



Offerings

...touching lives in Christ

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS
OF GOD'S GRACE!

July / August 2018
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The cost of this newsletter was generously subsidized by Maureen Collins in memory of her parents, Bob and Mary Collins, and by a community of religious sisters.

WEEKLY MEETINGS

The Center has a variety of regularly meeting groups for your spiritual growth. Newcomers are always welcome.

The **Contemplative Prayer Group** meets **Wednesdays**, 5:30-6:30 p.m. If you'd like to attend, contact Tom O'Connor at 315-313-3758.

The **Women's Faith Sharing Group** meets once a month on a Thursday from 3 - 4:30 p.m. Led by Kathy Papa (315-457-4922), members meet for mutual spiritual encouragement as they navigate life. Upcoming meetings include **July 19 and August 16**.

Our Catch the Spirit Bible study group is on summer break and will resume after Labor Day.

The Center turns 40!



Save the date and celebrate with us! Friday, September 28, 5-8 pm, the Center will celebrate 40 years of God's grace.

Jim Krisher founded the Spiritual Renewal Center in September 1978 with the moral and financial support of a small group of dedicated believers and the encouragement of then-Bishop Harrison. Our ministries of spiritual direction, our lending library, workshops and retreats have grown and flourished over the years. Four decades later, our physical home is at the Bishop Harrison Center in Syracuse at 1342 Lancaster Avenue.

Our evening's festivities will include wine and cheese, catered dinner, dessert, silent auction and a flash sale at Hand to Hand Fair Trade.

Tickets are \$40 per person and can be purchased by calling the Center at 315-472-6546 or online at spiritualrenewalcenter.com (click on "Celebrate our 40th!").

Watch your email for an invitation!

ABOUT US

The Spiritual Renewal Center is a Christian ministry that provides spiritual direction and renewal opportunities to all members of the community.

Learn more about us at spiritualrenewalcenter.com.

DIRECTOR

Jim Krisher

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The Spiritual Renewal Center is located at 1342 Lancaster Avenue in Syracuse. You can reach us at 315-472-6546.

HOURS OF OPERATION

The Center will be closed on Fridays during July and August.
Monday, Tuesday, &
Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The Center will be closed on July 4, Independence Day
September 3, Labor Day.

A Message from a Member of our Board

The Spiritual Renewal Center is a place where God's presence shines through its people and through its warmth and energy. Spiritual direction, gatherings of people, thought-provoking talks and other events have allowed me to see that the Center is a Spirit-filled place. While God's grace abounds throughout our world, that grace is particularly easy for me to find at the Spiritual Renewal Center.

The fact that God loves us more than we will ever know has become abundantly clear for me through the Center's ministry. The Center proclaims the love and life and mercy that God wants for all of us to have in abundance!

I've been involved with the Center's ministry at Mid-State Prison in Marcy, NY, where I lead Bible sharing

gatherings. This effort is a particular joy for me, as many men readily express their feelings and thoughts about our God. I generally present a few key points, listen, try to understand, reflect back to them at times, and encourage them so they can better appreciate God's loving readiness to embrace and forgive us all.

I invite you to come and experience for yourself what the Center has to offer – and please support this work with your financial gifts, as well as with your time, talents, and prayer. I am so thankful that the Center flourishes; with your generosity we can flourish well into the future. Thank you for whatever you can give!

Dave Babcock
Member, Board of Trustees

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola: A 30-week Adventure in Prayer



St. Ignatius' spiritual legacy has blessed Christians for 500 years. His classic Spiritual Exercises have inspired many to make the scriptures an integral part of their lives and prayer, teaching them an approach to discerning

God's leading in the daily activities of everyday life.

The Spiritual Renewal Center will once again offer the full program of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius as a 30-week retreat. Participants meet on Tuesday afternoons (1-3 p.m.) or evenings (6-8 p.m.) for a group session led by one of the retreat leaders, and with an individual prayer guide. This program is led by Sr. Marise May, OSF, and Rev. Gerald McKeon, SJ. Material for daily prayer is given in the book provided. More information is available on our website.

The 2018-2019 program begins on Tuesday, September 18, continuing through mid-May. Space is limited, so don't wait to register. Contact Sr. Marise for more information at 315-472-6546 today.

Save the date for these fall programs



Some wonderful programs are in the works for our autumn season! Keep an eye on our website and upcoming newsletters for details on these events and more.

- **Wednesday evening, September 19:** Rev. Dr. David McCallum, SJ, Vice-President of Mission & Integration at LeMoyne College, will present an evening of renewal.
- **Wednesday evenings, September 19 & 26, October 3 & 10:** Center director Jim Krisher will lead a study on the Gospel of Matthew at St. Joseph the Worker parish in Liverpool.
- **Thursday, October 11:** Internationally renowned New Testament scholar Dr. PHEME PERKINS from Boston College's Theology Department will give a lecture on scripture.
- **Thursday, October 25:** Rev. Dr. Brian Konkol, dean of Hendricks Chapel at Syracuse University, will present an evening of renewal.

The HORIZONS Program: Training to Be a Spiritual Director

Have you sensed that God might be calling you to this work? Then, consider applying to our two-year HORIZONS Foundational Program for the Training of Spiritual Directors.

HORIZONS is a practicum-based program for people to develop their gifts for the ministry of spiritual direction. Monthly sessions focus on the principles and practices of spiritual direction, alongside close supervision of direction practice.



Staff includes Jim Krisher, Sr. Marise May, Kathy Papa, Lana Riley, and Rev. John Rose. Applicants must have substantial knowledge in theology, scripture, and spirituality, and a minimum of one year's experience receiving spiritual direction.

The first year of HORIZONS meets at the Center in October 2018 through June 2019, on the first Monday of each month, 1:00-5:15 pm. During the second year, monthly sessions are held October 2019 through June 2020, 2:45-5:15 pm. Tuition is \$695 per year. A certificate is awarded at the completion of the program.

Contact Center Director Jim Krisher for more details or an application.

Welcome to our Newest Spiritual Director



Rev. Gerald McKeon, SJ, has joined the Center's staff. He is a Jesuit priest with extensive experience in spiritual direction and in offering the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius to men and women from all backgrounds. He has served as a chaplain at Ithaca College and Cornell University, and on the staff of Eastern Point retreat house in Gloucester, MA.

Contact the Center if you wish to meet with Gerry or any of our staff of gifted spiritual directors.

What Does Grace Look Like? is a series of reflections about God's grace. This month's feature comes from Jim Krisher, the Center's Director.

What Does *Grace* Look Like?



I was leading a Bible study in one of the medium security correctional facilities where our prison ministry team serves. There were about 20 guys dressed in drab green prison garb in attendance around the long table, and we had been looking at the parable of the vineyard laborers in Matthew's gospel, chapter 20.

I love teaching that parable, as it always stimulates animated discussion, and even debate about whether the scenario Jesus presents is fair or not, and what the meaning of it is for us. I was drawing out some of the power of that parable when a young man a few seats down on my right suddenly exclaimed "Whoa!" and pushed himself back a bit from the table. He seemed startled, and his eyes were wide, and he looked at me and said "How'd you do that? How'd you do that?"

"How'd I do what?" I asked, perplexed by his outburst. "How'd you do it?" he repeated. "One minute we're talking about a gospel parable and the next minute it's all about us, it's about me and my life! How did you make that happen?"

While I was delighted to know that he had been so deeply affected by the scripture that evening, I knew it wasn't me that had made it happen.

That's what *Grace* looks like.

Hand to Hand is open this summer!



Life typically slows down in July and August... but not for The Hand to Hand Gift Shop! We are open and

ready for you to shop. Our exciting summer will include flash sales and new merchandise arrivals. Be in the know by signing up for our emails and connecting with us on Facebook!

In this time of disasters and strife in Third World Counties, shopping fair trade means more than ever. Do your part to bring prosperity to those who need it so much. Change the world by changing the way you shop! Hope to see you soon.

Be a part of something big! Volunteer with the Center.






Our prison ministry team needs assistance with its periodic retreat program, "Residents Encounter Christ." Held at Mid-State and Mohawk Detention Centers near Rome, these weekends promote relationship with Jesus and offer hope and personal transformation for those incarcerated—and for the volunteers who serve! Contact Dave Babcock at 315-263-9023 to

learn more.

We are also looking for reliable volunteers to staff our reception-area. Ideal candidate will greet guests, answer the phone, help locate and check out books, and ring up sales in Hand-to-Hand, our fair trade gift shop. Schedules are flexible! Contact Fran Burton at volunteercoordinator@spiritualrenewalcenter.com for details

Connect with the Spiritual Renewal Center

Get social with the Spiritual Renewal Center and find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter today. You can also share your email address with us at spiritualrenewalcenter.com and get the the latest information sent right to your inbox.

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