Contemplative Outreach News

Volume 12, Number 2 • Winter 1998

THE CLASSICAL MONASTIC PRACTICE OF LECTIO DIVINA

Thomas Keating, OCSO

he classical practice of Lectio Divina—the prayerful reading of the Bible, the book Christians believe to be divinely inspired—is being rediscovered and renewed in our time. At the same time a number of ways of practicing it have sprung up leading to a certain confusion regarding its relationship to the distinct practice of Centering Prayer. A few distinctions may be helpful.

First of all, we need to distinguish Lectio Divina from Bible study, which is very useful at another time and provides a solid conceptual background for the practice of Lectio Divina.

Secondly, Lectio Divina is not the same as reading the scriptures for the purpose of private edification, encouragement, or getting acquainted with the many-sided aspects of revelation, and especially with Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word of God. Lectio Divina is rather a way or formula for furthering these objectives.

Thirdly, Lectio Divina is not the same as spiritual reading, which moves beyond the exclusive reading of sacred scripture to include other spiritual books such as the lives and writings of the saints.

Finally, Lectio Divina is not the same as praying the scriptures in common, a contemporary development that is sometimes identified with Lectio Divina. The classical practice of Lectio Divina was done in private and consisted in following the movement of the Holy Spirit in regard to the time one might devote to each step of the process, as well as passing from one step to another during the same period of prayer. Following a particular structure, such as is required in all forms of common prayer, tends to limit spontaneity to the movement of the Holy Spirit, which is the heart of the practice.

Praying the scriptures in common might well be regarded as a kind of "Liturgy of Lectio Divina" or even better, as a kind of shared "Liturgy of the Word." With some variations, it usually goes like this. A passage is read out loud three or four times followed by two or three minutes of silence. After each reading the participants apply themselves inwardly to the text in specified ways. After the first reading, they become aware of a word or phrase. After the second they reflect about the meaning or significance of the text. After the third reading, they respond in spontaneous prayer. After the fourth reading, they simply rest in God's presence and after a period of silence, those who wish are invited to do a brief faith sharing on the text. In some cases there is a brief sharing after the third or fourth reading and period of silence. Praying the scriptures in common during weekly Centering Prayer meetings or at a separate time has proved to be a valuable experience and an occasion of bonding the members together in faith and love.

The classical practice of Lectio Divina can be divided into two forms: the monastic and the scholastic. The scholastic form divides the process into stages or steps in a hierarchical pattern. Following the reading of a passage of scripture, the first step was to allow a phrase or word to arise out of the text and to focus on it. This was called *lectio*. The second was the reflective part, pondering upon the words of the sacred text, and was called *meditatio* "meditation." The spontaneous movement of the will in response to these reflections was called *oratio*, "affective prayer." And as these reflections and acts of will simplified, one moved from time to time to a state of resting in the presence of God, and that was called *contemplatio* "contemplation." This way of doing Lectio Divina developed in the Middle Ages at the beginning of the scholastic period with its tendency to compartmentalize the spiritual life and to rely on rational analysis in theology to the virtual exclusion of personal experience.

The monastic form of Lectio Divina is a more ancient method and was practiced by the Mothers and Fathers of the Desert and later in monasteries both East and West. It is oriented more toward contemplative prayer than the scholastic form, especially when the latter developed into what we call today discursive meditation, conceived as moving from one thought to another or as one stage in a series of steps. That method is a good way of praying provided you don't get stuck there and fail to move on to contemplative prayer. One of the purposes of the method of Centering Prayer is to help people to detach themselves from the exclusive use of discursive meditation, which became the predominant method of prayer in recent centuries, even in cloisters. Most Christians are trained to reflect and to multiply particular acts of the will in order to go to God and find it hard to imagine praying without following this procedure. Since praying the scriptures in common involves discursive meditation, it is normally more appropriate to have such a "Liturgy of the Word" after a Centering Prayer period rather than before. Above all, the two practices should not be combined because each has its own integrity and uniqueness.

In the monastic way of doing Lectio Divina we listen to how God is addressing us in a particular text of scripture. From this perspective there are no stages, ladders or steps in Lectio Divina, but rather there are four moments along the circumference of a circle. All the moments of the circle are joined to each other in a horizontal and interrelated pattern as well as to the center, which is the Spirit of God speaking to us through the text and in our hearts. To pay attention to any one of the four

continued next page

¹ Cf. "The Four Senses of Scripture" by Bruno Barnhardt, tapes 1-4 from the Lectio Divina Institute Series available through Contemplative Outreach, Ltd., POB 737, Butler, NJ 07405.

The Classical Monastic Practice of Lectio Divina

Continued from Page One

"moments" is to be in direct relationship to all the others. In this perspective, one may begin one's prayer at any "moment" along the circle, as well as moving easily from one "moment" to another, according to the inspiration of the Spirit.

Paul writes, "Know you not that your bodies are the temples of God and that the Spirit of God dwells within you?" (1 Cor.3:16). Suppose you were struck by that question as you are reading a section of your scripture reading for the day—say a dozen or so verses—and you felt nudged to let your attention linger over those words to savor them. The early monks read scripture aloud so they were actually listening to it. They would then choose a phrase—or a sentence at the most—that impressed them. They would sit with that sentence or phrase without thinking of stages or following some predetermined schema, but just listening, repeating slowly the same short text over and over again. This receptive disposition enabled the Holy Spirit to expand their capacity to listen. As they listened, they might perceive a new depth to the text or an expanding meaning. A particular insight might also be singularly appropriate for them in their particular life situation or for the events of the coming day. According to scripture, the Spirit speaks to us every day. "If today you hear his voice, harden not your heart" (Psalm 95). The monks listened not so much to understand the text-not to conceptualize or analyze it—but just to hear it. And to hear it without any preconceived purpose of what they were going to do with it.

This is already a deep form of receptivity. Those who practice Lectio Divina in this way are already moving toward the fourth "moment" of this dynamic process leading to resting in God. In response to a new insight, they might be inclined to respond in thanksgiving or with interior movements of love, praise or gratitude. As this listening attitude stabilizes, they might experience moments of contemplative prayer in the strict sense, in which they are just present to God, or quietly engulfed in the divine presence. In this situation, one's attentiveness to God expands into the sheer awareness of the divine presence. For the moment, we break through the veil of our own ways of thinking. The external word of God in scripture awakens us to the interior Word of God in our inmost being. When that awareness dissipates, we may go back and read more of the text, provided of course, if we have the time.

This monastic way of doing Lectio Divina always begins with prayer to the Holy Spirit. The four moments along the circumference of the circle are reading in the presence of God, reflecting in the sense of ruminating (not in the sense of discursive meditation), responding with spontaneous prayer, and resting in God beyond thoughts and particular acts of the will.

By "ruminating" I mean sitting with a sentence, phrase or even one word that emerges from the text, allowing the Spirit to expand our listening capacity and to open us to its deeper meaning; in other words, to penetrate the spiritual sense of a scripture passage. This leads to the faith experience of the living Christ and increases the practical love for others that flows from that relationship.

As we repeat the phrase or sentence slowly, over and over, a deeper insight may arise. For example, take the words of Jesus, "I will not call you servants but friends." All of a sudden, it might dawn on us what it means to be a friend of Christ. Our awareness expands without our having done anything but allow the Spirit to act. It is a heart-to-heart exchange with Christ. We think the text but we do not think about the text. If we are thinking in the sense of reflecting, we are dominating the conversation. That can be done fruitfully some other time. Here it is a question of receiving and resting in Christ's presence as the source of the word or phrase.

Lectio Divina is a special kind of process, and to benefit fully from its fruits, its integrity has to be respected. The ripe fruit of the regular practice of Lectio Divina is assimilating the word of God and being assimilated by it. It is a movement from conversation to communion. It also enables us to express our deep spiritual experience of union with God in words or symbols that are appropriate. There is thus a movement not only into silence, but from silence to expression.

In the Trinity, the Eternal Word is always emerging from the infinite silence of the Father and always returning. The persons in the Trinity live in each other rather than in themselves. The Father knows himself only in the Son, the Son only in the Father and the Spirit expresses their unity, bringing together into One relationships that are infinitely distinct. The Trinity is the basis for the oneness and diversity that we see expressed throughout creation. In this way of doing Lectio, one is recognizing the presence of the Word of God in all creation and in every occurrence. experiencing what the author of John's gospel wrote in the prologue, "Without Him was made nothing that has been made." In contemplative prayer, we are in touch with the source of all creation; hence, we transcend ourselves and our limited worldviews. As a result, we feel at one with other people and enjoy a sense of belonging to the universe. The fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily in Jesus, according to Paul. The Divinity begins to dwell in us bodily in proportion to our capacity to receive it as we grow in union with the Eternal Word. This process needs to be nourished both by the interior silence of contemplative prayer and cultivated by Lectio Divina (in the sense of listening). The awareness of the divine presence will also begin to overflow into ordinary activity.

The scholastic method is a good way to learn Lectio Divina whether privately or in a group, but at a certain point when people have gotten the idea, we should carefully explain the monastic method which is oriented from the start toward resting in God by establishing us in a listening attitude. The dynamic interaction between those four "moments" of Lectio—reading, reflecting in the sense of ruminating on a particular word or phrase, responding in prayer, and resting in God—puts us more and more at the disposal of the Holy Spirit.











Letter from the Executive Director

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Dear Friends of Contemplative Outreach, Ltd.,

As this newsletter is going to press, we are busy preparing for our First Annual Meeting of the expanded voting membership. I am happy to report that we expect 80 people to attend and we are really looking forward to this landmark event.

CONTEMPLATIVE OUTREACH UNITED IN PRAYER DAY is scheduled for Saturday, March 20, 1999. Please join us as we reach out across the globe in a silent network of prayer. You will find more information in the article below.

We have a brand new audio album (6 tapes) featuring Fr. Thomas Keating entitled: The Gift of Contemplation and the Spiritual Journey! These tapes, recorded during conferences in Houston in 1998, represent a deeper, more comprehensive inquiry into an understanding of the gift of contemplation. The excellent content sheds light on insights and challenges that face us as we progress on the spiritual journey. To order this album, use the Order Form on page 10.

We generally hold four Board of Trustees meetings a year in different parts of the country. The Center for Contemplative Living in Denver, Co. will host our December 4-6, 1998 and June 18-20, 1999 meetings. Our February 26-28, 1999 meeting will be held at St. Walburga's Monastery in New Jersey. The next Annual Meeting will be held at Mercy Center in Burlingame, California, Sept. 30—Oct. 3, 1999.

This newsletter costs us approximately \$15,000 per mailing, and we are grateful for your willingness to support our efforts with your contributions of \$4,800. The enclosed envelope may be used for any contribution you wish to make towards these costs.

As always, we welcome your support and prayers as we continue the adventure of the Spiritual Journey.

Many blessings,

Sail to patrick Hapler

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Gail Fitzpatrick-Hopler Executive Director

Bits and Pieces

HEART OF THE WORLD

Ilse Reissner

That was the theme of the John Main Seminar 1998 held in San Francisco on August 6th. Those of us who have heard and watched Thomas Keating before were amazed to watch him going on and on and on with so much energy and enthusiasm! When we mentioned it to him, his comment was "it wasn't my energy — I got it from the audience and, of course, the Holy Spirit." But there was something else that struck me — it reminded me of my visit to Medugorje many years ago, where I didn't see the sun dance, but I witnessed what was in my eyes the biggest miracle of all — people from all over the world joined together to pray the Rosary in different languages and to attend Mass officiated by many priests from all over the world — all this in the heart of what was then still a Communist country. There was something significant about this Conference —people from all over the world united in prayer! We were the heart of the world!

REFLECTIONS FROM AN INTENSIVE RETREAT

Liliane Gagnon & Sue Allen

"We are 30 strangers- embarking on a remarkable spiritual journey.

We all look so ordinary."

"I am inundated with the quiet beauty of this place while I'm resting in the Lord. It's all-embracing serenity."

"A Contemplative Mass' is a joy-filled experience. In silence and prayer the group bonds together in a very special way."

"My room is a womb-like dwelling.

The silence resounds with my heart beat."

Intensive Day of Prayer Saturday, March 20, 1999

Mark your calendars and plan to participate in our Annual Contemplative Outreach United in Prayer Day on Saturday, March 20, 1999. We have a brand new videotape featuring Fr. Thomas speaking on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

This day is one way of inviting the entire Contemplative Outreach Network to unite in a silent bond of praise across the globe. We have prepared a format for the Intensive Day; the videotape of Fr. Thomas' conference will serve as the centerpiece to make this a special event. Last year we had 170 areas participate, twice as many as the previous year. Plan to join us!

If you wish to host the day in your local area, Centering Prayer Group or with a few interested friends, simply order your tape and format. Please fill in the form below and we will send you the package in plenty of time to prepare for the event. The special price is \$19.95 plus \$4.00 for postage and handling. The tape is also available in PAL format for foreign countries. Shipping will be slightly higher for foreign mail.

Mail the coupon below to the International Office, POB 737, Butler, NJ 07405.

Yes, I want to host the Contemplative Outreach United in Prayer Day
The state of the s
Name
Address:
Zix Telephone:
Enclosed is \$to cover the cost of the videotape,
shipping and handling.

About Contemplative Outreach's Pat Johnson

Excerpt from Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center Journal, Winter 1997

at met Bob in Irwin, Pennsylvania when they were teenagers. Forty-plus years of marriage, nine children and many geographical and spiritual moves later, she is still seriously in love. To see this type of commitment is not only refreshing, but also causes us to experience a respite from our weary routine and take a little sip of hope.

Love, faithfulness, commitment — these are the principles that Pat tries to live by, but in 1982 this commitment was still tempered by a search for meaning. "In 1982 I had been out of the Church for 17 years even though I had been born and raised a Catholic. In 1965 something was missing. There was an internal longing that wasn't being nourished." That was the year Pat and Bob moved from Seattle, their home of 20 years, to work at the Lama Foundation in New Mexico.

"The objective of Lama Foundation was to give people a time out to develop their spiritual path and be exposed to other spiritual paths and then take what you've learned to the world. It was ecumenical; there were no gurus or teachers. There would be a Rabbi, a Buddhist, a Christian, a Sufi, A Native American; you name it." Then in 1983 Thomas Keating came to Lama to give a two week retreat; and Pat realized that he was saying exactly what she had to leave the Church to find out. "For 17 years I had been going inward," she said.

Pat asked to be the Lama liaison for the next retreat with Thomas Keating. That was in 1983. In October of 1984 she left Lama with her husband Bob and children Jenifer; Sarah and Matt (her children that remained at home) and went to work for Contemplative Outreach, an organization founded by Trappist priest and monk Thomas Keating to help people form a deeper relationship with Christ through Centering prayer.

"I administrate all the retreats, the correspondence and registration. Everything that supports the retreat." Two weeks a month Pat takes care of the office end of things and the other two weeks she is on retreat — cooking, leading periods of Centering Prayer and helping with spiritual direction (what she calls the walks and talks of spiritual friending).

Pat takes her daughter Sarah to most retreats. Sarah had spinal meningitis when she was only a year old; as a consequence she is handicapped due to a massive brain injury caused by the fever. Pat says that Sarah has been her biggest teacher.

"What she teaches is total love; she is always in the present moment. When I watch her look at a person I know that she never sees personality, she always sees core. We're unable to do that. We respond to the personality—she responds to the core, which is always goodness. It is such a learning when that's right in your face all the time."

From the east coast to the west coast to the desert southwest, Pat now lives and works with Sarah and Bob high in the mountains of Colorado. She isn't shy about telling you that she turned sixty this year, but I will tell you that her energy and optimism dwarf those of a much younger person. Cross-country skiing is her main recreational hobby; she took it up when she was fifty. She says they've had so much snow, the skiing has been incredible.

Thank you, Pat and Sarah, for the love and generosity you shower on us!!!

Updates

Alta, ID

A recent retreatant from Philadelphia, who facilitates inner city conflict meditation, just couldn't get enough of the awesome serenity and simplicity offered beneath the Grand Tetons of Wyoming! A woman from the busy offices of Chicago delighted in her private room and the small size of our retreats. She asked that we "never expand." Yes, Alta is a small operation and we hold a space for those who wish to enter deeply into the Silence. In our tradition, all are welcome and find life and breath in our monthly intensives. Be sure to consider Alta when booking your next year's retreat. (307) 353-8100

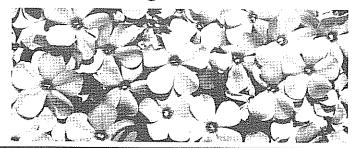
Walden, NY (St. Andrew's Retreat House)

St. Andrew's is in its third year, and following the Chrysalis House model, adds something new to each year's schedule—a 5 day Workshop "Theology for Contemplative Living" designed to reflect in faith on some of the essential foundations of our Christian lives, Oct. 21-25, 1998 and March 24-28, 1999; a 7 day Intensive Retreat and 7 day Post Intensive Retreat Feb. 16-22, 1999; the Formation for Contemplative Outreach Service August 20-27, 1999 and each August thereafter. The Nine Month Course: The Practice of Contemplative Living is now in its tenth year (the third at Walden). Our Contemplative Living Communities now number four and we are having our first Retreat the weekend of December 18-20.

Our Contemplative Day of Prayer in Ramsey with Fr. Thomas will not be in the Spring, but the Fall of 1999. Heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all of you who continue supporting our Retreats and programs. Cathy McCarthy (914) 778-2102, or email to: cathymc@frontiernet.net.

Washington, DC

June 23-28 at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY, Contemplative Outreach of Metropolitan Washington (COMW) sponsored a 5-Day Intensive. Thirty people from across the country, ranging in age from 18 to 68, attended the retreat. They were lay people and clergy, Catholic and Protestant, and several from religious orders. It was led by Eugene Sutton and Janet Aldrich of COMW staff. In the Spring of 1999, COMW will have a Service Formation Retreat. Date to be announced. COMW Sponsors retreats, Introductory Workshops, and leadership training events. A list of them is available on the new COMW home page on the World Wide Web at http://www.mindspring.com/~comw/home.htm. For more information, call the COMW office, (202) 255-2367 or email:comw@erols.com



The Question Corner

How does the Sacred Word facilitate letting go? (Excerpted from a paper for a Formation group in NYC — by Lyla Yastion)

What seems bothersome in the practice of Centering Prayer is the sometimes constant, bombardment of thoughts. The aggravation arises from a misunderstanding of the way the mind works. There is a paradoxical simultaneity in the mind of a natural movement of the being towards stillness, as towards its home, and a constant production of and absorption in thoughts. There are, as Fr. Thomas describes it, two levels of mind: the more superficial, ordinary level of consciousness where these streams of thought with their 'boats and debris' tend to occupy our attention rather like a movie screen of images calling for our attention — and a deeper level of consciousness which also calls us in a more essential way. But that inner 'voice' can be obscured by the busy-ness and seeming significance of the more superficial voices which can appear as banal wanderings of the imagination or more trenchant thoughts which claim our attention through the emotional charge which they ignite — rather like the Sirens that beckon Odysseus to sleep and certain death. It is important to understand these two levels of consciousness so that we learn all that is necessary in the moment of awareness of this dichotomy is a conscious choosing or preference for the deeper level of stillness. A gentle return to the sacred word at that point facilitates remembrance of what is truly significant and brings the mind and heart back to renew the initial consent. In regards to this ongoing process during the practice period Fr.: Thomas gives some pithy reminders: 'Do not oppose violence with violence' and 'this does not demand effort but surrender.

In other words what is suggested is that we just pay no attention to the extraneous thoughts, regardless of their seeming potency; if they are starved of attention they have to recede. Instead of being captured by them, he advises that we attend gently to the Sacred Word until silence is reconnected to. It is rather like a problem with the electricity where the line of connection is routinely short-circuited. We need a simple way to reconnect the wires. In my own practice, it is when I become more interested in the nurturing of an intimacy with God and therefore with my own true Self that it doesn't matter what kind or how many thoughts swirl in the mind. If the consent is there, and renewed as needed by the Sacred Word, then the letting go process takes care of itself.

Meditation in Folsom

By Inmates of Folsom State Prison, Contemplative Fellowship

n the suburbs of Sacramento, California, there's a small town aptly named Represa. It has its own post office and a small housing community. In the back yard of several homes stands a thirty-foot granite wall. Behind this wall are housed approximately 4,000 people. The place is Folsom State Prison.

Three years ago, something very unusual started to happen behind that wall. With the help of an outside sponsor and the Contemplative Outreach Fellowship, the inmates in Folsom State Prison started a group of their own. The Contemplative Fellowship came into being inside the walls.

We were a small group to begin with, about fifteen inmates, mostly lifers and long-termers. This small core of inmates, that once met on Friday nights, now meets in one form or another every day of the week. It has grown to over 150 regular members and is continuing to grow daily.

Our group has chosen Centering Prayer as taught by Fr. Thomas Keating in his book Open Mind, Open Heart as our main form of meditation. It is now taught by inmates to all new/members who choose to attend, with a "sit" occurring at every meeting. It is a remarkable situation in that we are convicted felons from different ethnic backgrounds and have different religious beliefs, yet we set all of that aside and meditate (pray) together as a family. There have never been any problems with violence or discipline within the group.

We have representatives in every building in the prison which houses inmates who are able to share meditation with them. Our group has also developed and maintains a library with books and cassette tapes that are available to members; there is also a growing selection of video cassettes that are used during the meetings to teach and further the knowledge of the group. The library is the result of donations of books and materials by many groups and individuals — it is much appreciated and used.

Inmates are using Centering Prayer to improve their lives. It has become a very real tool in self-rehabilitation. In the three years that the group has been meeting, inmates who have been active members have not returned to Folsom after being released. This fact is extraordinary when one considers that the return rate to prison is over 80 percent. Whether it be a parole violation or a new crime, the majority of inmates released from prison come back. With meditation, the inmates learn how to cope with and overcome problems of everyday life and, upon release, become productive members of the community and stay out of prison.

It is now time for us to combine contemplation with action. Our group is looking to expand its efforts into other prisons. It is our hope that people who are willing to become sponsors in other prisons will contact us and learn the information needed to start a group. There are over thirty prisons in the State of California alone. This program should be in every one of them and in every prison across the country because it is changing lives.

Prison life is not easy and yet we have found a way to free our spirits and share with God in our quiet times. Using our Sacred Word, we allow Him to work within us, giving us a freedom that transcends prison walls.

If you would like to explore the possibility of starting a Contemplative Fellowship program in a prison near you, contact Mike Kelley, Contemplative Fellowship, POB 441, Folsom, CA 95763-0441.

Video and Audio Tapes Available from American Magnetic Media 1-800-USA-TAPE

The Spiritual Journey- Fr. Thomas Keating

**The Spiritual Journey Videotapes Parts 1, 2 & 3 now available with captioning for the deaf. Price remains the same.

VIDEO SERIES with prologue and all four parts (26 tapes): \$649.99 (includes guidebook and no charge for shipping.)

VIDEO SERIES without prologue, with all four parts (24 tapes): \$599.99 (Includes guidebook and no charge for shipping.) Also available per part (6 tapes): \$149.94:

Prologue: The Method of Centering Prayer and the Psyc	hology
of Centering Prayer. (2 tapes)	\$49.99
Part I: Developing Centering Prayer (6 tapes)	\$149.94
Part 2: Models of the Human Condition (6 tapes)	\$149.94
Part 3: Paradigms of the Spiritual Journey (6 tapes)	\$149.94
Part 4: Contemplation, The Divine Therapy (6 tapes)	\$149.94
Tapes may be purchased individually	\$24,99
Guidebook (for 24 tape series)	\$9.00

The Christian Contemplative Heritage- Our Apophatic Tradition

Tape series locating Centering Prayer in the mainstream of the Christian Contemplative Tradition. Available in both video and audio formats.

Title	Video	Audio
Introduction: The Origins and Inspirations of Centering Prayer	\$24.99	\$11.95
(Fathers Basil Pennington, Thomas Keating and William Meninger) Set I: The Method of Centering Prayer and the Psychology of the Spiritual Journey	\$49.99	\$32.95
(Fr. Thomas Keating) Set II: An Overview of the Apophatic Tradition	\$49.99	\$22.95
(Fr. James Wiseman) Set III: The Monastic Heritage	\$49.9 9	\$22.95
(Fr. Basil Pennington) Set IV: Women Religious and the Contemplative Dimension	\$49.99	\$22.95
(Sr. Jeanne Knoerle, Sr. Patricia Benson) Set V: The Cloud of Unknowing	\$59.99	\$32.95
(Fr. William Meninger) Epilogue - Questions and Answers	\$24.99	\$11.95
(Fr. Thomas Keating) Complete Set	\$309. 9 9	\$122.95
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Lectio Divina Institute Tape Series

Tapes I thru 4 -Lectio Divina and the Senses of Scripture Fr. Bruno Barnhart Tape 5 - Lectio Divina Tradition Mary Margaret Funk, OSB; Gall F. Hopler, Fr. Bruno Barnhart Tape 6 - Lectio Divina Demonstration and Commentary Mary Margaret Funk, OSB

Tape 7 - Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina Thomas Keating, OCSO Tape 8 - Lectio Divina and the Spiritual Journey - Panel Fr. Thomas Keating, Fr. Bruno Barnhart, Mary Margaret Funk, OSB

Individual Video Tapes: \$24.99 Audio Tapes \$11.95 Complete Set: 8 tapes Video \$199.00 Audios: \$95.00

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35.01 to 50.00 add \$6.50 50.01 to 75.00 add \$7.50 over 75.00 add \$9.50

National Calendar of Events January-August 1999

Introduction	to Centering	Prayer Retreats/Wo	arkehone
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A contemporary presentation of the discipline of Centering Prayer as silent communion with God beyond concepts, words and images.

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Manchester, NH Joseph House	Jan 8-10	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sr. Mary Anne Laughlin (603) 627-9493
Melbourne, KY Moye Spiritual Life Center	Jan 9-10	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sr. Micki (502) 459-0839
Arlington, VA St. Mary's Church	Jan 15-16	Rev. Bill Sheehan Contact: (703) 978-4141
Beech Grove, IN Benedict Inn Retreat	Jan 15-17	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Carol Falkner, OSB (317) 788-7581
Cullman, AL	jan 22-24	Mary McGehee, OSB Contact: Sr. Eleanor (256) 734-8302
Montour, IA United Church of Christ	Jan 22-24	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Rev David Walters (319) 278-4224
Manchester, NH Joseph House	Feb 12-14	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sr. Mary Anne Laughlin (603) 627-9493
Manchester, NH Joseph House	March 12-14	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sr. Mary Anne Laughlin (603) 627-9493
Manchester, NH Joseph House	April 16-18	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sr. Mary Anne Laughlin (603) 627-9493
Walden, NY St. Andrew's Retreat House	May 14-16	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Cathy McCarthy (914) 778-2102
Manchester, NH Joseph House	May 14-16	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sr. Mary Anne Laughlin (603) 627-9493
Waldoboro, ME Wellspring House of Prayer	May 14-16	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Adele Millette (207) 832-6263
New Baltimore, PA St. John the Baptist Retreat Center	June 4-5	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Fr. Mark Begley (814) 733-2210
Walden, NY St. Andrew's Retreat House	June 11-13	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Cathy McCarthy (914) 778-2102
Manchester, NH Joseph House	June 11-13	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sr. Mary Anne Laughlin (603) 627-9493
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Introduction to Lectio Divina Retreats/Workshops

Conferences and practice introducing us to the most traditional way of cultivating friendship with Christ.

Beech Grove, IN Benedict Inn Contact:	March 12-19	Fr. Bruno Barnhart Sr. Meg Funk (317) 788-7581
Belton, TX Cedarbrake	June 16-20	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Barbara Cook (512) 205-0237

The "Welcoming" Prayer Workshop

A spiritual practice of "Letting Go" of feelings, emotions, thoughts and body Sensations into the present moment during the ordinary routines of daily life. Prior Centering Prayer experience necessary.

Andover, MA Franciscan Center	Jan 22-23	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sr. Lorraine Pianka (978) 858-0856
Walden, NY St. Andrew's Retreat House	March 5-7	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Cathy McCarthy (914) 778-2102
Walden, NY St. Andrew's Retreat House	June 25-27	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Cathy McCarthy (914) 778-2102

Сел	tering Prayer We	ekend Retreats
Includes conferences amount of Centering	renewing the Method o Prayer in common.	of Centering Prayer and a Moderate
Washington, DC College of Preachers		Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: COMW Office (202) 255-2367
Austin, TX Reicher Ranch	jan 15-17	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Barbara Cook (512) 206-0237
Manchester, NH Joseph House	Jan 22-24	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sr. Mary Anne Laughlin (603) 627-9493
Walden, NY St. Andrew's Retreat House	Jan 15-17	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Cathy McCarthy (914) 778-2102
Manchester, NH Joseph House	Feb 26-28	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sr. Mary Anne Laughlin (603) 627-9493
Honolulu, HI House of Peace	Feb 19-21	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sr. Katherine Theiller (808) 988-6540
Lacey, WA Priory Spirituality Center	Feb 26-28	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Billie Mazzei (360) 438-2595
St. Joseph, MN St. Benedict's Monast	March 6-8 ery	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Katherine Howard (320) 363-7187
Immaculata, PA Villa Maria House of Studies	March 12-14	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sr. Margaret Gradl (610) 647-6630
Manchester, NH Joseph House	March 19-21	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sr. Mary Anne Laughlin (603) 627-9493
Cullman, AL	March 26-28	Mary McGehee, OSB Contact: Sr. Eleanor (256) 734-8302
Germantown, MD Day Spring	April 9-11	Rev. Bill Sheehan Contact: (301) 428-9348
Ilkley:Yorkshire The Briery	April 10-11	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Mrs. A. Moran 011-44-01535-272245
Houma, LA. Lumen Christi	April 16-18	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Dan DeMers

(504) 394-1795

National Calendar of Events Continued from page 7

Walden, NY Apri St. Andrew's Retreat CP House	& Art	Gail Fitzpatrick Hopler Contact: Cathy McCarthy (914) 778-2102	Belton, TX Cedarbrake	Aug 4-8	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Barbara Cook (512) 206-0237
Manchester, NH Apri Joseph House		Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sr. Mary Anne Laughlin (603) 627-9493	Andover, MA Franciscan Center	Aug 16-20	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Lorraine Pianka, SSND (978) 858-0856
Portland, OR Apr Franciscan Renewal Center	•	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Gini Graham (503) 645-3448	Oregon Shalom Prayer Cente	7 Day Intensive jan 22-28 r	Retreats Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: (503) 845-6773
Lacey, WA May Priory Spirituality Center	1	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Billie Mazzei (360) 438-2595	Alta, WY Alta Retreat Center	Feb 7-13	Elizabeth Kelly Contact: Rev. Sandy Casey (307) 353-8100
Manchester, NH June Joseph House	1	Contact of that y while taughill	Walden, NY St. Andrew's Retreat House	Feb 16-22	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Cathy McCarthy (914) 778-2102
Manhasset, NY June St. Ignatius Retreat House	•		Alta, WY Alta Retreat Center	March 7-13	Elizabeth Kelly Contact: Rev.Sandy Casey (307) 353-8100
Temecula, CA Aug Vina de Lestonnac	; 6-8	Contemplative Outreach Staff	Alta, WY Alta Retreat Center	April II-17	Rev. Richard Loop Contact: Rev.Sandy Casey (307) 353-8100
Provides an opportunity to	re Centering Pr o immerse particip	avor Rotroate	Alta, WY Alta Retreat Center		Rev. David Wettstein Contact: Rev.Sandy Casey (307) 353-8100
Parts I, II, III of the "Spiritua May be modified to 8, 7 or	al Journey" Videota r 5 day.	ape Series by Fr. Thomas Keating.	Temecula, CA Vina de Lestonnac	_	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sr. Marilyn (562) 941-4380
Cincinnati, OH Jan I Milford Spiritual Center	•	Contemplative Outreach Staff	Alta, WY Alta Retreat Center	•	Rev. Eugene Sutton Contact: Rev.Sandy Casey (307) 353-8100
Waldoboro, ME Jan 2 Wellspring House Of Prayer	(Contact: Adele Millette	Waldoboro, ME Wellspring House of Prayer	•	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Adele Millette (207) 832-6263
Temecula, CA Mar	12-17	Contemplative Outreach Staff		8 Day Intensive	Retreats
Vina de Lestonnac	(Contact: Julianne Graf (760) 758-4396	Sewanee, TN St. Mary's Retreat Center	Jan 10-17	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Carol Wray (615) 373-0613
Wellspring House Of Prayer	((207) 832-6263	Mt. Angel, OR Shalom Prayer Cente	Jan 22-29	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Antoinette Traeger, OSB
Bienecasa Retreat House	((319) 333-6189	Sewanee, TN St. Mary's Retreat Center		(503) 845-2786 Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Carol Wray
Andover, MA April Franciscan Center	(Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Lorraine Pianka, SSND		July 9-16	(615) 373-0613 Rev. Bill Sheehan Contact: Sr. Elizabeth
Chicago, IL May	((847) 498-1342	St. Benedict's Retreat	July 9-16	(561) 582-2534 Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sr. Catherine
New Baltimore, PA june St. John the Baptist Retreat Center	(Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Fr. Mark Begley	Centre Schuyler, NE St. Benedict's Center	Aug 21-29	(204) 338-4601 Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Sharon Anderson
West Park, NY June Holy Cross Monastery	(Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: COMW Office (202) 255-2367	Enguera 60	10 Day Intensive	
Honolulu, HI July 2 St. Anthony Retreat	2-8 F	·	Snowmass, CO (full)		Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Pat Johnson (970) 963-3964

continued next page

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Snowmass, CO (full)	Feb 9-18	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Pat Johnson (970) 963-3964	Snowmass, CC (full)	Aug 3-12	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Pat Johnson (970) 963-3964
Belton, TX Cedarbrake	March 16-25	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Barbara Cook (512) 206-0237	Walden, NY St. Andrew's Reti House	Aug 6-15 reat	Fr. Carl Arico Contact: Cathy McCarthy (914) 778-2102
Snowmass, CO (full)	April 6-15	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Pat Johnson (970) 963-3964	Snowmass, CO (full)	Aug 14-23	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Pat Johnson (970) 963-3964
Snowmass, CO	May 4-13	Contemplative Outreach Staff	Н	aly Week Centari	
(full)		Contact: Pat Johnson (970) 963-3964	V relentation of the t	CONTEMDIATIVE dimension	ing Prayer Retreat n of the Easter Triduum, Includes Centering o, silence, Lectio Divina and sharing.
St. Leo's, FL Holy Name Monas	May 10-20 tery	Rev. Bill Sheehan Contact: Pat or Zonia (941) 484-9543	Walden, NY St. Andrew's Retr House	Mar 31 - Apr 4	Fr. Carl Arico Contact: Cathy McCarthy (914) 778-2102
Snowmass, CO (full)	June 15-24	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Pat Johnson (970) 963-3964	TO VIOLES II ALLIERE ALIO	DCCCDCE ID Interiorizara	ative Outreach Service
St. Joseph, MN St. Benedict's Mona	·	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Katherine Howard (320) 363-7187	at our own Centerin attendance at a 10 Dr Course includes Cer	ng Prayer practice in light ny Intensive Remarand	Prayer, as well as an opportunity to look t of the Essentials. Prerequisites are prior the daily practice of Centering Prayer. The entations by the staff and participants.
Atmosphere of sile	tunity to deepen the	g Prayer Retreats practice of Centering Prayer in an y support. The Advanced Intensive	Brooklyn, MI De Sales Center	March 1-7	Bonnie Shimizu Contact: Fr. Ken McKenna (517) 592-8218
Thomas Keating. Pabe 5, 8 or 10 day.	rior Centering Praye	, al Journey" Videotape series by Fr. er Retreat experience required. May	Cullman, AL	June 21-27	Bill Fickel, SSS Contact: Mary McGehee, OSB (256) 734-4622
St. Paul, MN Benedictine Center St. Paul's Monastery	5 Day Advance july 9-14	ed Retreats Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Patricia Roberts (651) 777-7251	Alta, WY Alta Retreat Cente		Bonnie Shimizu Contact: Rev.Sandy Casey (307) 353-8100
	10 Day Advanc	, ,	Johannesburg, SO, Good Shepherd Re	AFR June 27- July 3	Contemplative Outreach Staff
Ferdinand, IN	June 11-20	Contemplative Outreach Staff	Centre	treat	Contact: Ethne 011 27 11 888 4784
Kordes Enrichment Center		Contact: Kristine Harpenau OSB	Walden, NY	Aug 20-27	
		(800) 880-2777 Ext. 2906	St. Andrew's Retrea	Aug 20-27	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Cathy McCarthy
Provides an appear	ntensive Centeri	ng Prayer Retreats	House		(914) 778-2102
Solitude and silence	in community. Prio	Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina, r Centering Prayer Retreat Experi-	Pari:	sh Missions/Retrea	ts -Fr. Carl Arico
ence necessary. Ma	y be 5, 7, 8 or 10 da	y.	Contact:	International Office B	Butler, NJ (973) 838-3384
	7 Day Post Ir	ntensives	jan 22-24	CO of Miami Weekend Retreat, I	
Walden, NY	Feb 16-22	Contemplative Outreach Staff	Jan 27-31	CO raculty Meeting	noly Name
St. Andrew's Retreat House	:	Contact: Cathy McCarthy	Feb 12	CO Chicago	
		(914) 778-2102	Feb 13-16 Feb 17	Parish Mission (Ruiz CO of Chicago)
Alta, WY Alta Retreat Center	May 16-22	Rev. Martin O'Loglen	Feb 20-23	Parish Mission, St. P.	ine X
- was read the Certical		Contact: Rev.Sandy CFFasey (307) 353-8100	Feb 24	CO of Denver	
Alta, WY	June 13-19	Sr. Katherine Bazar	Feb 27- Mar 3 Mar 8-12	Parish Mission — St	. Peter, Parsippany, NJ
Alta Retreat Center	June 15-17	Contact: Rev.Sandy Casey	Mar 13-16	Parish Mission — St	chdiocese of Detroit Hugo, Bloomfield Hills, MI
		(307) 353-8100	Mar 16-25	rost intensive — An	narillo. TX
	8 Day Post In	tensives	Apr 10-13 Apr 16-18	Parish Mission — St.	loseph's, Waltham MA
Honolulu, HI	Aug 2-9	Contemplative Outreach Staff	Apr 21	CO of Denver Conv Presentation for Foo	rention
House of Peace		Contact: Sr. Katherine Theiller	May 14-24	Dominican Republic	
	• • •	(808) 988-6540	May 28- June 6 June 13-18	Intensive Retreat	Mercy Center, CA
_	10 Day Post In	tensives	June 18-20	Priest Retreat- Little Board Meeting — De	Rock Diocese
Amarillo, TX	March 22-31	Contemplative Outreach Staff	June 27- July I	Retreat—Living Water	Prs Retreat Center Maggio Valloy N/C
(full)		Contact: Pat Johnson	July 12-16 July 23- Aug 6	Centering Prayer Ret	treat — Cardinal Strick Chicago
St. Leo's, FL	, M 10 22	(970) 963-3964	Jy , tag 0	III CHISIYE VELLEST	Blessed Trinity Alphama
Holy Name Monaster	May 10-20 v	Rev. Bill Sheehan		Retreat — Omaha, N	Andrew's, Walden, NY
, i ionastel	,	Contact: Pat or Zonia (941) 484-9543			
Ferdinand, IN	lune -20	•	Cheyenne, WY	Mission — Fr. W Apr [1-14	Illiam Meninger
Kordes Enrichment	june 11-20	Contemplative Outreach Staff Contact: Kristine Harpenau, OSB	Holy Trinity Church	•	Contact: Sr. Therese Steiner (307) 632-5872
Center		(800) 880-2777 Ext- 2906			, ,

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MALAYSIA

Kula Lumpur

National Calendar of Events Continued from page 9

The Living Flame

A national program on contemplative issues, designed to heighten the awareness of the dynamic of Centering Prayer in the context of the Spiritual Journey, offering guidance and intelligibility needed to stay faithful to the practice. It is an opportunity to receive and share conceptual background at a deeper level, a well as experiential insight, thus building a faith community committed to the Centering Prayer practice. Meets one Saturday a month during seven consecutive months. For information, contact Monica Freeman (504) 924-3812,

Contemplative Outreach Ltd. External Study Program

The twelve week course is divided into two parts and covers contemporary expressions of the Christian contemplative tradition and then reaches back, during the last six weeks to the beginnings of the systematic practice of contemplative prayer among the desert monks of Syria, Egypt and Palestine. Objectives of this course include facilitating a deeper understanding of the depth and richness of the Christian contemplative tradition and the chance to engage the study material beyond the intellectual level in order to find the living tradition as we personally interact with it in our everyday lives. For more information, call Bonnie Shimizu (970) 927-3858 or email: bjs@rof.net.

CO Contacts Outside the United States

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lohannesburg	Ethne deVasconcellos	011-27-11-803-183		
Pinetown	Denise Allan	011-27-31-729590		

Lawrence Wong

03-256-2549

C.O. Area/ Regional Contacts

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