



Fr. Thomas Keating

An Interview with Father Thomas Keating **Experiences of Interreligious Dialogue**

by Netanel Miles-Yepez

Netanel Miles-Yepez is the editor of the book, The Common Heart: An Experience of Interreligious Dialogue, published by Lantern Books, 2006. In addition to his editorial work, Netanel is co-founder of the Sufi-Hasidic Fellowship and a murshid ("guide") of the Chishti Maimuniyya Order of Dervishes.

NM-Y: How did a good Roman Catholic and Cistercian monk like yourself come to be involved in interreligious dialogue? There can't have been much of this happening when you made your first ecumenical forays into that territory.

TK: When I started, there weren't many Roman Catholics involved in interreligious dialogue. Thomas Merton (a fellow Cistercian) was writing about Zen in those early years before his death in 1968 and was definitely a pioneer in this area.

It was the documents of the Second Vatican Council that eventually opened up this possibility for me. The declaration of the Relation of the Church to Non-Christians states that "the Church urges its sons and daughters to enter with prudence and charity into discussion and collaboration with members of other religions." Before the Council, most of the Christian traditions wouldn't touch the Eastern religions with a ten-foot pole! There wasn't any incentive to study that material. Moreover, it was looked upon with a lot of hesitation, because it was thought that it might injure one's Christian faith.

The Second Vatican Council made a 180 degree turn in this attitude. The Council specifically recommended dialogue with other Christian denominations and with the non-Christian religions. John Paul II wrote and spoke even more strongly in its favor.

NM-Y: What was the official vehicle of that dialogue within the Church?

TK: After the Second Vatican Council, a group called the North American Board of East-West Dialogue was formed. The initiative for this group came from one of the new congregations at the Vatican, the Congregation for Interreligious Dialogue. Thinking that Benedictine monks and nuns were the logical people to engage in a dialogue with the monks and nuns of other traditions, because both were interested in spirituality and a lifestyle that supported it, Cardinal Pignadoli, the presiding prelate, approached the monastic orders about this possibility. *Continued on Page 8.*

A Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome and well wishes I have received in my new role as Executive Director of Contemplative Outreach. The past six months have been very fulfilling, and I am honored to be a part of this extraordinary organization.

The following pages are filled with testaments of the dedication and support that our members bring to the network and to each other. This is an exciting time at COL! We are reaching out to more of our brothers and sisters in prayer each day through our programs. Now, as always, continued and effective communication is key. You will notice the theme of communication throughout the newsletter. At the International Resource Center, we made great strides towards improved communication by holding a General Meeting in February where both staff and contract service providers gathered to familiarize each other with our various projects and talents. Everyone in attendance had a very positive experience and the meeting marked the beginning of an ongoing flow of information regarding all the various projects currently in progress.

Special thanks to Fr. Thomas, Gail and Bonnie for their love and support. I feel very blessed to be part of the nurturing, compassionate and ever-growing spiritual network that is Contemplative Outreach, and I hold each and every one of you in my prayers.

Blessings,



*Dyane McMahon,
Executive Director*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Communication

At the root of the word communication is the word communion, an act of sharing, a way of creating rapport and a means for transmission from one person to the other. Holy Communion is a sacrament where the transforming power of the body and blood of Christ are transmitted to us and we are changed. Communication for Contemplative Outreach is a sacred sharing among us to transmit the contemplative dimension of the Gospel and allow it to transform our hearts.

Networking and communication are the heart and soul of the Contemplative Outreach Spiritual Network. It is where we build interrelationships grounded in our commitment to live a contemplative life in the market place. We are, so to speak, a worldwide contemplative connection. We have a treasure trove of resources for contemplative understanding and growth.

We are constantly working on better ways to communicate with our network. The purpose of this newsletter is to foster a sense of worldwide community building, a place to learn about contemplative offerings for enrichment, resources, events, workshops and contacts.

Our website is our best way of communicating with thousands in and out of our spiritual network. We have begun to use it more and more over the last two years and we intend to continue to keep it fresh and updated. I'd like to share some of our website dreams as it is a vital tool for connectivity in our worldwide network. We would like the website to become a central tool where people can gather together for enrichment via telecasts and on-line courses with audio and video components. We'd like to improve e-commerce, have on-line registrations for retreats, and annual conferences. We'd like to assist our chapter coordinators with archived resources and accessibility to new and updated chapter documents. It can be a place where our resource faculty meets for reviewing and updating program offerings and where our Board of Trustees can exchange information. We would like to have a sacred place on our website for gathering in silence and Centering Prayer.

The Contemplative Life Program (CLP) helps us to stay connected and creates a sense of belonging as we practice and study in community the various practices that are published every 40 to 50 days. We have over 1,400 worldwide subscribers that are intentionally interconnecting each day in a silent bond.

Last year, as part of the CLP offerings, we introduced dial-in calls as a time set apart, to spend one hour in a teleconference on various topics published in our praxis booklets. Fr. Thomas and I are joined by others to give input on a specific topic and answer questions that are sent in advance of the calls. To date, we've hosted calls on Centering Prayer, Discernment, Forgiveness, Active Prayer, Attention/Intention, Welcoming Prayer, and Spirituality of Money.

The Heart and Soul of the Contemplative Outreach Network

We will be hosting teleconferences on Lectio Divina, Contemplative Service, Silence and Solitude, Simplicity, Hospitality, and Prayer.

We scheduled four teleconferences hosted by the Coordinators Communication Committee to discuss Chapter issues. The first took place on Wednesday, February 1, 2006. Fr. Thomas was joined by Susan Komis, Anne Mazza, Diane Harkin and I as we discussed Servant Leadership, Volunteerism, and the Refined Essentials for the Introduction to Centering Prayer. Future calls are scheduled to be held at 8:00pm EST on August 2 and November 11.

Here, at our International Resource Center, we are committed to communicate and assist the growth throughout our contemplative community. Toward that end, we have brought Dyane McMahon on board as Executive Director to support the administrative needs of the growing organism of Contemplative Outreach.

Dyane comes to us with 20 years not-for-profit experience. She has extensive hands-on experience in finance, project management and human resources. She has strong communication, interpersonal, team building and customer service skills. She practices Centering Prayer and resonates completely with our vision and purpose. She will relieve me of the day-to-day administrative work and free me to accompany Fr. Thomas, teach and train our growing leadership and build alliances with like-minded groups while supporting the worldwide efforts to renew the Christian Contemplative Heritage. She is here to make the work of the volunteers in our network easy by providing them with tools that are designed to facilitate communication. Please join me in welcoming Dyane McMahon to COL.



Gail Fitzpatrick-Hopler

“The purpose of this newsletter is to foster a sense of worldwide community building, a place to learn about contemplative offerings for enrichment . . . ”

After twenty years of publishing the *Contemplative Outreach News* free of charge, it is time that we are gently inviting you to partner with us in its publication with your financial support. I encourage you to consider one of the subscription options available, and if you are not in a position to offer financial support know that you will not be dropped from our newsletter mailing. We trust that you will continue enjoying the newsletter and we count on your prayer support. (See the subscription categories on Page 5.)

As you know, Contemplative Outreach is offering ancient solutions to the challenges of modern time. We know that Centering Prayer changes hearts and provides a space for healing and peace to impact our global community. Contemplative Outreach gives me HOPE in a bleak world. As Fr.

Thomas says in *Open Mind, Open Heart*, "Contemplative prayer is the world in which God can do anything. To move into that realm is the greatest adventure. It is to be open to the Infinite and hence

to infinite possibilities. Our private, self-made worlds come to an end; a new world appears within and around us and the impossible becomes an everyday experience." P. 13. I invite you to join this adventure by staying connected and updated, visit our website regularly, attend our workshops and retreats, participate in our program offerings, and pray with one another daily. We are delighted to serve God through this magnificent network, and we know that any good that we do is the work of the Holy Spirit.

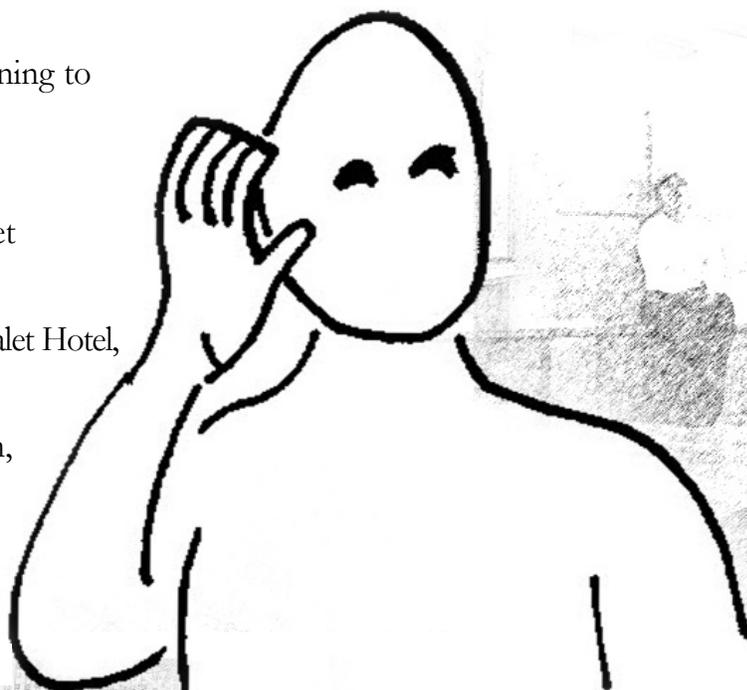
Gail Fitzpatrick-Hopler,
President

Contemplative Outreach Annual Conference 2006

St. Louis, Missouri

September 27 to October 1, 2006

It's time to start planning to attend our next Annual Conference. This year we will meet in St. Louis at the Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel, from Wednesday afternoon, September 27, to Sunday noon, October 1.



A Year of Listening

The theme of this year's conference is "*A Year of Listening*" and the planning committee has taken into consideration many of the suggestions from previous conference attendees.

Susan Komis, Director of Chapter Resources & Communications, and a resident of St. Louis, will be the Chair for the conference. Fr. Thomas Keating will be with us throughout the conference and will offer several presentations. On Saturday, we will again have our traditional Day of Enrichment, where we invite "day" attendance. We expect a large turnout due to the location in the midwest where many of our membership and guests are within driving distance.

The Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel has recently been refurbished and is located about 15 minutes from the St. Louis airport. There is free shuttle service to and from the airport. Parking at the hotel is also available at no charge.

A mailing with conference schedule, fees and registration information, along with hotel registration information, will be sent to the membership in upcoming weeks. Mark your calendars and plan to join us! The Annual Conference provides an opportunity to spend time as a group in Centering Prayer, time to renew "old" friendships, meet many new participants and to be enriched in our contemplative journey.

For further information contact:
Marie Howard, Special Events Coordinator at 310-823-5863
or email: MRHfamlife@aol.com



Hope to see you in St. Louis!

We need your assistance



We hope you are enjoying receiving *Contemplative Outreach News* and staying up-to-date with all the CO news, events and the teachings of Fr. Thomas.

As a not-for-profit charitable organization, it has become increasingly more challenging for us to continue to absorb the total cost of providing the newsletter to our 60,000+ recipients worldwide.

In order to continue to provide the newsletter, and at the encouragement of the Chapters and our Board of Trustees, effective with the next issue we will be converting to a

membership-based newsletter with these suggested annual subscription categories.

It is our wish to continue to provide the newsletter to those of you who feel enriched and nurtured by this connection and it is not our intention to exclude anyone. However, if you are able to contribute, we truly need your assistance to help defray the increasing costs.

\$35 Partners in Prayer

\$25 Friends of Silence

\$15 Religious/Student

Please use the enclosed envelope to activate your subscription. On behalf of all the members of our spiritual network, thank you for your continued support of *Contemplative Outreach*.

20TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING TOUR: TRANSFORMING THE HEART OF THE WORLD

By Fr. Carl Arico, Fundraising Co-Chair

Fr. Thomas Keating, Gail Fitzpatrick-Hopler, Marie Howard and I are on our final phase of the tour. There are still a few events in 2006: New York City in May, Long Island in October, and Hawaii in November, to mention a few.

We are deeply grateful for all the work done by the coordinators, their committees and the many hundreds of volunteers throughout the network who helped with the planning and execution of the weekend events. We are thrilled with the overwhelming positive response.

Here are some of the comments we've received:

"To learn how well organized C.O. is and to see the excellent materials, and to come together with a large group of prayer leaders in the area was very encouraging. I look forward to more collaboration ahead. Fr. Thomas and his team are a dream fulfilled!"

"Fr. Thomas's talks are always challenging and comforting at the same time. The affection and respect within the leadership team . . . and the woman's touch has been long needed. Contemplation can be such an ethereal topic and all the staff are firmly rooted in daily living, while speaking carefully and without any pretense or condescension about contemplation."

"The Q & A's were good, in-depth material that helped me gain deeper understanding. The questions about differences and similarities of other forms of meditation and Centering Prayer were particularly helpful."

The tours have served multiple purposes:

- * Celebrating 20 years of Contemplative Outreach, Ltd.
- * Raising awareness and support
- * Enriching, empowering and educating the leadership
- * Preparing for the future to continue to spread the message
- * Connecting Chapters with the International Resource Center



In God's Dark Room

by Daniel J. Costa
San Quentin Prison

When it comes to the topic of transformation, there are many schools of thought. This article is about one of them, how Centering Prayer is the "divine solution" to transformation.

I began Centering Prayer about two months ago at San Quentin State Prison with the understanding that this method of prayer was all about transformation. This was something I desperately sought, having returned to prison for the fifth time in twenty years. Needless to say, I was almost at the point of giving up any hope of ever breaking this "prison cycle" that had now become such a consistent part of my adult life.

Having a wife and child in my life, I felt this was my last chance at the hope of changing. Every previous prison commitment involved an all-out effort at transforming myself, to change in order to stay out of prison. I attended the chapel programs, learning all I could about transformative principles, and a new way of living my life. I learned that transformation required a change (upon parole) in the places I would frequent, the things I would do, and the people I would associate with. All these biblical and well thought out guidelines would work for awhile upon release, but in time, the euphoria of this superficial transformation would fade and I

would find myself back in prison. I finally came to the realization that transformation had to come from within and that all I had previously done was simply it on the surface.

With the encouragement of my new friend, Kenny, I decided to give Centering Prayer a chance at transforming what I previously believed was untransformable, my life! I began Centering Prayer at San Quentin's Catholic chapel, facilitated by George Biniek; Sr. Suzanne Toolan, RSM; and Sr. Marguerite Buchanan, RSM.

I was instructed in the methodology, but what caught my attention was the lack of reference to anything outside of my life. The focus was on the inside, an inward journey, seeking God's divine presence within me, a contact as a result of responding to the

Spirit of Christ by consenting to God's presence and action within. Once this contact was made, God would take care of the rest. There was nothing further for me to do.

I must say, this form of transformation stood in direct contrast to the "proactive" and "hands-on" approach I had utilized over the last twenty years. Acknowledging my failed previous attempts of transformation, I now gave "God's Way" a try.

On that first session at Centering Prayer, I chose my "sacred word," the silent word that would symbolize my intention of agreeing with the need for God's deep transformative work within my soul. I committed myself to two twenty-minute sessions of meditation a day as taught.

Like most beginners, I was amazed at the over activity of my mind, in its inability to remain detached from any one thought. But through patient and constant use of my sacred word, over time, I was able to stay with my intention of making contact with God's divine presence within my soul.

Through faith, I came to believe in God's deep work of transformation.

Over a period of about two months, I began to see the fruits of Centering Prayer in my daily life. I noticed an increased ability in the area of self-control. For the first time in my life, I found myself willing to go without participation in particular selfish and sinful desires that had always plagued my life. Through the new Christ-like desire of not wanting to see others hurt, I saw myself dying to what once enslaved me. I also noticed a new sense of peace permeating my soul, even though I was separated from those I love most, my wife and son.

I understood that God was in control and that everything would be fine. For the first time there was a confident hope with regards to getting out and staying out of prison. I began to experience a force being built into my faith walk that had never been there before. Oh, I had mouthed words of "faith in the blessings of God," but it was not an expectant kind of faith. I now find myself not only making my petitions daily to Him, but waiting in expectation for their fulfillment.

Most importantly, I began to experience a new Christ-like quality of love towards those I had once decided were unlovable. There was now a love welling up in my soul that was compelling me to give of myself for the good of others. Others who I had at one time judged unworthy of my love. As Fr. Thomas Keating so succinctly puts it, "a union of the soul between God, oneself, and others."

One of the greatest blessings in comprehending the dynamics of Centering Prayer are the many books written by Fr. Keating. Through these books one gains a thorough understanding of how Centering Prayer relates to transformation. But I was seeking some simpler explanation, believing that there are many like me from within the Protestant denominations who, due to a lack of exposure to this much needed form of prayer, would also benefit.

My reflective search, which was simple, clear and scriptural, formed the basis for the following insights. Photographic processing is something I know very well, having had the job of photographing (and processing) inmates for their photo I.D.'s during one of my prison terms. God revealed to me, through this process, how Centering Prayer and the transformative process can be understood in light of photographic development.

**“There seems to be
a divine way
of doing everything:
a divine way to be
a lawyer, doctor, grandmother,
teacher, convict, homeless person,
or just to be sick.
Since the Kingdom of God
is present in ordinary circumstances,
sensitivity to the movements
of the Spirit within us
tends to increase.
On such occasions,
everyday life
can become a kind of dance.”**

Fr. Thomas Keating

*Manifesting God, Chapter 7, Dancing With God,
published by Lantern Books*

When you photograph someone, the image of that person is imprinted onto the photographic film or plate inside the camera once the external light hits the plate. The photographic plate then goes into a "dark room" for development. The plate is slid into a special chemical solution in order for the imprinted image to become visible through this transformative process.

Similarly, in the process of spiritual transformation, Christians enter into their "secret room" (Matt. 6:6) and with the light of their intellectual understanding turned off, allow their souls to slide into the "divine solution" of God's presence. It is through the vehicle of Centering Prayer that the imprinted image of Christ develops and becomes visible in our everyday lives (Gal. 4:19).

Through Centering Prayer, each session is an opportunity to encounter Christ and allow Him to be "magnified in our bodies" (Phil. 1:20). I believe that if we are ever to see the Christ-like characteristics of a love for one's enemies, a joy that is not at the mercy of favorable conditions, a peace that surpasses all understanding, a patience that endures long-suffering, a kindness that takes no offense, a generosity towards those in need, a faith that can move mountains, a gentleness that softens the most hardened sinner, and self-control that leaves one free to be more receptive to the needs of others (Gal. 5:22-23); it is through Centering Prayer and time spent in "God's dark room" that we experience and are transformed by our union with Christ Jesus. This is the only way; this is God's Way.

Centering at Holy Cross Abbey

The stars were still awake when we awoke.
All night the Holy Spirit was dusting our dreams,
clearing buried debris.
Before dawn we gathered, summoned by the bell.
Wake-up sleepy heads.
Together we each settled on bench, on pillow,
some on knees bent who knows how?
The others sat erect, poised, calmed into stillness,
awaiting Emmanuel:
God with us, within us.

Three times the tiny gong was struck,
now begin intent, consent.
No sound without noticed long,
as within each of us
a secret sacred word mutely called on God.
Even that word faded in oblivion.
Nada, nada, nada and at heart's core
there was I am who am.
Soul of my soul.
Not myself and my truest Self.
No need to speak.
Shhhhhh my beloved.
Be still and know that I am God.

Pilgrims, thank you
for your light beamed on my dark path.
You kept me from the ditch once again.
Together we found our way
on the gravel under Virginia's roof of stars
that stopped us in our tracks
to look up into eternity.
Thank you
for teaching me to walk
by following your footsteps,
at your pace, not mine.
I even ate with less haste
and stopped to wonder why the hurry?
No one filled my empty cup for a long time.
Thank you.

In the days ahead,
until we meet again on the road to Emmaus
and at the breaking of the Bread,
Sit very still, very often,
till we dance forever in His presence
in the company of all saints and angels.
Then all the stars will turn back to suns
and those rolling hills will rumble with laughing.
One chorus at last,
singing the universe to bliss eternal —
and the cats at the entryway will purr too
and the patient cattle romp, I hope.

"Til Gethsemane.

*by Seamus Dockery, following a Centering Prayer retreat with
15 others at a Trappist Abbey in Berryville, Virginia*

INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

AN INTERVIEW WITH FR. THOMAS KEATING

Continued from Page 1

TK: The first meeting was held at Petersham, Massachusetts in 1979. It took a while for the group to be well accepted in the larger Benedictine community, but we had, even at that first meeting, quite a spectrum of people who showed interest in it, including several Cistercian abbots, Robert Mueller of the United Nations, Juliet Hollister founder of the Temple of Understanding, Swami Satchidananda, Fr. Basil Pennington, Brother David Steindl-Rast, OSB, and Fr. Raimundo Panikkar.

NM-Y: Was the meeting at Petersham when you first became involved in this kind of dialogue?

TK: No, I started getting interested in interreligious dialogue in the late Sixties. I was abbot of St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts from 1961 to 1981, and even before 1970, we invited speakers from other religious traditions to speak at the monastery.

At the time, a number of Eastern teachers were coming to the West. A half-hour up the road from the monastery was the Insight Meditation Center that drew a number of outstanding vipassana teachers from the Buddhist Theravada tradition, and some of them came down and visited us. One of these was Achaan Cha. I was very impressed with him, and we had a great time together; he had the same kinds of problems in his monastery as I was having in mine, and we had great fun comparing notes! He was like an old shoe. He reminded me a lot of Pope John the XXIII, whom I had met briefly, and whom I also greatly admired. Achaan Cha was really laid-back. He ran a very strict monastery and I don't know what he was like there, but he was friendliness itself when he visited us.

Another outstanding teacher was Joshu Roshi Sasaki of Mount Baldy near Los Angeles. Just before we met, he was actually heading for Europe to check out Trappist monasteries there. He had heard that they were similar in monastic observances to Zen Buddhist monasteries of Japan. When he heard about St. Joseph's Abbey, he decided that he didn't have to go so far. Anyway, he came and offered to give us a sesshin [a special period of intense meditation], and we accepted. After that, he

came to the monastery twice a year for ten years offering sesshin each time.

Fortunately, I was able to get to most of them and to hear his teachings first hand.

NM-Y: What was it about Sasaki Roshi that so impressed you?

TK: Sasaki Roshi was eager to teach Christian Zen. For him, Zen was not the property of Japan or even of Buddhism, but the basic and universal religious attitude. I admired that perspective and have adopted it in my own life. I found the modest exposure I had to Zen extremely helpful, and Sasaki Roshi's taishos [dharma talks] were mind expanding. He belonged to the Rinzai school of Zen and made a special effort to invent Christian koans for us!

NM-Y: The dialogue has obviously come a long way in the intervening years. Were all the monks as inclined to dialogue as you were in the early days?

TK: This was brand new territory for us and not looked upon with much sympathy by many members of the community. When Sasaki Roshi put on the Cistercian habit and joined us in the refectory, it was a little shocking to some monks.

NM-Y: Were there any visits from representatives of traditions other than Buddhism? What about Hindus?

TK: We had less exposure to the Hindu traditions. But we were pleased to host Swami Satchidananda and several teachers from the Transcendental Meditation movement.

I was also very interested in the Hindu-

Christian dialogue going on in India initiated by Bede Griffith and Swami Abhishik-tananda, both Benedictine monks. They were trying to live the Christian monastic life inside Hindu culture.

NM-Y: When did Centering Prayer get started?

TK: Actually, Centering Prayer began around 1976 at St. Joseph's Abbey, after a year's trial of a method taught by Fr. William Meninger and based on the Cloud

Integral Contemplative Christianity Seminar with Fr. Thomas Keating and Ken Wilber



David Frenette, Ken Wilbur and Fr. Thomas Keating

Ken Wilber's early books helped Fr. Thomas Keating clarify his own theory on the human condition, the interior skyscraper and Christian contemplative development. In the 25 years since, Wilber has expanded his theory and founded an institute to further its practical applications in all fields of knowledge.

Christianity, the world's contemplative traditions and consciousness studies now have a language and venue to inform not only psychology, but also such fields as education, business, art, politics, leadership, environmental and organizational studies.

of Unknowing. After I resigned as abbot, I intended to focus on ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue, but I became more and more involved with the Centering Prayer movement. This eventually grew into a spiritual network called Contemplative Outreach at the end of 1984. There has been some tension for me in trying to serve both interreligious dialogue and Contemplative Outreach.

NM-Y: Really? When I have observed you in interreligious dialogue or teaching Centering Prayer, you seem to

“There is mutual enrichment in genuine dialogue that gradually dissolves suspicion and allows religious persons to work together in the world in areas of common interest such as the environment and justice and peace issues. . . . understanding, friendship and respect are contributions we can make not only to our dialogue partners, but also to the invisible spiritual world of Humanity at large. The abiding disposition of universal compassion in each of us affects everybody, whether they know it or not.”

move seamlessly from one category to the other, almost as if there was an intrinsic relationship between the two.

TK: Yes, there was a lot of interaction between the two, and it has grown over the years. You see, a great many Christians had joined one or other of the Eastern disciplines in their youth because they couldn't find any comparable depth of spirituality in the Christian milieu, whether in churches, parishes or schools.

Wilber's "integral approach" embraces and includes all knowledge in a meta-theory sourced in the transcendent, deep and timeless wisdom of the contemplative traditions, east and west. But this is more than just theory, for practical projects are being birthed to help a globalizing world that seems to be spinning more and more out of control.

The Integral Institute (integralinstitute.org) regularly gathers seminal spiritual teachers from all traditions to dialogue about religion and contemplative practice in the post-modern world, hosts a website that presents these conversations in easily downloadable audio and video forms (integralspiritualcenter.org), is launching a university offering for-credit classes and degree programs, and offers Integral seminars and trainings for both professionals and spiritual practitioners.

In the fall of 2006, the first practical 5-day seminar on Integral Contemplative Christianity will be held in the Denver, Colorado area. Fr. Thomas Keating will present the practice of Centering Prayer and dialogue live with Ken Wilber. Other teachers will include David Frenette, who has worked with Fr. Thomas and Contemplative Outreach since 1983 (including as a trainer for long-time Centering Prayer practitioners) and Rollie Stanich, who is a teacher and director of the Integral Spiritual Center and a Centering Prayer practitioner. Integral Contemplative Christianity explores practice that includes and integrates spirit, body, mind, psyche and behavior in self, culture and nature.

For more information, see the website: www.integraltraining.org

In fact, many have said to me, that had they known there was a Christian contemplative practice, they wouldn't have gone to the East. But, still, they benefited from their Eastern practice and many remained with it. Others returned to the religion of their childhood because they felt more at home there.

Our chief reason for presenting Centering Prayer was to contribute to the renewal of the Christian contemplative tradition, and thus to provide an option in the market-

place for Christians who would never have the time or inclination to learn an Eastern method of meditation.

NM-Y: Why did you feel this was a need?

TK: During my early encounters with teachers of other traditions at St. Joseph's Abbey, I met a lot of Buddhist and Hindu teachers and their students, and it was evident, as I said, that they were benefiting from their respective practices. For example, there was a psycho-spiritual wisdom presented in the form of methods articulated in Buddhist meditative disciplines that at the time was not articulated in the same practical way in the Christian scheme of things.

The Christian monastic lifestyle is an environment conducive to spirituality, but it isn't a method in the same sense. It has many practical rules and disciplines, most of which are duplicated in almost all monastic traditions, but they are not applied to the individual in the same way that Buddhist practices are.

NM-Y: It seems to me, looking back over your career and your writings, that you have spent a great deal of time and energy not only articulating a clear

"method," but also in making the psychological and contemplative sophistication of Christianity explicit.

TK: That's true. It was there, but it was distributed over a large number of books. In this work, I benefited a great deal from contemporary science especially developmental psychology, which I feel teaches truths that all of the world's religious traditions need to take into account. Likewise, I believe that the existence of the Unconscious discovered by Freud has tremendous consequences for the spiritual journey.

NM-Y: You founded the Snowmass Interreligious Conference in the early eighties, didn't you?

TK: I always saw myself more as its "convener" than "founder." It was really just a big experiment in the beginning, and I didn't know how it would work out.

I began planning it in 1983 after taking part in a series of Christian-Buddhist dialogues at the Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colorado. During these "dialogues," I noticed that the dialoguers were not speaking to each other as much as addressing the audience. But on the two occasions, when the moderator succeeded in bringing us together a day before the conference, we actually got to talk to one another as peers. So I asked myself, what would happen if we got together to talk without any audience? And what if the meeting was broader than a Buddhist-Christian dialogue? Those questions were what sparked the initial motive for getting the first group of teachers together at St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass, Colorado, where this dialogue began, and where it got its name, the "Snowmass Conference".

NM-Y: So, the primary purpose was to take the dialogue out of the public arena because you had noticed that the audience was influencing and impeding the intimacy of the dialogue?

TK: It was dominating the dialogue! The rich interchanges glimpsed in those brief periods the teachers spent together before the conferences began, were all but non-existent when we appeared as lecturers before an audience. So, I thought, let's just come together and talk about what helped us most in our own spiritual practice. In that way, we might come to a better understanding of some of the technical terms we were using in our presentations. You can use the same term as another religious tradition uses, but if you are interpreting it out of your own cultural background and the person you are dialoguing with is presupposing the meaning it has in his or her own tradition, then there is a lot of confusion.

NM-Y: How does a person's spiritual quality affect the dynamic of dialogue? After all, this must be a consideration in maintaining such a group?

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AN INTERVIEW WITH FR. THOMAS KEATING

Continued from Page 9

TK: I am not qualified to judge anybody, but some people obviously have been more exposed to the levels of spirituality that are considered advanced in all the traditions, and they affect the quality of the dialogue. It is important however to remember that everybody's contribution is nothing more than that, a contribution.

NM-Y: Looking back, can you discern any development in yourself from the time when you began to dialogue? Any assumptions that may have changed over time?

TK: I have more respect and understanding of the other world religions; more openness and admiration for their methods and teachings; a sense of communion with the people who are practicing them; and a sense of the oneness of the human family. It has greatly expanded my own worldview and understanding of the Christian religion, and has deepened and enriched it. I find a lot of insights in dialogue that help me to better understand the Bible and to explain it from a contemplative perspective.

NM-Y: And what effort was necessary to bring that about?

TK: In the beginning, given the original narrowness of my perspective, dialogue required me to bracket my own ideas and to be open to seeing my religion from a different perspective. True dialogue is a very ascetical discipline. It challenges one's own presuppositions. Sometimes, you are left trying to figure out how it all fits together. You think, "How can I reconcile this teaching with a Christian perspective? How can I recognize the truth of this non-Christian presentation in the Christian worldview?" Sometimes, the two seem opposed. The confrontation requires a willingness to learn



and sometimes a lot of soul-searching.

I find that interreligious dialogue liberates one from aspects of one's own tradition that are largely cultural and not the essence of the revelation. These have become so intermingled with the essence over the centuries that one cannot easily discern the difference. Literary criticism and the empirical sciences associated with it have made significant contributions to understanding the available texts and the intention of their respective authors. These ongoing discoveries along with theological reflection must find a place in genuine interreligious dialogue

NM-Y: Does real dialogue require a certain spiritual asceticism?

TK: Yes. Often the question is, "How in the world am I going to harmonize this with what I have always believed?" And the answer is, go slowly and be willing to unwrap your pre-packaged values and beliefs. Those who don't have an adequate grasp of their own tradition (and I am afraid that is the majority of Christians), should engage in dialogue advisedly.

Often, when such persons get into certain aspects of dialogue, they don't know how to handle the apparent contradictions. That's why one needs to be rooted in one's own tradition both to contribute to such dialogue and to benefit from it.

NM-Y: What was the basis for dialogue in the Snowmass Conference?

TK: Our proximate goal was friendship and respect. The ultimate goal was to understand the other world religions from the inside, from the perspective of someone who had actually practiced and benefited from their highest spiritual disciplines. For the first few years of the Snowmass Conference, we tried to see if we could come up with what was common to us all.

Gradually we formulated a set of principles that we could agree on, and the amount of agreement was really surprising! There was not absolute agreement of course, but we felt comfortable enough to say "yes" to each of them, though we might have preferred to express them a little differently here and there. Nevertheless,

the "Points of Agreement" represent a commonality that is significant. They have been published in several places including the "Report" of the World Parliament of Religions.

After that, we moved on to sharing common elements in the area of practice like fasting, vigils, sacred reading, spiritual guidance, chanting, and trying to live daily life from a contemplative space. All of the world religions have practices like these, though some emphasize some more than others.

NM-Y: Did you do any work on the "Points of Agreement" in preparation for the first Snowmass Conference in 1984, or did they come solely from the dialogue?

TK: There was a rough draft of a few statements that we used as points of departure for discussion. Some, we threw out right away, and others we worked on. We revised them again the next year and again for about four years. Then, we started discussing our differences. And that was even more interesting. But we didn't feel it was necessary to make a list of them!

NM-Y: What do you feel is the primary purpose and contribution of dialogue today?

TK: There is mutual enrichment in genuine dialogue that gradually dissolves suspicion and allows religious persons to work together in the world in areas of common interest such as the environment and justice and peace issues. I also think that understanding, friendship and respect are contributions we can make not only to our dialogue partners, but also to the invisible spiritual world of Humanity at large. The abiding disposition of universal compassion in each of us affects everybody, whether they know it or not. †

THE SPANISH CORNER

We continue growing and as we do we can see the fruits of our work in the Spanish communities. Fr. Keating and I visited Puerto Rico and Cuba recently. (I refer you to Pages 12 and 13 for more details.) Adalberto Henriquez was invited by Mercedes and Gerardo Hinojosa to offer an Introductory Workshop during the last weekend of March in Monterrey, Mexico. Several prayer groups are rapidly growing under the guidance of Mercedes and Gerardo; who in turn got their training first from Judith Bernal, and then during the Refined Essentials workshop we offered last September in Austin. In May, Maru Ladron de Guevara offered a 5-Day Intensive Retreat in Mexico, assisted by local staff members of Extensión Contemplativa Mexico.

We now have two new pioneers contributing with great enthusiasm to the growth of our Latin American communities. Fr. Bede Hornung, a Benedictine priest at the St. Joseph Abbey in Venezuela, and Sr. Cecilia Carmona, from Torreon, Mexico. Both attended our Formation Workshop in Mexico last November and are actively involved with their local communities.

We offered another Formation for Presenters Workshop in Miami in June, and people came from Monterrey; Venezuela; Puerto Rico, Honduras, Nicaragua and Orlando, FL. Our next Formation workshop will be in Costa Rica in 2007.

So we grow and extend our teaching as the Lord keeps opening doors for us everywhere. Our challenge is to train more presenters and to be able to send messengers to all these places that want to participate in this "treasure" of learning to "sit" in God's company twice a day, and develop an intimate relationship with the Ultimate Mystery that is God.

We are translating the Contemplative Life Program and retranslating the first series of six sessions of *The Spiritual Journey*. It will take a long time as the book *Daily Readings for Contemplative Living*, which is an important part of this program, also needs to be translated for each day's reading. We have a team of five translators, two in Santo Domingo, two in Florida and one in Puerto Rico. We always agree on which part of a certain book will be translated by each one of us. We did the same with the United Day in Prayer —and IT WORKS!



by Ilse Reissner

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

With Extensión Contemplativa and Contemplative Outreach Florida

Extensión Contemplativa and Contemplative Outreach in Florida

are offering a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in April 2007. As with all the other wonderful trips they have offered in the past, Ilse Reissner will lead the tour.

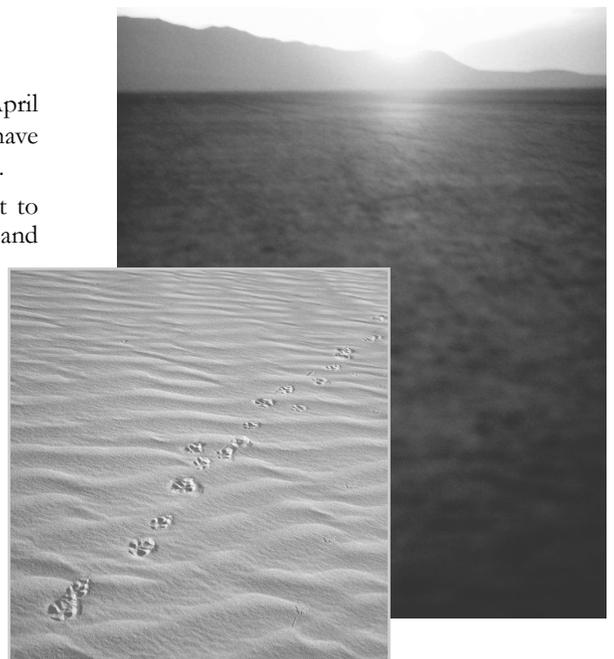
This tour will not only be to the Holy Land but to other holy places in Athens, the Greek islands, and Ephesus in Turkey, to learn more about Paul's journeys.

Departure will be on April 15 and return—for those that choose to come back to the United States after the Holy Land—will be on April 25.

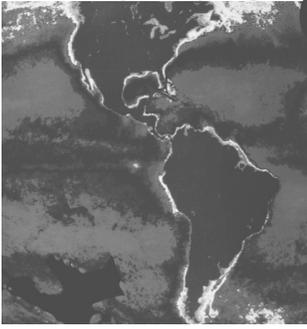
Return will be on April 30 for those who decide to join us for an optional cruise; visiting the Greek islands of Patmos, Rhodes, and Mykonos; as well as Ephesus in Turkey, and Corinth in Greece.

The cost of the basic pilgrimage is \$2,695 and another \$670 for the optional extension to Greece and Turkey.

For more information or to request a brochure, please contact Ilse Reissner at 407-767-7567, fax 407-767-6414, or email: ireissner@juno.com



Extensión Contemplativa



Father Keating's visit to Puerto Rico

by Marilu Ason

On March 5, 2006, Fr. Thomas Keating and our dear Ilse Reissner, President of Extensión Contemplativa, arrived in San Juan, Puerto Rico. There was great expectation and enthusiasm. People came from many places, including St. Croix, Santo Domingo, Miami and other cities in Puerto Rico. Four conferences were scheduled.

On Monday morning Fr. Felix Struik, OP, a well known theologian, gave Fr. Thomas a warm welcome at the Center for Theological Studies and many priests, religious, nuns and students attended.

In the afternoon, the Sacred Heart Catholic University opened its doors for the second conference, where Fr. Thomas shared his insights with members of the prayer groups in Puerto Rico.

On Tuesday, at the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, he was greeted by Dr. Guillermo Ramírez, Academic Dean, and Dr. Sergio Ojeda, President of the seminary, followed by a conference and dialogue with Christian churches of different denominations. We shared and prayed together; one body, one heart, one soul.

The last conference was at the Church of St. Ignatius. Fr. Larry Searle, SJ and the parish council worked together for the success of this event.

More than 200 persons attended each meeting. People were very touched by Fr. Thomas's words and wisdom. They have asked for introductory programs to learn more and the prayer groups have experienced a revival.

Juan Segarra Palmer was our translator, and he did an excellent job. (His impressions are in the box to the right.)

Our thanks to Fr. Thomas for all the blessings we are receiving with his visit. We hope he will visit us again soon.

A Translator's Impressions

We have a saying in Spanish, "al que no le gusta el caldo, le dan tres tazas." I don't know the equivalent in English, but it translates literally as "those that don't like soup, get three cups." Consecutive translation is not my cup of tea. I much prefer simultaneous because it doesn't require any memory work, but I got my three cupfuls during the talks Father gave. There were times when I felt that my limitations were interfering with his freedom to express himself, but what do I know? The main feeling before, during, and after Fr. Keating's visit is gratitude for the great privilege of translating for him. My second impression was of Father himself, so unassuming, so thoughtful, so witty, so much fun to listen to. Translating for him was like dance partners getting used to each other. He was very aware of my limitations, especially the limited capacity of my memory chip, and quickly adjusted to it, making my work easy. One thing seems certain: a lot of people came and listened intently. A lot of good seed was sown, spring is here, let's see what the rain brings ...

Juan Segarra Palmer

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>adahenri@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@fiu.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>dshieldsj@hotmail.com</i>

On Thursday, March 9, 2006, Fr. Thomas Keating, Ilse Reissner, Marilu Ason, and I boarded a plane bound for Havana for an unforgettable visit with the Cuban people, the Catholic hierarchy, representatives of other Christian denominations, and members of the local Centering Prayer groups.

Fr. Gilbert Walker, Contemplative Outreach Coordinator of the Cuban chapter, was waiting for us at the airport and took us to La Merced Church, where we shared lunch with priests and seminarians. Their cook had prepared a delicious typical Cuban meal in honor of all the guests, but especially of Marilu, who was returning to her native country after an absence of 45 years. The four of us stayed at the beautiful guesthouse run by the Brigidine Sisters in Old Havana. The Sisters' cordial hospitality was much appreciated.

On Thursday, Fr. Thomas gave an interview to *Palabra Nueva*, the official magazine of the Archdiocese of Havana. Later that evening, he offered a public lecture at La Inmaculada Church and Ilse served as interpreter. The location was filled to capacity. This turned out to be an ecumenical event, since the Episcopal bishop, as well as members of the Evangelical Seminary in Matanzas, and a Greek Orthodox priest also attended. On Friday, March 10, we visited Cardinal Jaime Ortega, Archbishop of Havana. As Fr. Thomas stepped out of Fr. Gilbert's car wearing his Cistercian habit, ordinary people walking down the street—and who did not know who Fr. Thomas was—approached him and asked for his blessing, all the while touching his habit. A pregnant woman even insisted on two blessings: one for her and a second one for her child. The simple faith shown by these people and the sight of Fr. Thomas blessing each person individually on the streets of Havana will remain with me for the rest of my life.

On Friday evening, Fr. Thomas gave a presentation to members of the Centering Prayer groups, followed by a public lecture that was also very well attended and warmly received. On Saturday morning, he and Ilse returned to Miami while Marilu and I stayed for three more days. We thank the Holy Spirit for giving us the opportunity to share our faith and our practice with our Cuban brothers and sisters. Future plans include a Formation Workshop in the Havana area and an Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop in eastern Cuba. Father Gilbert is tentatively scheduling these events for January 2007.



Cardinal Jaime Ortega, Fr. Gilbert Walker and Fr. Thomas Keating

A Monk in Havana

By Isabel Castellanos



Contemplative Outreach Cuba

*Para Informes en Español
...Resources Translated in Spanish*

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 Contemplative Life Program

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“The quality and depth of our ordinary experience in general determine our awareness or non-awareness of God... Our awareness in ordinary life, or lack of it, depends upon our ability to be contemplative...

Contemplation is about waking up.

To be contemplative is to experience an event fully, in all its aspects.

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Ronald Rohlheiser,
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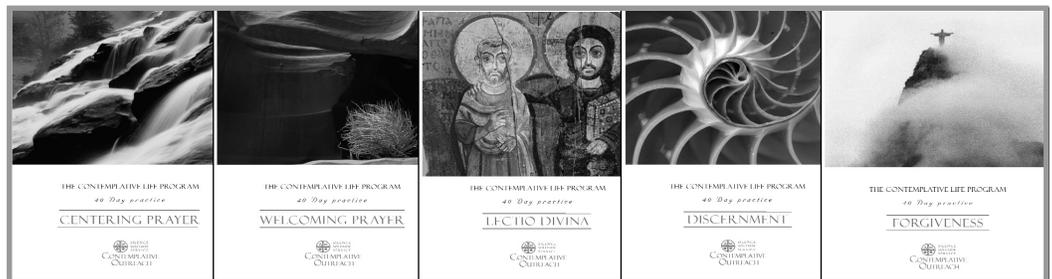
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*"The purpose of every true devotional practice
and method of prayer
is to bring us to a person-to-person, being-to-being relationship with Christ."*

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

The mistake most beginners make when learning to crochet is pulling too tightly

Their stitches bunch and writhe
Faces frown
Hands labor
In, around, through

The loops closing in
around and through
A more practiced hand
holds lightly
Allows a little light between the loops
in, around, through

This blanket is all of a single thread
in, around, through

No single stitch holds it together
in, around, through

No – every stitch is ordinary,
just the same
in, around, through

Simple crochet 60
chain 1 into last stitch
repeat 24 times
in, around, through

I write these lines
between eggs and toast
in, around, through

Between the diapers
and the giggles
in, around, through

And there is so much more to say
but I'll say just a little
in, around, through

Trusting the blanket is not
just the thread
in, around, through

But the spaces that surround

Clare Broyles
CLP Program Subscriber

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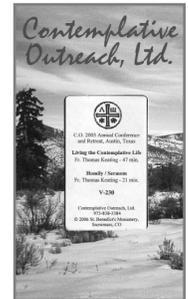
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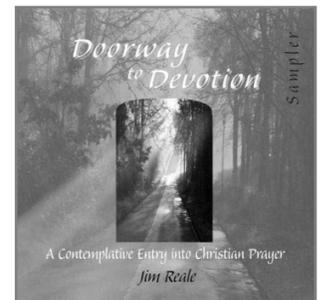


Doorway to Devotion

*Contemplative Entry into Christian Prayer
 by Jim Reale*

Chanting has long had its roots in the monastic
 communities throughout the Christian world.
 From early on, contemplatives recognized
 chanting as a way of expressing one's faith and
 devotion. These chants were introduced at the
 Contemplative Outreach 2005 Annual Conference in Austin, Texas and on
 the retreats *Praying with the Body Praying from the Heart* lead by Jim Reale.
 Many have found that they are easily learned in a short period of time and
 serve to draw us inward, moving us toward a place of quiet, intimacy, and
 healing. This CD can be used as a vestibule before Centering Prayer.

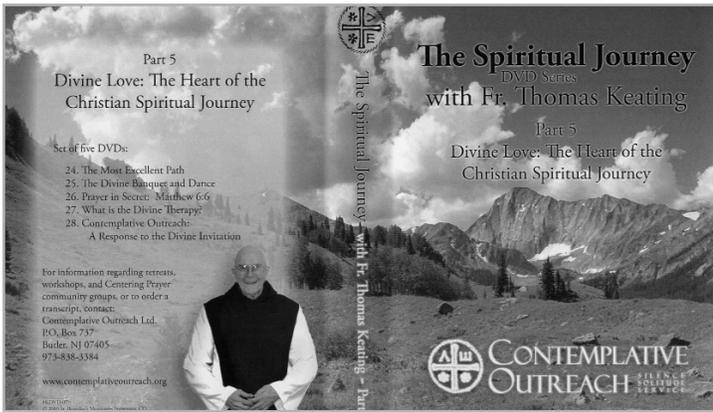
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“Sought through prayer and meditation
to improve our conscious contact
with God,
as we understood Him,
praying only for knowledge
of His will for us
and the power to carry that out.”

Step 11 of the 12 Step Programs

12
Step Outreach

The 12 Step Outreach of Contemplative Outreach held an Intensive Retreat at Snowmass from January 27-February 5. Fr. Thomas Keating spoke to the group for several hours almost daily on the topics of the 12 Steps, their relationship to Centering Prayer, and the false-self system. Fr. William Meninger talked to the group about forgiveness. Madeline Soo, past chairperson for the 12 Step Outreach, led the retreat. A discernment process was held and new leadership was chosen, with Jenny Adamson accepting the position of Chair and Dave Dierig accepting the position of Vice Chair. Christophe Dupin de St. Cyr, Sr. Shirley Krueger and Myrna Toohey agreed to lead committees and will also serve on the leadership team. The 12 Step Outreach Group is now offering one-day workshops and weekend retreats on *Centering Prayer as an 11th Step Practice*.

**Upcoming
“Centering Prayer as an 11th Step Practice”
Weekend Retreats**

San Antonio, TX August 11-13

Contact: Myrna T., mjt@satx.rr.com

Phoenix, AZ October 20-22 *Cornerstone Center*

Contact: Dave D., (480) 966-5955, ddierig@cox.net

St. Louis, MO November 16-19 *Marianist Retreat Center*

Contact: Jim M., (314) 918-8288, jmac150@sbcglobal.net

Jerome, ID December 7-10 *Monastery of the Ascension*

Contact: Grace C., (208) 423-6301, grace@safari.myrf.net

For information or to set up a 12 Step Outreach workshop or retreat, please contact:

Jenny Adamson, adamsonje@cfu.net, 319-266-8225

Additional Programs

Please see the Ongoing Programs, Page 22,
and the Calendar of Events, Page 23,
for a complete listing of programs and retreats,
or visit our website: www.contemplativeoutreach.org

CHAPTER UPDATES



California, San Diego

The year 2006 brought a new Chapter to Contemplative Outreach Ltd. In February Contemplative Outreach of North San Diego (CONSD) was launched. Over the past eleven years, the San Diego Chapter has grown to the point where it now has 36 Prayer Groups. The San Diego Chapter found it increasingly difficult to effectively support the needs of these small faith communities. With 17 Prayer Groups in north San Diego alone, it was decided that the needs of both metro and north San Diego could be better met by creating a new North San Diego Chapter. CONSD will be hosting Cherry Haisten, who will be presenting the Welcoming Prayer in May, and in September Susan Komis will be conducting a two-day retreat on St. John of the Cross, Night of Sense, Night of Spirit. Susan has also agreed to come in October for a Visioning Evening with our Servant Leadership Team and a Visioning Day for our entire membership. We are most excited about the new Chapter and the support of our dynamic Servant Leadership Team and our enthusiastic and dedicated membership.

Sue and Chris Hagen, Co-Coordinator, 706-745-8860, sue.hagen@sbcglobal.net or chris.hagen@sbcglobal.net

California, San Fernando

On November 19, many of us joined Fr. Thomas, Gail Fitzpatrick-Hopler, Fr. Carl Arico, and Marie Howard at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles for the Greater Los Angeles Leadership Enrichment Day followed by a fundraiser dinner and talk by Fr. Thomas. It was a wonderful day of bonding and a gift to each of us. The day was especially significant for many of us as a beloved member of our Centering Prayer group for more than 9 years, Louise Schampeau, lost her battle with cancer that morning about 2:00 am. In December, Holy Spirit Retreat Center reopened after two years of rebuilding. The center has graciously had hosted many of our formation programs and retreats. In January, the Coordinator Servant -Leadership Formation Workshop was held there with 21 participants, 12 of whom were from the Greater Los Angeles region. The Formation sparked new inner growth among us with a deepening understanding of Contemplative Outreach and our mission. In June, we look forward to Bonnie Shimizu directing our 8-Day Intensive Retreat and Maria Tasto, OSB, leading our Centering Prayer weekend retreat. We are grateful for all we have received and desire to be of service to all who come.

Sr. Linda Snow, 818-784-4515, srlinda@adelphia.net

Colorado, Boulder

After all these years, we continue to grow. We are blessed to have two leadership teams in our Chapter from St. Thomas Aquinas University Parish and St. John's Episcopal Church. Fr. Terry Ryan, CSP, has worked extensively with us since September with a weekend Centering Prayer Retreat, two Mini-Retreats and a Day of Prayer and Reflection, where he has presented mystics St. Therese of Lisieux and Symeon the New Theologian, and their approach to Contemplative Prayer and how it relates to contemporary living. St. John's also offered a Welcoming Prayer Workshop. St. Thomas offered two Weekend Centering Prayer Retreats and an Introductory Workshop in Longmont, Colorado. This spring, Fr. Ryan will present a one-day workshop on Evelyn Linderhill and a Mini-Retreat on Bede Griffiths. The St. John's team will present the 7-week Centering Prayer Introductory Workshop using the New Essentials. Also, on the agenda is a weekend Lenten Retreat and a June 7-Day Intensive/Post-Intensive Retreat, both at the Abbey of St. Walburga. Our fall retreat will feature David Frenette and his presentation "The Heart of Contemplation".

Barbara Hayden, 303-494-2845, mg329Hayden@aol.com

Colorado, Denver

Spring 2006 brought an air of excitement as we prepared for our Annual Conference in March. This year, we welcomed Fr. Thomas Keating and Fr. William Meninger to address "The Spirituality of the Cloud of Unknowing". People from across Colorado and the country came to experience the teachings of our spiritual leaders and to reconnect with the greater community of Contemplative Outreach. We continue to present new programs, such as our Thursday night spirituality seminars and David Frenette's "The Heart of Contemplation" to support prayer practitioners no matter what their level. We will carry forward these successful programs into fall 2006; in addition to our Introductory Workshop, *The Spiritual Journey* video series, Saturday Immersion Experiences, Days of Prayer, and the Nine Month Course. Our annual Mini-Retreat in October, Advent Retreat at Sacred Heart Retreat Center, and a growing network of prayer communities along the Front Range of Colorado offer other opportunities to deepen our prayer practices and our spiritual growth. Our servant-leadership teams and volunteer staff are blessed to serve a growing community of seekers.

Sr. Bernadette Teasdale, 303-698-7729, srb@contemplativeoutreach-co.org

Florida, Central

Contemplative Outreach Central Florida (COCF) is pleased with the success of offering monthly contemplative masses to our Orlando area community at Annunciation Catholic Church in Altamonte Springs. When Fr. William Meninger visited on September 19, 2005 to present his workshop on "The Way of Forgiveness" and again January 19 - February 2 to present several workshops on "Contemplative Prayer and the Cloud of Unknowing", he also presided at a few contemplative masses, largely attended by our local community. Fr. William visited Centering Prayer groups at Church of the Epiphany in Port Orange, St. Peter's Catholic Church in Deland, and St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Mt. Dora. Two Introductory Workshops were planned and supported by the Chapter as a result of his visit. Fr. William also visited the Coleman Correctional Center on February 1, 2006 and spent separate time teaching Centering Prayer and holding discussions with about 70 women and about 40 men at the medium security facility. This was a significant contribution to the local Prison Ministry. We are grateful for Fr. William's visits and support for central Florida. We were elated only a month later by Fr. Thomas Keating's visit to the Annunciation Catholic Church in Altamonte Springs on March 3-4. He divided his time with the local area Centering Prayer members on one day and the parish at large on the next day. COCF continues to offer monthly programs to facilitate ongoing spiritual formation via Days of Prayer (Silence & Solitude), Conference Days, such as "Contemplative Service: The Practice of Attention/Intention", with CO presenters Bob Fasulo and Ed Savoy; "St. Therese of Lisieux: Dying & Caring for the Dying" with presenter Fr. Terry Ryan, CSP; and our annual 10-Day Intensive/Post-Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat typically held in May or June at St. John Vianney Seminary in Miami.

Basha Perez, 407-869-0781, cocf@christian.net

CHAPTER UPDATES CONTINUED

Florida, Tampa Bay

Contemplative Outreach of Tampa Bay (COTB) in Florida is moving from the outstanding leadership of Marge and John Rafferty to a new coordinator, to be determined, and two assistant coordinators, Jeff Carr and Bob Fasulo, representing north and south of the bay, respectively. We are glad to offer a dynamic Core Group, including four who have recently attended Coordinator Servant-Leader Formation at St. Meinrad's Monastery. Fr. Micah of St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass offered a beautiful commissioning service for us. Marge Rafferty is moving on to new leadership and will be heading up the Living Flame Program internationally. Our community has progressed from Living Flame I last year, moving on to Living Flame II, concluding this year. We are hoping to usher in a new Living Flame III as soon as that might be available. Response has been phenomenal with 46 attendees. We had a visit from Fr. Keating for our final session on The Night of Spirit and to the Epiphany Cathedral in Venice on April 2nd. We are grateful to special events coordinator, Kaethe Perez for her excellent work. We are also grateful to Bob Fasulo for updating ten of our Introductory Workshop Presenters on the New Essentials. We have over 15 Centering Prayer groups growing strong in our area at this time. We are thrilled that in mid-October Jeff Carr will be coordinating a visit with Sr. Maria Tasto, who will be giving us a Lectio Divina Workshop, as well as offering training in these workshops to our current Commissioned Presenters. A recent visit from Fr. William Meninger graced over 80 of us with his wisdom on the book, *The Cloud of Unknowing*. We also coordinated efforts with Contemplative Outreach of Central Florida for our statewide 10-day Intensive/Post-Intensive Retreat led by Fr. Bill Sheehan in Miami on May 19-28. We offer gratefulness to the Holy Spirit for these beautiful movements in our area.

Assistant Coordinators, Bob Fasulo, 941-778-3091, rpfami@yahoo.com and Jeff Carr, 813-251-2025, jeffcarr@tampabay.rr.com

Georgia, Atlanta

The first half of 2006 was once again a productive and enriching six months for Contemplative Outreach Atlanta. On March 18, Susan Komis came to Atlanta to guide us through the Visioning Day process. We incorporated the annual United in Prayer Day into our Visioning Day program, which added special meaning to our coming together as we planned for the future of Contemplative Outreach Atlanta. New prayer groups were started as a result of the Introduction to Centering Prayer Programs that were offered. In May, we held our first Centering Prayer and the 12 Steps Weekend Retreat and look forward to this retreat becoming an annual event. Over Labor Day weekend, we will host our second annual 5-Day Intensive at the Trappist Monastery near Atlanta. Contact Mary Joyce and Vernon Dixon at 706-896-8275 or vandmjdixon@alltel.net for details. Finally, we are looking forward to offering the Living Flame Program, which is to begin in the fall. If you are interested in any of our programs, please contact

Roberta Oster at 404-299-2670, robertaoster@bellsouth.net or Cathy Hightower at 770-973-6243, chightower@aol.com

Illinois, Chicago

Bob Gordon, Director of Religious Education and Assistant Coordinator in Chicago, has been providing eighth grade retreats on Lectio Divina for several parishes in the archdiocese. They have been very well received. Bob is now working with a national committee to build curricula for both high school and middle school formation in the contemplative dimension of the gospel. There were seven introductory programs scheduled with first sessions between January 28 and March 25. We are blessed with commissioned and presenters-in-training to provide leadership for these. This is the second year for Living Flame I. Next year, the two groups will join for Living Flame II. In April 2007, we have invited Gail Fitzpatrick-Hopler, President of Contemplative Outreach, to provide a Day of Enrichment to Centering Prayer practitioners. An 8-Day Intensive will be held in July 2007. **Margie Tomlinson, Coordinator, 847-391-0997, matomlinson@comcast.net**

Kentucky

In September 2006, our coordinator will have completed the agreed upon three-year term. In anticipation of this event, 17 members joined in a discernment process in the January leadership meeting to determine who would best serve as our next coordinator. Sr. Mary Otho Ballard, OP, was chosen and accepted the role. She will be working closely with the outgoing coordinator until September. Four new prayer groups have started weekly meetings in Owensboro following a January 28 Introductory Workshop at Settle Memorial UMC, in partnership with St. Stephen's Cathedral. Two of our members have been leading a weekly prayer group at the Luther Luckett Prison in a nearby town during the past year. On May 22 we expanded our prison ministry by presenting an Introductory Workshop at the Federal Medical Prison in Lexington. During the past year, Fr. Carl Arico led a three-day retreat at Nazareth, Kentucky, in April and an 8-Day Intensive/Post Intensive Retreat in July at Mt. St. Joseph's Retreat Center. Mary Dwyer presented a one-day workshop on the Welcoming Prayer at Nazareth. We are expanding our Annual Day of Prayer for Peace to three different settings to make it available to more of our members. In July of this year, the 8-Day Intensive/Post Intensive Retreat will be offered at Mount St. Joseph's Retreat Center under Fr. Justin Langille's direction. In September, Sr. Maria Tasto will present a workshop on Lectio Divina. This has been two-and-a-half years full of amazement and gratitude to all the members of COKY for their generosity in sharing the responsibility of COKY. We are growing and one can see God's grace flowing and inspiring our members and those we touch. It is very humbling. **Millie Clements McElroy, 502-244-0878, i.mcelroy@insightbb.com**

Louisiana, Baton Rouge

Our Mini-Retreat Series continue to be a blessing. After two years visiting with "The Origins of Contemplative Prayer", this year our theme is "Lectio Divina". We continue the same format: four periods of Centering Prayer, use of videotapes for the teaching, and ending the day with a sharing time. Starting September 2006 to May 2007 our theme will be "Love in Christian Contemplation". Everyone is invited - see you.

Monica Freeman, 225-924-3812, freemonica2003@yahoo.com

We are on the long, long road of re-building and recovering here in New Orleans. The Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph that was our prime meeting place suffered millions of dollars of damage and will not be rebuilt. We are so thankful that in our need the Parker Memorial United Methodist Church has been very welcoming to us. The Newman Center at the University of New Orleans is being repaired and we will soon be able to use the space again. This is a time when our mailing list is almost useless - so many people have either left town or have moved elsewhere in the metro area. Yet the daily practice of Centering Prayer sustains us. Small groups still gather weekly and at least once a month we unite for a morning prayer. Rosaryville in Ponchtoula, Louisiana is going to be able to host us for our yearly Intensive/Advanced-Intensive Retreat, July 21-28. We have been blessed: Fr. Carl Arico spent an evening with us exploring "Centering Prayer in the Midst of Chaos". Pray for us, please.
Vivien Michals, 504-944-4000, vived2@cox.net

Louisiana, New Orleans

During the past year we launched our new website, which provides instant information about Centering Prayer and lets practitioners know they are part of a larger movement. Go to www.minnesotacontemplativeoutreach.org to visit our website. In addition, our 21 teachers reached hundreds of people wanting to learn more about Centering Prayer to deepen their practice. They conducted six Introductory workshops, five Weekend Retreats and six Intensive Retreats. In addition, the following opportunities were also offered: "Deepening Centering Prayer"; "Growing in Inner Freedom"; and "Men, Meditation, Midlife and Merton". More than 50 groups meet regularly throughout the state to support practitioners. One of these groups is comprised of men who have been meeting for more than five years to discuss spirituality issues and to meditate together. In the "wide-spread" northeast region of our state, leaders and practitioners met three times this past year to share Centering Prayer, meditative walks, a Keating video, discussions and lunch. This year the core group also surveyed all group leaders to see how Minnesota Contemplative Outreach can serve them better. Results will guide us in planning future activities.
Sr. Virginia Matter, 651-777-7251, virginia@benedictctr.org

Minnesota

We welcomed the new year on January 8 with a wonderful, intimate Epiphany Celebration and Taize Prayer Service. During the service, Servant Leaders stood to pray the Prayer of Dedication for their upcoming year of service. We also invited anyone who wished to serve to stand and join in. It was a beautiful sight to see so many others moved by the Spirit stand and pray as a sign of their intent to serve this year. Without doubt, our Chapter will provide service opportunities for everyone this year as we host the International Conference in September. We are also offering Formation for Contemplative Outreach Service in mid-July to meet members' requests to become Presenters of the Introductory Workshop Programs. Our Silent Saturday series of mini-retreats sees growing attendance every session. And, with over 30 prayer groups now, we are in the process of building a larger service team to support their needs and match new members with existing groups or help new groups get started. Having hosted the 20th Anniversary Tour last fall, it will continue to be a very busy time for our community. But, we trust "all shall be well". Experience has taught us that the Holy Spirit will guide us and that we'll have the ways and means—and the Servant Leaders— to do all we are meant to do!
Marsha Hatfield-Baker and Jim McElroy, Co-Coordinators, 314-918-8288 (Marsha), hatfield-baker@charter.net, 618-398-5734 (Jim) jmac150@sbcglobal.net

Missouri, St. Louis

Contemplative Outreach of New Mexico will be hosting an 8-Day Retreat, July 20-28. This is a pilot retreat that uses various vestibules into Centering Prayer. Timothy Kooock 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 and have already done a 10-Day Intensive Retreat or the equivalent of three to five Weekend Intensives. No prayerful movement experiences are required. Contact Susan Rush for more information or to register. **Susan Rush, 505-988-8886, susrush@aol.com**

New Mexico

Brother Fire - Contemplative Outreach originated in the 1980's. It followed the teachings of Frs. Thomas Keating and Basil Pennington during its period of formation and growth in its commitment to Centering Prayer. Joe Byrne, as an active Anglican priest, was privileged to show videos and teachings by Fr. Thomas to the Episcopal Diocese of Albany at their convention. Eventually some eight groups emerged. Four groups are presently active. We are delighted and grateful for God's call to be part of His growing body of contemplatives.
Joseph Byrne, 518-745-7976, jmbyrne@capital.net

New York, Albany

Our primary focus in 2006 is to present the revised essentials of the method of Centering Prayer to existing prayer groups, as well as accommodate new requests within Westchester County and its immediate neighboring communities. Two new brochures help to give our chapter a "face". Our new chapter brochure connects us to Contemplative Outreach, Ltd. and describes our unique programs. *(continued on page 22)*

New York, Westchester

Ongoing Programs

Living Flame



The Living Flame is 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

needed to stay faithful to the practice. It is an opportunity to receive and share conceptual background at a deeper level, as well as experiential insight, building a faith community committed to the Centering Prayer practice. Meetings are held one Saturday each month during seven consecutive months. The Living Flame Program is flourishing in chapters all across the country! **To schedule this program in your area for 2006/07 call: Marge Rafferty, 727-345-7908, mraffter@tampabay.rr.com**

Chicago, IL

*Our Lady of Resurrection Medical Center
Marge Tomlinson, 847-391-0997,
matomlinson@comcast.net*

Washington, DC

*Laurel LaCivita, 202-482-4243,
Laurel_lacivita@ita.doc.gov*

External Study Program

EThe Contemplative Outreach External Study Program in the Contemplative Tradition is a twelve-week course divided into two parts covering contemporary expressions of the Christian contemplative tradition, reaching back to the beginnings of the systematic practice of contemplative prayer among the desert monks of Syria, Egypt and Palestine. The objectives include facilitating a deeper understanding of the Christian contemplative tradition and the opportunity to engage beyond the intellectual level to personally interact with the living tradition in everyday life. For more information, call Bonnie Shimizu 970-927-0331, bjs@rof.net

The prison outreach brochure includes quotes from the women of the Taconic Correctional Facility sharing their experience with Centering Prayer. We continue to attract outstanding outside speakers to supplement our local talent. At our Graymoor October 2005 retreat, Director Fr. Bill Sheehan's focused presentation offered a deeper understanding of Fr. Thomas Keating's teachings. Both seasoned and new practitioners gained insights and wisdom through engaging dialogue and humor. Judy Blanchard-Young arranged for her long-time friend, David Frenette, to fly East from Colorado for her Founder's Day Celebration in November 2006. David presented a thought-provoking workshop to a large group, many traveling substantial distances for this special occasion. David spoke of how the contemplative journey changes over time as our relationship with God develops. Rooted in Fr. Keating's teachings, this workshop opened new territory designed for those whose Centering Prayer practice has created a yearning for something more, something deeper. Special thanks to our Leadership Team and to our Facilitators for their devoted service. For information about our upcoming events, check our link on the national website.

Stephanie Iachetta, 914-921-1113, cwemail@aol.com

After serving six rewarding years, Ron Barnett recently decided to step aside as coordinator. This decision will allow other leadership to serve and Ron can best serve the Board of Trustees of Contemplative Outreach, Ltd., to which he was elected. Please join the Leadership Team as we welcome Guy Semmes to his new role as coordinator. The Chapter is very active and has planned a number of programs for the upcoming year. An introductory program in Centering Prayer is planned for early summer in Northern Virginia. Guy and Dana Semmes's prison ministry is moving forward. Fr. Bill Sheehan will present a Welcoming Prayer Workshop following his visit with us this winter for a weekend retreat. A service group is meeting to promote the growth of Centering Prayer in Northern Virginia. Three new commissioned presenters of Centering Prayer have joined us in presenting introductory programs. In all, the Spirit is silently and steadily nourishing our area and for this we are all most grateful. Finally, plans are underway for COMW to host the Living Flame Program (LFP). We are excited about the experience of how this program can galvanize a community through spiritual deepening, and it has drawn wide interest from Baltimore, MD to Richmond, VA. We will offer the LFP, beginning in October 2006 and ending in May 2007. For more information concerning our LFP contact: Isabelle Robinson at (703) 421-0464 or imjrobinson@comcast.net.

Guy Semmes, 301-983-1857 thesemmes@comcast.net

It was with interest and appreciation that I read the letter from "anonymous" to Unknown Friends which appeared in the Spring/Summer 2005 newsletter. We, here in this beautiful valley, can in some respects identify with our anonymous friend. We have three small groups that meet faithfully and find support and encouragement from the group. Two of these groups are in Ogden and one in Salt Lake City. Though we do have the support of the group, I can identify with anonymous in that it is still difficult to maintain a level of dedication for any extended length of time, even with the benefit of a small support group. To get people more involved, during the past year we have read and discussed Fr. William Meninger's book, *Loving Search for God*. It has brought us closer together as well as encouraging us in our practice of Centering Prayer. I would encourage small groups to read and discuss one of the many resources available for our growth in Centering Prayer, as part of their meeting.

Sr. Danile Knight, O.S.B., 801-392-9231, olmrh@konnections.net

*New York, Westchester
continued from Page 21*

Washington, DC

Utah

*Please join us
for the Contemplative Outreach Annual Conference 2006
in Saint Louis, Missouri
September 27 - October 1, 2006
(See Page 4 for details.)*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY - DECEMBER 2006

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
8/4-8/6	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Fr. William Meninger	Sergio de Morais 55-21-2246-6242 sdmorais@terra.com.br
8/11-8/13	Belo Horizonte, Brazil Fr. William Meninger	Jandira Pimentel 55-31-9163-7424 oracaocentrante@yahoo.com.br
8/18-8/20	Sao Paulo, Brazil Fr. William Meninger	Marcio de Oliveira 55-11-6973-8097 cell 55-9403-4900 mlo2002@ulo.com.br
9/1-9/3	Cullman, AL Benedictine Retreat Center	Gloria Garrison 256-734-8302
12/1-12/3	Jerome, ID Place Monastery of the Ascension	Br. Selby Coffman 208-324-2377x215 selby@idahomonk.org

Centering Prayer Weekend Retreats

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

Date	Place	Contact
7/7-7/9	Manchester, NH Joseph House Contemplates Retreat Center	Sr. Mary Anne 603-627-9493 srmaryannel@aol.com
7/21-7/23	Manchester, NH Joseph House Contemplates Retreat Center	Sr. Mary Anne 603-627-9493 srmaryannel@aol.com
8/11-8/13	Manchester, NH Joseph House Contemplates Retreat Center	Sr. Mary Anne 603-627-9493 srmaryannel@aol.com
8/25-8/27	Manchester, NH Joseph House Contemplates Retreat Center	Sr. Mary Anne 603-627-9493 srmaryannel@aol.com
8/25-8/27	Kwazulu Natal South Africa Coolock House Retreat Ctr	Sr. Emmanuel 039-684-6358
9/2-9/4	Barranquitas Puerto Rico Casa de Retiro Sagrado Corazon	Hermana Maria Milagro Carbonell 787-857-3131
9/14-9/17	Eureka Springs, AR Little Portion Retreat Ctr Susan Komis	Mary Fromme 417-823-8359 cospr@earthlink.com
9/15-9/17	Manchester, NH Joseph House Contemplates Retreat Center	Sr. Mary Anne 603-627-9493 srmaryannel@aol.com
9/17-9/19	Sewanee, TN St. Mary's Sewanee Intensive	Carol Wray 615-373-0613 carolwray@aol.com
9/29-10/1	Manchester, NH Joseph House Contemplates Retreat Center	Sr. Mary Anne 603-627-9493 srmaryannel@aol.com
9/29-10/1	Melbourne, KY Moye Spiritual Life Center	Sr. Micki Martin, CDP 859-441-0700x321 mickimartin76@hotmail.com
10/6-10/8	St. Joseph, MN Spirituality Center, St. Benedict's Monastery	Sr. Rita Budig 320-363-7115
10/6-10/8	Cape Town, South Africa Goedgedacht	Urs and Dawn Geiges 011-27-021-783-4879 ugeiges@iafrica.com
10/13-10/15	Manchester, NH Joseph House Contemplates Retreat Center	Sr. Mary Anne 603-627-9493 srmaryannel@aol.com
10/13-10/15	Frenchville, PA Bethany Retreat Center	Nicole Fedder 814-263-4267 bethanyadult@pennswoods.net
10/13-10/15	Racine, WI Siena Center	Monica Meagher 414-962-2443
10/13-10/15	Osakis, MN St. Elizabeth Retreat House	Carol Weber 218-894-3631 rcwebers@brainerd.net
10/27-10/29	Manchester, NH Joseph House Contemplates Retreat Center	Sr. Mary Anne 603-627-9493 srmaryannel@aol.com

Centering Prayer Weekend Retreats continued

Date	Place	Contact
11/3-11/5	Encino, CA Holy Spirit Retreat Center Sr. Maria Tasto	Sr. Linda Snow 818-784-4515 srlinda@adelphia.net
11/3-11/5	Lake Charles, LA St. Charles Center Fr. Justin Langille	Barbara Tomme 337-855-4239 tommeb@bellsouth.net
11/9-11/12	Vancouver, Canada Rivendell Retreat Center	Anne Larochelle 604-944-2742 marlan2@telus.net
11/9-11/12	Frenchville, PA Bethany Retreat Center Intensive	Nicole Fedder 814-263-4267 bethanyadult@pennswoods.net
11/10-11/12	Manchester, NH Joseph House Contemplates Retreat Center	Sr. Mary Anne 603-627-9493 srmaryannel@aol.com
11/10-11/12	Osakis, MN St. Elizabeth Retreat House	Carol Weber 218-894-3631 rcwebers@brainerd.net
11/12-11/14	Sewanee, TN St. Mary's Sewanee Intensive	Carol Wray 615-373-0613 carolwray@aol.com
11/17-11/19	Melbourne, KY Moye Spiritual Life Center	Sr. Micki Martin 859-441-0700x321 mickimartin76@hotmail.com
12/1-12/3	St. Joseph, MN Spirituality Center, St. Benedict's Monastery	Sr. Rita Budig 320-363-7115
12/1-12/3	Walden, NY St. Andrew's Retreat House Advent	Cathy McCarthy 845-778-2102 cathymc@frontiernet.net
12/1-12/3	Osakis, MN St. Elizabeth Retreat House	Carol Weber 218-894-3631 rcwebers@brainerd.net
12/8-12/10	Cullman, AL Benedictine Conf. Center Intensive	Gloria Garrison 256-734-8302
12/15-12/17	Manchester, NH Joseph House Contemplates Retreat Center	Sr. Mary Anne 603-627-9493 srmaryannel@aol.com
12/29-1/1	Walden, NY St. Andrew's Retreat House Fr. Bill Sheehan New Year's Retreat	Cathy McCarthy 845-778-2102 cathymc@frontiernet.net

Centering Prayer Retreats

7/12-7/16	Austin, TX Church of Conscious Harmony Couples Retreat	Lisa Genung 512-347-9673 officemgr@conciousharmony.org
7/20-7/26	Rancocas, NJ Francis House of Prayer	Sr. Marcy Springer 609-877-0509 FHOP@pics.com
8/1-8/8	Rancocas, NJ Francis House of Prayer	Sr. Marcy Springer 609-877-0509 FHOP@pics.com
8/2-8/6	Austin, TX Church of Conscious Harmony Men's Retreat	Lisa Genung 512-347-9673 officemgr@conciousharmony.org
8/10-8/17	Rancocas, NJ Francis House of Prayer	Sr. Marcy Springer 609-877-0509 FHOP@pics.com
8/25-9/1	Rancocas, NJ Francis House of Prayer	Sr. Marcy Springer 609-877-0509 FHOP@pics.com
9/13-9/17	Austin, TX Church of Conscious Harmony Women's Retreat	Lisa Genung 512-347-9673 officemgr@conciousharmony.org
10/20-10/22	Colorado Springs, CO Benet Pines Retreat Center Instructions for Experienced Practitioners	Sr. Therese O'Grady 719-633-0655 stogosb@hotmail.com
10/24-10/29	Walden, NY St. Andrew's Retreat House Cynthia Bourgeault	Cathy McCarthy 845-778-2102 cathymc@frontiernet.net

Centering Prayer Retreats *continued*

Date	Place	Contact
11/16-11/19	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic Manresa Loyola	Vicky Acra 809-566-5909 lic.acra@verizon.net.do
12/6-12/10	Austin, TX Church of Conscious Harmony Advent	Lisa Genung 512-347-9673 officemgr@conciousharmony.org

Welcoming Prayer 5 Day Immersion 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. The 5-Day is an in-depth introduction, review and immersion into the Welcoming Prayer Practice as a way of healing the woundedness of the human condition and deepening our relationship with God. Prior Centering Prayer experience necessary.

Date	Place	Contact
11/1-11/5	Walden, NY St. Andrew's Retreat House	Cathy McCarthy 845-778-2102 cathymc@frontiernet.net

Welcoming Prayer Weekend Retreats

5/5-5/6	Melbourne, KY Moye Spiritual Life Center	Sr. Micki Martin, CDP 859-441-0700x321 mickimartin76@hotmail.com
5/19-5/20	Oak Brook, IL Christ Church Mary Dwyer	Rich Butler RJButler48@aol.com

Lectio Divina Weekend Retreats

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

11/12-11/14	Sewanee, TN St. Mary's Sewanee	Carol Wray 615-373-0613 carolwray@aol.com
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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.

6/26-7/3 8 Day	Cullman, AL Benedictine Conference Center	Gloria Garrison 256-734-8302
7/2-7-9 8 Day	Winnipeg, MB St. Benedict's Retreat Ctr.	Sr. Catherine Labinowich 204-338-4601 stbens@mts.net
7/9-7/16 8 Day	Melbourne, KY Moye Spiritual Life Center	Nancy McLaughlin 513-228-2990
7/10-7/17 8 Day	Honolulu, HI St. Anthony's Retreat Ctr.	Cathie Jordan 808-536-6090 cohi@lava.net
7/16-7/23 8 Day	Maple Mount, KY Mt. St. Joseph's Retreat Ctr.	Kathy McCarty 270-229-0200x413 kmccarty@maplemount.org
7/16-7/23 8 Day	Edmonton, Alberta Providence Renewal Ctr.	Sr. Mary Cousin 780-430-9491x224
7/19-7/23 5 Day	Frenchville, PA Bethany Retreat Center	Nicole Fedder 814-263-4267 bethanyadult@pennswoods.net
7/20-7/28 8 Day	Frenchville, PA Bethany Retreat Center	Nicole Fedder 814-263-4267 bethanyadult@pennswoods.net
8/5-8/12 8 Day	Greensburg, PA	Sr. Margaret Ann Calcutta 724-834-8073 macalcutta@aol.com

Check the website for Additions or Changes

www.contemplativeoutreach.org

Intensive Centering Prayer Retreats - 5 to 8 days *continued*

Date	Place	Contact
8/13-8/20 8 Day	near Las Vegas, NV Rose Mountain Retreat Ctr. Fr. Justin Langille	Andy Gould 505-425-5728 rosemount@newmexico.com
8/16-8/23 8 Day	Union, WA St. Andrew's House	Diane Haavik 206-567-5906
8/22-8/27 7 Day	Walden, NY St. Andrew's Retreat House Anne Mazza	Cathy McCarthy 845-778-2102 cathymc@frontiernet.net
9/1-9/5 5 Day	Conyers, GA Monastery of the Holy Spirit	Mary Joyce & Vernon Dixon 706-896-8275 vandmj@alltel.net
9/22-9/27 6 Day	McLean, VA St. Andrew's Retreat House Fr. Bill Sheehan	703-356-4243 www.dominicanretreat.org
9/24-9/29 6 Day	Port Elizabeth, South Africa Kromme River	Sue Burton 041-585-3933
10/24-10/31 8 Day	Lafayette, OR Our Lady of Guadalupe, Trappist Abbey	Norman Carlson 541-754-9945 ndcarlson@msn.com
10/24-10/29 6 Day	Jerome, ID Monastery of the Ascension	Br. Selby Coffman 208-324-2377x215 selby@idahomonks.org
11/3-11/10 8 Day	Snowmass, CO St. Benedict's Monastery Waiting List	Carol DiMarcello 970-927-9376 coc@sopris.net
11/13-11/20 8 Day	Snowmass, CO St. Benedict's Monastery Open	Carol DiMarcello 970-927-9376 coc@sopris.net
11/14-11/19 6 Day	Honolulu, HI St. Anthony's Retreat Ctr.	Cathie Jordan 808-536-6090 cohi@lava.net
11/16-11/20 5 Day	Barranquitas Puerto Rico Casa de Retiro Sagrado Corazon	Hermana Maria Milagro Carbonell 787-857-3131 srmariyannel@aol.com

10 Day Intensive Centering Prayer Retreats

9/5-9/14	Snowmass, CO St. Benedict's Monastery Waiting List	Carol DiMarcello 970-927-9376 coc@sopris.net
10/3-10/12	Snowmass, CO St. Benedict's Monastery Waiting List - Staff Training	Carol DiMarcello 970-927-9376 coc@sopris.net
10/16-10/25	Merseyside, England St. Benedict's Monastery	Mrs. E. Smith 011-44-177-262-0746 infocouk@aol.com

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.

6/26-7/3 8 Day	Cullman, AL Benedictine Conference Center	Gloria Garrison 256-734-8302
7/7-7/14 8 Day	Frankfort, IL The Port Fr. Carl Arico	Sr. Benita Jasurda 630-725-6000 bjasurda@shmlisle.org
7/9-7/16 8 Day	Encino, CA Holy Spirit Retreat Center	Sr. Linda Snow 818-784-4515 srlinda@adelphia.net
7/9-7/16 8 Day	Melbourne, KY Moye Spiritual Life Center	Nancy McLaughlin 513-228-2990
7/10-7/17 8 Day	Honolulu, HI St. Anthony's Retreat Ctr.	Cathie Jordan 808-536-6090 cohi@lava.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY- DECEMBER 2006

Post-Intensive Centering Prayer Retreats continued

Date	Place	Contact
7/14-7/21 8 Day	Winnipeg, MB St. Benedict's Retreat Ctr.	Sr. Catherine Labinowich 204-338-4601 stbens@mts.net
7/16-7/23 8 Day	Maple Mount, KY Mt. St. Joseph's Retreat Ctr.	Kathy McCarty 270-229-0200x413 kmccarty@maplemount.org
7/30-8/5 7 Day	New Baltimore, PA New Baltimore Retreat Ctr. Fr. Frank Erdlejac/Jeane Kish	Melanie Hankinson/L. Greg 814-733-2210 lordve@pennswoods.net
8/16-8/23 8 Day	Union, WA St. Andrew's House	Diane Haavik 206-567-5906
8/22-8/27 6 Day	Walden, NY St. Andrew's Retreat House Anne Mazza	Cathy McCarthy 845-778-2102 cathymc@frontiernet.net
9/1-9/5 5 Day	Conyers, GA Monastery of the Holy Spirit	Mary Joyce & Vernon Dixon 706-896-8275 vandmjdixon@alltel.net
10/24-10/31 8 Day	Lafayette, OR Our Lady of Guadalupe, Trappist Abbey	Norman Carlson 541-754-9945 ndcarlson@msn.com

Post-Intensive Centering Prayer Retreats - 10 Days

11/2-11/12	Barahona Dominican Republic MonteSacro	Vicky Acra 809-566-5909 lic.acra@verizon.net.do
8/1-8/10	Snowmass, CO St. Benedict's Monastery Waiting List Only	Carol DiMarcello 970-927-9376 coc@sopris.net
8/4-8/13	Walden, NY St. Andrew's Retreat House Fr. Bill Sheehan, OMI	Cathy McCarthy 845-778-2102 cathymc@frontiernet.net
12/5-12/14	Snowmass, CO St. Benedict's Monastery Waiting List Only	Carol DiMarcello 970-927-9376 coc@sopris.net

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.

7/2-7/9 8 Day	Winnipeg, MB St. Benedict's Retreat Ctr.	Sr. Catherine Labinowich 204-338-4601 stbens@mts.net
7/21-7/28 8 Day	Ponchatoula, LA Rosaryville	Vivien Michals 504-944-4000 vived2@cox.net
8/6-8/11 6 Day	Colorado Springs, CO Benet Pines Retreat Ctr.	Sr. Therese O'Grady 719-633-0655 stogob@hotmail.com
10/1-10/6 6 Day	Valle Crucis, NC Valle Crucis Conference Ctr.	Paul Supina 828-265-5335 psupina@earthlink.net

Advanced Centering Prayer Retreats - 10 Days

8/6-8/15	St. Joseph, MN Spirituality Center St. Benedict's Monastery	Sr. Rita Budig 320-363-7115
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21 Day Centering Prayer Immersion Retreat

Unique opportunity for those already established in Centering Prayer to deepen the experience of living the commitment to the contemplative dimension of the Gospel in daily life. Different theme and presenter each week.

Presenters: Fr. Thomas Keating, Fr. Carl Arico, Therese Saulnier

Date: Aug. 31- Sept. 20

Place: St. Andrew's Retreat House, Walden NY

Contact: Cathy McCarthy, 845-778-2102, cathymc@frontiernet.net

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
7/7-7/13	St. Louis, MO Marianist Retreat Ctr. For New Presenters, Refined Essentials Only	Jim McElroy 314-918-8228 jmac150@sbcglobal.net
7/7-7/9	St. Louis, MO Marianist Retreat Ctr. For Current Presenters, Refined Essentials Only	Jim McElroy 314-918-8228 jmac150@sbcglobal.net

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
7/7-7/14	Chicago, IL	Post Intensive
7/16-7/22	Dominican Republic	Workshop
8/5-8/12	Greensburg, PA	Intensive Retreat
9/27-10/1	St. Louis, MO	Annual Conference
10/2-10/6	New Orleans, LA New Orleans Archdiocese	Priest Retreat
10/8-10/12	Cleveland, OH Cleveland Archdiocese	Priest Retreat
10/16-10/20	Rockford, IL	Priest Retreat
10/20-10/22	Long Island, NY	20th Anniversary Tour
10/27-10/29	Greensboro, NC	Weekend Retreat
11/10-11/12	Honolulu, HI	20th Anniversary Tour
11/14-11/19	Hawaii	6-Day Intensive
11/25-11/29	Indianlantic, FL	Parish Mission Holy Name
12/2-12/5	Fairfield, CT	Parish Mission Our Lady of the Assumption
12/9-12/13	Austin, TX	Parish Mission St. Thomas More

For Information About Contemplative Outreach in the United States

- AK** Anchorage
Chugiak
Juneau
- AL** Birmingham
- AZ** Peimah
Phoenix
- CA** Encino
Escondido
Eureka
Fairfield
La Canada
La Verne
La Quinta
Long Beach
Oakland
Orange
Palo Alto
Piedmont
Playa Del Rey
San Diego
San Francisco
San Francisco
San Gabriel
San Rafael
Shasta
- CO** Boulder
Boulder
Breckenridge
Carbondale
Colorado Sprgs
Colorado Sprgs
Denver
Denver
Estes Park
Fort Collins
Snowmass
Snowmass
Greenwich
Litchfield
- DC** Washington
- FL** Altamonte Sprgs
Anna Maria
Eustis
Longwood
Miami
Miami
Miami Beach
Miami Beach
Naples
Tampa
Satellite Beach
Vero Beach
W. Palm Beach
- GA** Decatur
Marietta
Hiawassee
- HI** Honolulu
- IA** Cedar Falls
Coralville
Des Moines
Fairfield
Long Grove
- ID** Boise
- IL** Belleville
Bloomington
Bolingbrook
Chicago
Chicago (NW)
Chicago (W)
Chicago (Korean)
Evergreen Park
Moline
- IN** Ferdinand
Ferdinand
Indianapolis
Indianapolis
- KS** Chanute
Topeka
Wichita
- KY** Lexington
Louisville
Melbourne
- LA** Baton Rouge
Lake Charles
New Orleans
Shreveport
Boxborough
Lowell
Rockport
- MA** Taunton
- MD** Annapolis
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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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