have Fr. Thomas Keating, who helped to deepen our meaning of the Advent Season with a beautiful talk.
Timothy Koock, Contact Person, 830-997-9554, woosacks@beecreek.net

Washington, DC

This past July, three members of our CO of Metro Washington DC Chapter joined with 50 other people from around the country to attend the Servant & Facilitator Formation Training in St. Meinrad, Indiana. We had a chance to preview Contemplative Outreach's plans for the future. It was interesting to discover that we are quite an old Chapter by general standards. The group experience was renewing and very useful. Our focus for this year follows the lead of the Annual Conference theme, "A Year of Listening." We have been applying this to our planning, hoping to provide support and programs where needed, rather than doing what we think might be desired. Our primary focus is as always to offer the Introduction to the Practice of Centering Prayer to as many groups and churches as we can. Besides many new Introductory Workshops, a weekend retreat, an Intensive 5-Day Retreat at the Dayspring Silent Retreat Center, we have several other things planned for the year. Our Mid-Atlantic Cluster has set up a Refined Essentials Training weekend for Commissioned Presenters for Memorial-Day Weekend, 2007. We are offering our first-ever Introductory Workshop in Baltimore, Maryland, sometime in early 2007. The Living Flame Program began in October, and a Facilitator Appreciation dinner is planned for February, 2007. **Guy Semmes, Coordinator, 301-983-1857, thesemmes@comcast.net**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY-JUNE 2007

Introduction to Centering Prayer Retreats

A contemporary presentation of the discipline of Centering Prayer as silent communion with God beyond concepts, words and images.

Date	Place	Contact
1/26-1/27	Washington, DC Cathedral College <i>The Rev. Carlyle Gill</i>	Lacey Gude 202-833-3614 Amazonadv@aol.com
1/26-1/28	Cullman, AL Benedictine Retreat Center	Gloria Garrison 256-734-8302
3/4-3/7	Toluca, Mexico	Patricia Sandoval 722-214-8911 oracaocentrante@yahoo.com.br
3/13-3/16	Mexico City, Mexico <i>Judith, P. Genaro M.</i>	Guadalupe Marquez 55-52909742
3/23-3/25	Mexico City, Mexico <i>Work Crew-Mexico City</i>	Hilda Pastelin 55-56450400
4/27-4/29	Mexico City <i>Judith & Julio Amodio</i> YOUNG-ADULT	Karin Serralde 55-56880260
5/7-5/6	Celaya Gto., Mexico <i>Judith & Julio Amodio</i>	Ilena M. Rodriguez 413-158-2785
5/25-5/27	Morelia Mich <i>Alejandra & Rafael Becker</i>	Alejandra Becker 443-3235349
6/22-6/24	Mexico City, Mexico <i>Work Crew-Mexico City</i>	Guadalupe Marquez 55-52909842

Centering Prayer Weekend Retreats

Includes conferences renewing the method of Centering Prayer and a moderate amount of Centering Prayer in common.

Date	Place	Contact
1/5-1/7	Boerne, TX Omega Retreat Center <i>Fr. Carl Arico</i>	Sr. Mary Agnes Zinni 830-816-8470
1/10-1/12	Uithuizen, Netherlands Debora Gemeenteit	Sr. Anje, Sr. Debbie 0595-435600 deboracommuneit@zonnet.nl
1/19-1/21	Chicago, IL Cabrinian Retreat Center <i>Silent</i>	Benita Jasurda 630-725-6011
1/26-1/28	Manchester, NH Joseph House Contemplative Retreat Center	Sr. Mary Anne Laughlin 603-627-9493 SrmaryanneL@aol.com
1/26-1/28	Frenchville, PA Bethany Retreat Center	Nicole Fedder 814-263-4855 bethanyadult@pennswoods.net
1/26-1/28	Hingham, MA Glastonbury Abbey	Fran Riccarelli 781-749-4273 France749@juno.com
2/2-2/4	Rancho Palos Verdes, CA Joseph & Mary Retreat Center <i>Fr. Justin Langille</i>	Sr. Julia 310-377-4867x256
2/2-2/4	Melbourne, KY Moye Spiritual Life Center	Sr. Micki Martin 859-441-0700 x 349
2/16-2/18	Winnipeg, MB Canada St. Benedict's Retreat Center <i>Follow-up</i>	Sr. Catherine Labinowich 204-338-4601 stbens@mts.net
2/16-2/18	Germantown, MD Dayspring Silent Retreat Center <i>The Rev. Thomas Ward</i>	Dana Semmes 301-983-1857 thesemmes@comcast.net
2/23-2/25	Manchester, NH Joseph House Contemplative Retreat Center	Sr. Mary Anne Laughlin 603-627-9493 SrmaryanneL@aol.com
2/25-2/27	Sewanee, TN St. Mary's Sewanee	Carol Wray 615-373-0613 carolwray@aol.com

Centering Prayer Weekend Retreats continued

Date	Place	Contact
3/1-3/4	Ava, MO Assumption Abbey	David & Mary Fromme 417-823-8359 cospr@earthlink.net
3/1-3/4	Dominican Republic Manresa Loyola	Raysa Cabral 809-548-6480; 809-566-5909
3/2-3/3	Rapid City, SD St. Martin Monastery	Sr. Marmion Howe, OSB 605-343-2688 srmarmion@aol.com
3/2-3/4	Colorado Springs, CO Benet Pines Retreat Center	Sr. Therese O'Grady 719-633-0655 stogosb@hotmail.com
3/2-3/4	Rancocas, NJ Francis House of Prayer	Sr. Marcy Springer, SSJ 609-877-0509
3/2-3/4	St. Joseph, MN Spirituality Center, St. Benedict's Monastery	Rita Budig, OSB 320-363-7115
3/2-3/4	Vancouver, BC Canada Rosemary Heights	Anne LaRochelle 604-944-2742 marlan2@telus.net
3/9-3/11	Uithuizen, Netherlands Debora Gemeenteit	Sr. Anje, Sr. Debbie 0595-435600 deboracommuneit@zonnet.nl
3/9-3/11	Temecula, CA Vina de Lestonnac Retreat Ctr <i>Fr. Justin Langille</i>	Lucille 619-226-6000
3/16-3/17	Cedar Falls, IA American Martyrs Retreat House	Tom Kessler 319-277-3106
3/16-3/18	Immaculata, PA Villa Maria Spirituality Center	Sr. Margaret Gradl 616-647-6630 tantemargo@worldnet.att.net
3/16-3/18	Manchester, NH Joseph House Contemplative Retreat Center	Sr. Mary Anne Laughlin 603-627-9493 SrmaryanneL@aol.com
3/23-3/25	St. Louis, MO Marianist Retreat & Conference Center	Annette Stam 314-434-0994
3/30-4/1	Cullman, AL Benedictine Retreat Center	Gloria Garrison 256-734-8302
3/30-4/1	Great Falls, MT Ursuline Center	Doris Boyle 406-788-8185 dboyle@crossroadsolutions.org
4/5-4/8	Burlingame, CA Mercy Center <i>Tridium</i>	Carol Fowler 650-340-7400
4/5-4/8	White Plains, NY Divine Compassion Center <i>Fr. Carl Arico TRIDIUM</i>	Cathy McCarthy 845-778-2102 Cathymc@frontiernet.net
4/13-4/15	Highland Mills, NY Bethany Spirituality Center <i>Sr. Peggy Murphy</i>	Cathy McCarthy 845-778-2102 Cathymc@frontiernet.net
4/27-4/29	Manchester, NH Joseph House Contemplative Retreat Center	Sr. Mary Anne Laughlin 603-627-9493 SrmaryanneL@aol.com
5/3-5/6	Lake Dallas, TX Monserrat Jesuit Retreat House	Sandy Guancial 972-722-6029 CODallas@cellofpeace.com
5/4-5/6	Cincinnati, OH Mount St. Joseph Mother House	Sr. M. Michele Fischer 513-347-5217 x 5307
5/4-5/6	Honolulu, HI	Cathie Jordan 808-536-6090 cohi@lava.net
5/4-5/6	Winnipeg, MB Canada St. Benedict's Retreat Center	Sr. Catherine Labinowich 204-338-4601 stbens@mts.net
5/7-5/9	Canton, NC Lake Logan Episcopal Ctr. <i>Becky Hannah & Rev. Rob Fields</i>	Becky Hannah 828-667-2799 beckyhannah@charter.net

Centering Prayer Retreats continued

Date	Place	Contact
5/11-5/13	Maria Stein, OH Maria Stein Spirituality Center 4-Day	Anita Donnan 419-525-3243 AnitaDonnan@aol.com
5/18-20	Hot Spring, NC Southern Dharma Retreat Center <i>Vernon & Mary Joyce Dixon</i>	Fred Solomon 828-622-7112 southernndharma@earthlink.net
5/18-5/20	Rapid City, SD St. Martin Monastery	Sr. Marmion Howe, OSB 605-343-2688 srmarmion@aol.com
5/18-5/20	Manchester, NH Joseph House Contemplative Retreat Center	Sr. Mary Anne Laughlin 603-627-9493 SrmaryanneL@aol.com
5/25-5/27	Martinsburg, WV Priestfield Pastoral Center <i>Revised Essentials Training</i>	Henry Burke 804-288-9494 henryburke@verizon.net
6/8-6/10	Melbourne, KY Moye Spiritual Life Center	Sr. Micki Martin 859-441-0700x349 mickimartin76@hotmail.com
6/12-6/15	Barahona, Dominican Republic MonteSacro	Raysa Cabral 809-548-6480 809-566-5909
6/22-6/24	Manchester, NH Joseph House Contemplative Retreat Center	Sr. Mary Anne Laughlin 603-627-9493 SrmaryanneL@aol.com
6/20-6/24	Frenchville, PA Bethany Retreat Center	Nicole Fedder 814-236-4855 bethanyadult@pennswoods.net
6/24-6/28	Frenchville, PA Bethany Retreat Center 4-Day Post	Nicole Fedder 814-236-4855 bethanyadult@pennswoods.net
7/22-7/24	Manhasset, NY St. Ignatius Retreat House	Barbara Sullivan 516-481-0472 Sullivan2@adelphia.edu

Centering Prayer as the 11th Step Weekend Retreat

"Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out." Step 11 of the 12 Step Programs

3/16-3/18	Sinsinawa, WI Sinsinawa Retreat Center	Shelby Harrison 608-274-3991 Shelbyharrison@sbcglobal.net
54-5/6	Phoenix, AZ	Dave Dierig 520-316-6360 ddierig@cox.net
5/25-5/27	Conyers, GA Monastery of the Holy Spirit	Roberta Oster 404-299-2670 robertaoster@bellsouth.net

Welcoming Prayer Weekend Retreat

A spiritual practice of "letting go" of feelings, emotions, thoughts and body sensations into the present moment during the ordinary routines of daily life as a way of healing the woundedness of the human condition and deepening our relationship with God. Prior Centering Prayer experience necessary.

2/16-2/18	Encino, CA HSRC <i>Cherry Haisten</i>	Sr. Linda Snow 818-784-4515 srlinda@adelphia.net
3/30-4/1	Highland Mills, NY Bethany Spirituality Center	Cathy McCarthy 845-778-2102 Cathymc@frontiernet.net
6/2-6/6	Union, WA St. Andrew's Retreat House	Cherry Haisten 206-328-6484 chaisien@comcast.net

Lectio Divina Weekend Retreats

Conferences and practice of one of the most traditional ways of cultivating a friendship with Christ.

2/21-2/23	Uithuizen, Netherlands Debora Gemeenteit	Sr. Anje, Sr. Debbie 0595-435600 deboracommuniteit@zonnet.nl
5/10-5/13	Baharona, Dominican Republic Monte Sacro	Raysa Cabral 809-548-6480 809-566-5909

Check the website for Additions or Changes

www.contemplativeoutreach.org

Intensive Centering Prayer Retreats - 5 to 8 days

Provides an opportunity to immerse participants in the practice of Centering Prayer as taught by Contemplative Outreach. The 10-Day features Parts I, II, & III of the *Spiritual Journey* video series by Fr. Thomas Keating. May be modified from 5 to 8 days.

Date	Place	Contact
1/22-1/26 5 Day	Belton, TX Cedarbrake Renewal Ctr.	Lisa Genung 512-347-9673
1/31-2/3 5 Day	Rapid City, SD St. Martin Monastery	Sr. Marmion Howe 605-343-2688 srmarmion@aol.com
3/6-3/10 5 Day	Belton, TX Cedarbrake Renewal Ctr.	Lisa Genung 512-347-9673
5/14-5/19 5 Day	Mexico City, Mexico	Patricia Sandoval 722-214-8911
2/16-2/21 6 Day	Highland Mills, NY Bethany Spirituality Ctr. <i>Anne Mazza</i>	Cathy McCarthy 845-778-2102 Cathymc@frontiernet.net
3/10-3/17 6 Day	Belton, TX Cedarbrake Renewal Ctr.	Lisa Genung 512-347-9673
6/26-7/3 7 Day	Immaculata, PA Villa Maria Spirituality Ctr. <i>Fr. Bill Sheehan</i>	Sr. Margaret Gradl 616-647-6630 tantemargo@worldnet.att.net
1/7-1/14 8 Day	Sewanee, TN St. Mary's Sewanee	Carol Wray 615-373-0613 carolwray@aol.com
1/31-2/8 8 Day	Antigonish, NS Canada Bethany Retreat Ctr. <i>Fr. Bill Sheehan</i>	Sr. Simone Roach 902-863-4726
3/16-3/23 8 Day	Frenchville, PA Bethany Retreat Ctr.	Nicole Fedder 814-236-4855 bethanyadult@pennswoods.net
4/11-4/18 8 Day	Lafayette, OR Our Lady of Guadalupe, Trappist Abbey	Norman Carlson 541-754-9945 ndcarlson@msn.com
4/23-5/2 8 Day	Kumasi, Ghana Center of Spiritual Renewal	Sr. Therese Jacobs 051-29707 jacobsvm@aol.com
5/12-5/19 8 Day	Harvey Cedars, NJ Maris Stella Retreat House <i>Fr. Carl Arico</i>	Therese Saulnier 201-436-8256 lectio844@hotmail.com
5/30-6/6 8 Day	Owensboro, KY Mount St. Joseph Retreat Center	Kathy McCarty 270-229-0200x413 kmccarty@maplemount.org
6/4-6/11 8 Day	Sewanee, TN St. Mary's Sewanee	Carol Wray 615-373-0613 carolwray@aol.com
6/16-6/22 8 Day	Ferdinand, IN Kordes Retreat Center	Vanessa Hurst 812-367-2777
6/17-6/24 8 Day	Stoneville, NC St. Francis Springs Prayer Center	Joan Hurst 336-418-0028 jrh9540@earthlink.net
6/24-7/1 8 Day	Cedar Falls, IA American Martyrs Retreat House	Tom Kessler 319-277-3106
7/5-7/12 8 Day	St. Louis, MO Marianist Retreat & Conference Center	Annette Stamm 314-434-0994

10-Day Intensive Centering Prayer Retreats

1/9-1/18 10 Day	Snowmass, CO St. Benedict's Monastery Waiting List Only	COC Office 970-927-9376 coc@sopris.net
3/6-3/15 10 Day	Belton, TX Cedarbrake Renewal Ctr.	Lisa Genung 512-347-9673
5/15-5/24 10 Day	Snowmass, CO St. Benedict's Monastery Waiting List Only	COC Office 970-927-9376 coc@sopris.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY - JUNE 2007

10-Day Centering Prayer Retreats continued

Date	Place	Contact
5/20-5/29 10 Day	Burlingame, CA Mercy Center <i>Lorita Moffatt, RSM</i> & <i>Suzanne Toolan, RSM</i>	Staff 650-340-7400
5/20-5/29 10 Day	Miami, FL St. John Cianney Seminary	Basha Perez 407-869-0781
6/5-6/14 10 Day	Belton, TX Cedarbrake Renewal Ctr.	Lisa Genung 512-347-9673
6/19-6/28 10 Day	Snowmass, CO St. Benedict's Monastery Waiting List Only	COC Staff 970-927-9376 <i>coc@sopris.net</i>

Post Intensive Centering Prayer Retreats

Provides an opportunity for intensive Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina, solitude and silence in community. Prior Centering Prayer Retreat experience necessary. May be 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 days.

2/16-2/21 6 Day	Highland Mills, NY Bethany Spirituality Center Anne Mazza	Cathy McCarthy 845-778-2102 <i>Cathymc@frontiernet.net</i>
6/16-6/22 7 Day	Ferdinand, IN Kordes Retreat Center	Vanessa Hurst 812-367-2777
9/8-9/14 7 Day	Mt. Vernon, WA Camp Brotherhood	Anita Boyd <i>avboyd@telus.net</i>
1/7-1/14 8 Day	Sewanee, TN St. Mary's Sewanee	Carol Wray 615-373-0613 <i>carolwray@aol.com</i>
5/30-6/6 8 Day	Owensboro, KY Mount St. Joseph Retreat Center	Kathy McCarty 270-229-0200x413 <i>kmccarty@maplemount.org</i>
6/4-6/11 8 Day	Sewanee, TN St. Mary's Sewanee	Carol Wray 615-373-0613 <i>carolwray@aol.com</i>
6/24-7/1 8 Day	Cedar Falls, IA American Martyrs Retreat House	Tom Kessler 319-277-3106
6/24-7/1 8 Day	Encino, CA HSRC	Sr. Linda Snow 818-784-4515 <i>srlinda@adelphia.net</i>
7/5-7/12 8 Day	St. Louis, MO Marianist Retreat & Conference Center	Annette Stamm 314-434-0994

10-Day Post-Intensive Centering Prayer Retreats

3/5-3/14 10 Day	Snowmass, CO St. Benedict's Monastery Waiting List Only	COC Office 970-927-9376 <i>coc@sopris.net</i>
4/17-4/26 10 Day	Snowmass, CO St. Benedict's Monastery Waiting List Only	COC Office 970-927-9376 <i>coc@sopris.net</i>
5/20-5/29 10 Day	Miami, FL St. John Cianney Seminary	Basha Perez 407-869-0781
6/5-6/14 10 Day	Belton, TX Cedarbrake Renewal Ctr.	Lisa Genung 512-347-9673

Advanced Centering Prayer Retreats

Provides an opportunity to deepen the practice of Centering Prayer in an atmosphere of silence and community support. The Advanced Intensive usually features *Part IV of The Spiritual Journey* videotape series by Fr. Thomas Keating. Prior Centering Prayer Retreat experience required.

2/6-2/15 10 Day	Snowmass, CO St. Benedict's Monastery Waiting List Only	COC Office 970-927-9376 <i>coc@sopris.net</i>
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A Return to Lama: Pat Johnson and friends are doing a benefit for the Lama Foundation, July 10-19. Ten years ago fires swept across New Mexico and almost all of the buildings were burned to the ground. This benefit is for the purpose of rebuilding the Flag Mountain building, so they once again have a place for their cottage industry. Contact Pat Johnson for information at 970-963-1258. This will also be a Post-Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat.

Formation for Contemplative Outreach Service

Training and practice in communicating the essential elements of an Introductory Workshop on Centering Prayer, and an opportunity to look at our own Centering Prayer practice in light of the Essentials. Prerequisites: prior attendance of 10 Day Intensive and daily practice of Centering Prayer. Includes Centering Prayer and presentations.

Date	Place	Contact
2/3-2/9	Encino, CA HSRC Bonnie Shimizu	Sr. Linda Snow 818-784-4515 <i>srlinda@adelphia.net</i>
2/8-2/13	Mexico City, Mexico <i>Sr. Meg Funk</i>	Judith Bernal 55-21676728
6/4-6/9	Mexico City, Mexico <i>Coord. & Work Crew</i>	Patricia Sandoval 722-214-8911
6/11-6/17	Twin Falls, ID Ascension Monastery	Br. Selby Coffman 208-324-2377x125 <i>selby@idahomonks.org</i>
6/22-6/29	White Plains, NY Divine Compassion Center CO Staff	Cathy McCarthy 845-778-2102 <i>Cathymc@frontiernet.net</i>
7/11-7/17	Austin, TX Cedarbrake Renewal Ctr.	Myrna Toohey 830-981-4151 <i>mjt@sat.rr.com</i>

Nine Month Courses: The Contemplative Living and Part II, A Deepening of Contemplative Living

An ongoing process of formation enabling participants to create their own unique contemplative lifestyle in the contemporary world. Commitment is one weekend a month for nine months. Prayer, contemplative living and the integration of contemplation and activity are cultivated; the process is aided by the development of relational prayer through contemplative prayer practices. For information contact:

Walden, NY Cathy McCarthy, 845-778-2102, *cathymc@frontiernet.net*
Denver, CO Rose Meyler, 303-863-0932

Parish Missions/Retreats by Fr. Carl Arico

Contact: C. O. International Resource Center (973) 838-3384

Date	Place	Event
1/5-1/7	Boerne, TX Omega Center	Weekend Retreat: Visit with Superstars
1/8-1/9	Austin, TX Church of Conscious Harmony	Lectio Divina: Evenings of Prayer
1/13	West Islip, NY Our Lady of Lourdes	Four Superstars of Our Tradition
2/3	Elizabeth, NJ St. Walburga	New Jersey Enrichment Day
2/17-2/21	Chicago, IL St. Benedict's	Parish Mission
2/24-2/27	Pittsburgh, PA St. Margaret of Scotland	Parish Mission
3/3-3/7	Toledo, OH 5 Parish Venue	Parish Mission
3/17-3/20	Penn Hills, PA St. Susanna	Parish Mission
3/24-3/28	Richardson, TX St. Joseph's	Parish Mission
4/4-4/8	Orange County, NY	Holy Week
4/21-4/22	Seattle, WA	20th Anniversary Tour - Fundraiser
5/12-5/19	Harvey Cedars, NJ	Intensive Retreat (8-Day)
6/10-6/16	Pittsburgh, PA Sister of the Holy Family	Human Condition and Prayer

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Contemplative Outreach Vision Statement

Contemplative Outreach is a spiritual network of individuals and small faith communities committed to living the contemplative dimension of the Gospel in everyday life through the practice of Centering Prayer. The contemplative dimension of the Gospel manifests itself in an ever-deepening union with the living Christ and the practical caring for others that flows from that relationship.

Our purpose is to share the method of Centering Prayer and its immediate conceptual background. We also encourage the practice of Lectio Divina, particularly its movement into Contemplative Prayer, which a regular and established practice of Centering Prayer facilitates.

We identify with the Christian Contemplative Heritage. While we are formed by our respective denominations, we are united in our common search for God and the experience of the living Christ through Centering Prayer. We affirm our solidarity with the contemplative dimension of other religions and sacred traditions, with the needs and rights of the whole human family, and with all creation.

Networking, resources, & workshop presenters are available at the Contemplative Outreach International Resource Center

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