

Celebrating Forty Years...

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“Living into the inspiring legacy of Thomas Keating:
Celebrating 40 years of evolving community.”

September 26 - 29, 2024 ~ 40th Anniversary Conference

held at the Conference Center Hotel at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Co-hosted by Contemplative Outreach, Ltd and Centering Prayer 12-Step Outreach Service Team.

The 2024 conference is being held at Emory University which is the home of the Thomas Keating Archives, a place that holds tangible evidence of his legacy.

Conference Presenters:



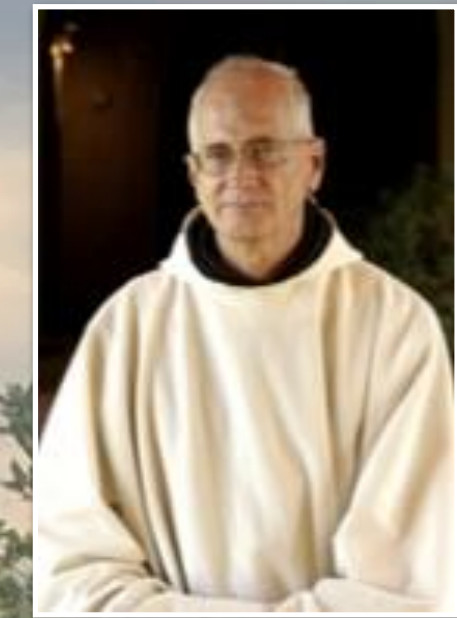
Fr. Bill Sheehan



Maru L De Guevara



Mary Dwyer



Fr. Charlie Albanese

These four people represent all of us who have walked with and were inspired by Thomas Keating. And like many of us they continue to actively share his teachings.

Conference Panels



Extensión Contemplativa Internacional (Spanish)
Extensão Contemplativa Internacional (Portuguese)-
“Circle of Service”.



Contemplative Outreach, Ltd Board Members -
“New Development and Growth in Contemplative Outreach”.



Prison Outreach Service Team of Contemplative Outreach -
“Experiencing Freedom Within the Walls”.

Conference Presenters



Howard B

Fr. Matt F

Rory Howard B and Fr. Matt F -
“The 11th Step”



Rory McIntee

Stuart Higginbotham

Rory McIntee, Stuart Higginbotham and Rafael Dickson -
“Thomas Keating’s Young Contemplatives”



Netanel Miles-Yepe and Rory McIntee -
“Charis Circles”

Conference Presenters



Netanel Miles-Yepez

Netanel Miles-Yepez -
“The Snowmass Conferences”



Colleen Thomas



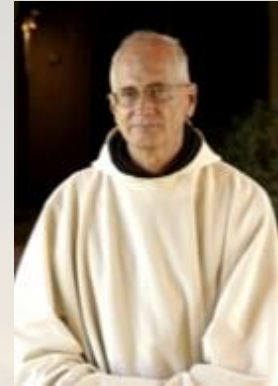
Keith Kristich

Colleen Thomas and Keith Kristich -
“Widening the Circle”



Wendy Maree -
“Thoughts on Forty”

Presenter Bios (A-Z)



Father Charles Albanese is a Cistercian (Trappist) Monk who lived with Father Thomas Keating at St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass Colorado. For many years he served silent retreats for Contemplative Outreach.



Howard B., lives in the West of England near the Malvern Hills with his wife, children and dog. He is a member of a 12 Step Fellowship and leads Meditation retreats. He is a founder member of The Guttermonks, a UK Group of addicts in recovery who practice Centreing Prayer as their 11th Step and who pass this simple method on to others in 12 Step recovery. During COVID Guttermonks went online and now hold weekly Zoom meetings with an international membership. He is a counsellor and his work with clients from diverse backgrounds is supported and led by the contemplative life.



Maru L De Guevara, was born and raised in México City. She received formation in Contemplative Leadership and Spiritual Guidance at the Shalem Institute in Washington DC, and is an alumni of the Living School. Maru lives and cares for her mother in Florida, where she maintains a practice as a Spiritual Director and Acupuncture Physician. She serves retreats in the U.S and Latin America, forms part of the Circle of Service of Extensión Contemplativa Internacional and is a former member of the Board of Contemplative Outreach. She traveled to México for a number of years with Fr. Thomas Keating as his interpreter before he retired, and worked with him closely in his Pastoral Council.



Mary Dwyer began a regular practice of Centering Prayer in the mid 1980s through the House of Prayer in Erie, PA. She attended her first Intensive Retreat in Snowmass in 1990 and was so captivated she moved to join the Chrysalis House community in Warwick, NY that same year. Chrysalis was CO's intentional lay community experiment under the guidance of Fr. Thomas. Mary Mrozowski, David Frenette, and Cathy McCarthy were the other members. After leaving Chrysalis Mary's career shifted from Banking to Clinical Social Work, while remaining closely connected to COL. She has previously been involved with the Faculty, the Gift Committee, The Living Flame Service Team, and the Miami Chapter Leadership. She currently is on the *** (Governing Board is changing its name, hopefully at the 3/19 meeting) and the Welcoming Prayer Service Team. She now lives in Erie, PA with her beloved husband, Juan Llarena whom she met through the Living Flame program in Miami in 2008. She is in private practice there, and offers retreats and workshops on behalf of COL throughout the US and internationally.

Presenter Bios (A-Z)



Fr. Matt F. has been a chef, a monk and is now a priest. In July of 1989 he attended his first AA meeting and by the grace of God has been in 12 step recovery ever since. In December of 1989, he first visited St. Benedict's Monastery and began the practice of Centering Prayer. He is a 1979 graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, and cooked professionally for many years. Today he considers himself a contemplative cook. Prior to entering the Seminary to study for the priesthood, Fr. Matt lived for five years at two different Trappist Monasteries in Colorado and Missouri. Fr. Matt is particularly interested in contemplative spirituality and for over thirty years has engaged the daily discipline of Centering Prayer. Since 1994 he has taught Centering Prayer and led many retreats and workshops. He is excited to share his passion for Centering Prayer as an 11th Step Practice, or as Fr. Thomas Keating referred to it, Divine Therapy. This discipline initiates a healing in body, mind and spirit ... a sobriety ... which is physical, emotional and spiritual.



Stuart Higginbotham, an Episcopal priest, serves as the rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Gainesville, Georgia and also as Assistant Professor in the Practice of Spiritual Formation and Ministry at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He is the author of *The Heart of a Calling: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness in Congregational Ministry* and a new collection of poetry, *Bones of Light: Poems of Spiritual Imagination*. The focus of Stuart's vocation lies at the intersection of contemplative practice, congregational life, and spiritual imagination.



Keith Kristich is a writer, retreat leader and teacher of contemplative prayer. Keith is a commissioned presenter of Centering Prayer, trained with the Shalem Institute of Spiritual formation in leading contemplative prayer groups and retreats and is a certified teacher of meditation and the Enneagram. Founder of the online community Closer Than Breath, Keith aims to help people reimagine the divine, unlearn rigid religion and see God everywhere.



Wendy Maree is a long-time practitioner of Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina. She is the Contemplative Outreach Co-Coordinator of the Pretoria Region in South Africa and as such serves workshops, retreats and conferences.

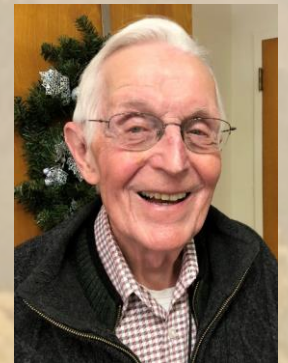
Presenter Bios (A-Z)



Rory D. McEntee PhD, is president and executive director of the [Charis Foundation](#) for New Monasticism & Interspirituality. Rory is co-author of [The New Monasticism: An Interspiritual Manifesto for Contemplative Living](#), and was the administrator for the Snowmass InterSpiritual Dialogue Fellowship—a 30-year project convened by Father Thomas Keating, engaging contemplative leaders from multiple faiths in intimate dialogue. Rory has taught world religions, contemporary spirituality, and philosophy at various universities, and did doctoral work in philosophy, theology, and mathematics. Rory was a close friend and mentee of both Fr. Keating and Brother Wayne Teasdale, with whom he worked to found the Interspiritual Movement.



Netanel Miles-Yépez, D.D., is an artist, philosopher, religion scholar, and spiritual teacher. A student of both Father Thomas Keating and Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Miles-Yépez is co-founder of Charis Foundation for New Monasticism and Interspirituality. He is currently Chair of Religious Studies and Director of the Keating-Schachter Center for Interspirituality and Naropa University. He is also the editor of *The Common Heart: An Experience of Interreligious Dialogue* and the author of *The End of Religion and Other Writings*.



Father Bill Sheehan, He has broad experience in pastoral ministry as a pastor and in marriage counselling. He also served in the Office of Lay Ministry, Archdiocese of Miami, Florida. He has ministered to clergy as Director of Ministry to Priests, Archdiocese of Miami, Florida and has served as provincial of the Oblates Eastern America Province as well as Oblate Formation Director and Novice Director. Fr. Sheehan has a master's degree in Formative Spirituality from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. Since 1983, Fr. Sheehan has been involved with Contemplative Outreach founded by Fr. Thomas Keating, O.C.S.O. During that time, he has led many Centering Prayer workshops and retreats in different parts of the country. In the last several years, he has participated in 11th Step Retreats bringing to this retreat experience, the practice of Centering Prayer as well as the Welcoming Prayer practice.



Colleen Thomas, A Spiritual Director and long-time practitioner of Centering Prayer, Colleen Thomas delights in companioning others on their spiritual journey. Trained in the monastic arts of discernment, spiritual companionship and retreat leadership, she leads contemplative prayer groups, workshops and retreats. She serves as the Diversity Outreach Coordinator for Contemplative Outreach and as a Program Director for [Stillpoint: A Center for Christian Spirituality](#). Her particular passion for expanding contemplative practice and teaching to younger and BIPOC communities. Colleen earned her MA in Theology and Art from Fuller Theological Seminary. She worked in television in Los Angeles for 15 years before relocating to her hometown of Washington D.C. where she continues to explore her creative passions while enjoying the close companionship of her family. You can discover more about her work at <https://soulcarela.com/> and hear her in conversation about Centering Prayer and the contemplative life on the [Opening Minds, Opening Hearts](#) podcast.