



# Offerings

...touching lives in Christ

July / August 2017  
Volume 4 • Issue 4

The cost of this newsletter was generously subsidized by Sally Manahan in memory of her parents, Jeanne and George, and by Daniel McMullin in memory of his mother, Elva. Thank you!

## WEEKLY MEETINGS

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

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

The **Contemplative Prayer Group** meets 5:30 - 6:30 pm on Wednesdays. This meditation group is facilitated by Tom O'Connor. To attend, contact him at 315-313-3758.

The **Women's Faith Sharing Group** will meet at 3:00 - 4:00 pm on Thursday, July 13 and Thursday, August 17. Led by Kathy Papa, group members meet for mutual spiritual encouragement as they navigate life. For more details, call Kathy at 315-457-4922.

## Major Library Upgrades Nearly Complete



Meet Molly Wilber, MLS — the volunteer who is leading the online database project inside the Center's library.

During the past year, Molly Wilber, MLS, has led a diligent group of nine volunteers, cataloging the Center's nearly 10,000 books in an online database. Soon anyone with an internet connection will be able to search the Center's library right from [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com). Library computers will also be equipped with this new search function. We have put together an easy-to-use guide and volunteers will be available to assist.

Library patrons will enjoy this new system and the efficiency it brings to the Center, including its ability to:

- Search for books by title, author, or subject
- View a book's availability
- Place a temporary hold on publications
- Send reminder notices for overdue items

The library conversion project has been laborious and time-consuming. Thank you for your patience these past few months.

We are so grateful to Molly and the other library volunteers for their perseverance and many hours of service. The conversion will be completed sometime in late summer. When we're finished, we will announce its completion on our website's homepage and via email.

## 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](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com).

## DIRECTOR

Jim Krisher

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## EDITOR

Allison M. Bowman

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

## HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thursdays: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Fridays: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## SUMMER HOURS

The Spiritual Renewal Center will be closed on Fridays during the months of July and August. Regular hours will resume after Labor Day.

The Center be closed on Tuesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

# A Note from the Chair of Our Board of Trustees

One of my favorite places to take summer visitors is Thornden Rose Garden here in Syracuse. The Rose Garden is a gem, unknown by many, but resplendent with beauty and fragrance. I am amazed that a smallish city like ours would have such a treasure that enriches our life.

And this is also so true of the Spiritual Renewal Center. Connecting people with God, healing hurts and helping people discern through the ministry of spiritual direction, providing retreats, seminars, and workshops for spiritual growth: the Spiritual Renewal Center is a gem, resplendent with beauty and God's fragrance. Central New York is graced with the presence of this ministry.

As a ministry, we rely on the steady, ongoing support of each of you. Even as our halls quiet down during the summer, our fixed expenses continue. Please continue your kind partnership with the Spiritual Renewal Center by sending your gifts in the enclosed envelope or online. We are deeply grateful to all of you!

In Christ,  
Kathy Faber-Langendoen



## Save the Date for our Fall Programs & Classes

**Our fall calendar is already filling up!** Take a look at our emerging schedule, and reserve these dates on your calendar.

**Thursday, September 28, 7-9 p.m.:** Dr. Rebecca Letterman, Associate Professor of Spiritual Formation at Northeastern Seminary, will speak on "Spirituality and Embodiment."

**Wednesdays, September 20 & 27; October 4 & 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.:** Jim Krisher, the Center's Director, will lead a 4-week study on John's Gospel at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Liverpool.

**Wednesday, October 18, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.:** Sr. Mary Ellen Schopfer will lead a half-day retreat at the Center entitled "Saying YES to God."

**Thursday, October 19, 7 p.m.:** Rev. George Coyne, SJ, astronomer and theologian, will present "An Awakening to Faith: We Are Born of Stardust."

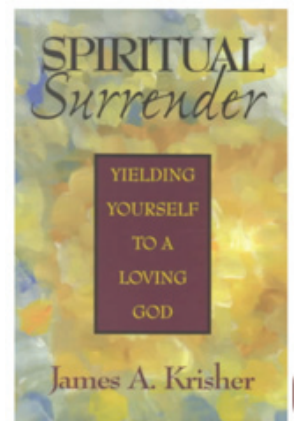
**Check back for details in our September & October newsletter or on online at [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com).**

## Growing with God on the Go This Summer

Whether your plans include a ride in the car or relaxing time at home, we have some spiritual inspiration for your summer reading.

Over the last months, we've made great strides in making our work more available online. Search for "Spiritual Renewal Center Syracuse" on YouTube, and you'll find several short videos about our ministry.

Jim Krisher's much-loved book, *Spiritual Surrender: Yielding Yourself to a Loving God* is now available as an audio download from our website for a recommended donation of \$10. You will also find Rev. Dr. Mark Lawson's video presentation, "Human Suffering and the God of Love," available for download.



As always, your generosity in prayer and donations are vital to our ability to grow this ministry.

# Major Programs Set to Begin Soon

As we enjoy the splendid days of summer, Center staff are busy preparing for our fall schedule. We have two opportunities for you to prayerfully consider. Act now if you are interested!

## The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola

For more information, contact Sr. Marise May at 315-472-6546.

The legacy of St. Ignatius has blessed Christians since the 16th century. His classic Spiritual Exercises inspired many to make the scriptures an integral part of their lives and their prayer, and taught them an approach to discerning God's leading in the daily circumstances of everyday life.

The Center will once again offer the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius as a 30-week retreat led by Sr. Marise May and Fr. Lou Sogliuzzo. Participants meet on Tuesday afternoons with an individual prayer guide and for a group session led by one of the retreat leaders. A book with daily prayers is provided.

The 2017 – 2018 program begins Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 1 p.m. or 6:30 p.m., and continues through mid-May. Participation is capped at 14.

## The Horizons Program: Training to Be a Spiritual Director

Contact Jim Krisher, Director of the Spiritual Renewal Center, at 315-472-6546 for more details or an application.

Sensing a call to the ministry of spiritual direction? Then, consider applying for our two-year HORIZONS Foundational Program for the Training of Spiritual Directors — a practicum-based curriculum for people wanting to develop their gifts in this important Christian work. 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 Fr. John Rose. Applicants must have substantial knowledge in theology, scripture, and spirituality, and a minimum of one year receiving spiritual direction.

The first year of HORIZONS meets at the Center October 2017 through June 2018, on the second Monday of each month, 1-5:15 p.m. During the second year, monthly sessions are held October 2018 through June 2019, 2:45-5:15 p.m. Tuition is \$695 per year and partial scholarships may be available, dependent on need. A certificate is awarded at the completion of the program.

*What Does Grace Look Like?* is a series of reflections about God's grace from staff at the Spiritual Renewal Center. This month's submission comes from Jim Krisher, the Center's Director.

## What Does *Grace* Look Like?



He was sitting opposite me, a recently retired man telling of the unexpected turns in his life. It had been years since I'd last seen him, and in those years a lot had happened.

Chief among them was a major stroke that had severely affected his wife's memory. While there were no outward changes in her physical abilities, mentally she was greatly diminished, unable to remember conversations from one minute to the next, prone to hoarding even bits of refuse, and needing near constant supervision.

He also explained how unable he was to connect with God in any of the ways he had connected in the past -- through formal prayer, church involvement, spiritual reading, etc. He had not the least desire to even try to do those things anymore, and was concerned about what that said about his faith and relationship with God.

"Where I meet God is in caring for my wife, in loving her. My whole life revolves around her. People ask me all the time how can I do it, or if I'm resentful of the demands this makes on me. But I don't resent it at all! In caring for her I experience God's caring for me. God is so real for me in those moments it almost overwhelms me!"

That's what *Grace* looks like. +



## Visual Meditations on Scripture: The Color of the Word



Nicora Gangi

The Center is pleased to host an ongoing exhibit through the summer of the work of Nicora Gangi, a nationally-known artist and retired Syracuse University art professor. The pieces hanging at the Center are visual meditations based on the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. Her first exhibit of pieces hung at the Center in April and May. A new set of images is now installed at the Center.

In describing her work, Nicora says: *I aim to render that aesthetic experience of being overwhelmed, filled with awe at something so majestic it evokes a sense of the One who created everything seen and un-seen.*

Drop by the Center this summer, enjoy Nicora's art, and celebrate God's Word to us through Scripture, through image, through Christ.


## Jesuit Novice Assigned to Center for autumn months


Good news! The Society of Jesus has assigned Jesuit novice Shaun Slusarski to minister at the Spiritual Renewal Center from September through December. We'll be giving a full introduction to this gifted young man in our September/October newsletter!

## Connect with the Spiritual Renewal Center

Get social with the Spiritual Renewal Center and find us on Facebook and Twitter today. You can also share your email address with us at [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com) and get the latest information sent right to your inbox.

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