



Offerings

...touching lives in Christ

January / February 2019
Volume 6 • Issue 1

The cost of this newsletter was subsidized by a member of the Board of Trustees.

Thank you!

RECURRING GROUPS

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

Our *Catch the Spirit Bible study group*, led by Marise May, OSF, meets Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m. to discuss the readings assigned for the coming Sunday.

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. Upcoming meetings are January 17 and February 21. Led by Kathy Papa (315-457-4922), members meet for mutual spiritual encouragement as they navigate life.

Rooted in God's Mercy: Prayers & Reflections on Forgiveness

Thursday, January 31, 7-9 p.m. with Rev. Gerard McKeon.

Fee: \$20 or whatever you can afford.



As Christians, we are called to forgive, just as we ourselves have been forgiven. Yet, sometimes this seems to be a near-impossible call. Join Jesuit Gerry McKeon for this insightful, encouraging, and thought-provoking session on forgiveness. Using a reflection from Henri Nouwen, the witness of an Amish community, Biblical reflections, and

Ignatian prayer, Gerry will help us explore God's mercy and our journey toward healing and forgiveness.

Gerard McKeon, SJ, has extensive experience in spiritual direction and in offering the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius to people 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. He recently joined the Spiritual Renewal Center as one of its spiritual directors.

ABOUT US

The Spiritual Renewal Center is an ecumenical Christian ministry providing spiritual direction and renewal opportunities to all members of the community.

VISIT US AT

1342 Lancaster Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13210
spiritualrenewalcenter.com
315-472-6546

OUR BOARD

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HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday, Tuesday, &
Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Center will be closed
Jan. 21, Martin Luther King
Day
Feb. 18, Presidents' Day



Please visit Page 3 for more upcoming events at the Center!

A Note from Our Board of Trustees

I first met Jim Krisher, the Center's Director, when he gave an Advent presentation at my parish. Several years later when I was a prison chaplain at Cayuga Correctional Facility and heard that the Spiritual Renewal Center was involved in prison ministry, I asked Jim if he would provide some teaching and spiritual formation activities for my "men in green." Thus began a 15-year affiliation with the Center. Eventually, I received formal training in providing spiritual direction in the Center's two-year Horizons certificate program. This training helped me minister more fruitfully, not only to those imprisoned, but also to prison staff confronting their own struggles and dark places.

While the Center's on-site spiritual directors meet with over 250 people monthly, the Center's work extends even farther: training spiritual directors who take their skills back to their communities and churches (and prisons!), making our library of nearly 10,000 books available to anyone who walks through our doors, providing spiritual encouragement to men and women in prison, being a space for quiet and reflection.

Check out all that our ministry has to offer by visiting our website at www.spiritualrenewalcenter.com or—better yet—visit us in person!

Maureen Collins
Member, Board of Trustees



We are so grateful for your faithful financial support. Your gifts, both large and small, allow us to provide spiritual direction and encouragement to all who come through our doors! If you need a 2018 End-Of-Year summary of your financial gifts, please email us at mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com or call the Center at 315-472-6546 and speak with Michael.

What Does Grace Look Like? is a series of reflections about God's grace. This month's feature is written by Kathy Faber-Langendoen, one of the Center's spiritual directors.

What Does *Grace* Look Like?

Slowly, the frustrations with her job accumulated. What once was a great fit for her gifts and passions, started to chafe. As we met for spiritual direction, she talked about challenges to do her job faithfully and with integrity—seeing God's work in that but yet, weighed down by the challenge.

A new job opened up, teaching new Americans, refugees from around the world. She dug in, connecting with people from Afghanistan, Nigeria, Syria, China, and elsewhere. Joy enveloped her—she sensed in her bones that God had called her to this new task. She explained it this way: "You know when you get a new pair of shoes, and you have to break them in? Well, this is better than that. It's like a fantastic pair of new shoes that fits perfectly, right out of the box. No break-in period required!"

New shoes that fit perfectly.

That's what *Grace* feels like. +



Upcoming Workshops & Events

Register today by calling 315-472-6546, emailing mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com or by visiting us online at spiritualrenewalcenter.com

Where the Rubber Hits the Road: Spirituality for Everyday Life

Thursday, February 28 , 7-9 p.m. with Rev. Steven Moore, Psy.D.

Fee: \$20 or whatever you can afford.



Often, we struggle to make concrete connections between our spiritual self and the everyday struggles of life. Particularly during rough patches on our journey, we may either spiritualize our difficulties and retreat from engaging in life or move away from our faith. Please

join Steven Moore – psychologist, spiritual director, and Episcopal priest – as he examines concrete ways to combine our spiritual practices with psychological wisdom to help us become more healthy, whole, and happy human beings.

Steven Moore is the rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Marcellus and a licensed psychologist at Hutchings Psychiatric Center, as well as a spiritual director on staff here at the Center.

Teresa of Avila and the Stages of Prayer

Thursday, March 21, 7-9 p.m.

Fee: \$20 or whatever you can afford.



Teresa of Avila is one of the greatest mystical teachers of prayer in the Christian tradition. Cristobal will offer insights from Teresa on the different stages of prayer as we move towards union with God. He will draw primarily from her book *Interior Castle* and from other contemplative writers

to explore her metaphors of climbing a spiritual ladder gradually through the different mansions or dwelling places within the inner castle. Cristobal has followed the footsteps of Teresa and John of the Cross, having been born and raised in Spain himself. This presentation is open to all interested persons. We're sure you'll find it to be both inspiring and motivational.

Renowned Scholar Returns to the Center



Cristobal Serrán-Pagán, Ph.D., a prominent religious scholar and engaging teacher, returns to the Spiritual Renewal Center March 21-22 for two events – one open to the general public and the other for spiritual directors and pastoral ministers.

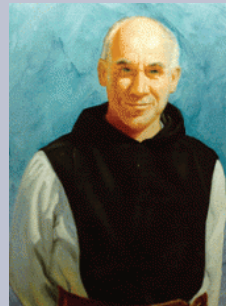
Cristobal is a professor of philosophy and religious studies at Valdosta State University in Georgia. His Ph.D. is in religious studies from Boston University, and he specializes in world religions and the history of philosophy. His work focuses on the teachings of the Spanish mystics and he is also a widely recognized expert on Thomas Merton.

His newly released book is *Saint John of the Cross: His Prophetic Mysticism in the Historical Context of Sixteenth-Century Spain*.

Spiritual Formation: Wisdom from Thomas Merton

Friday, March 22, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Fee: \$35



In this workshop for spiritual directors and pastoral ministers, Cristobal will address the importance and practice of spiritual formation in the life and writings of Thomas Merton. Merton became a master of novices at his Trappist monastery, and he frequently stressed the need to actively educate the mind and the

heart, drawing on his monastic tradition. But Merton also learned from his interfaith dialogues with people of other religions, especially the Dalai Lama. Cristobal will compare some of their views on the role of spiritual formation and education and how relevant these teachings are for people in ministry today.

Shop Hand to Hand Fair Trade!

Many thanks to all who shopped Hand to Hand Fair Trade for their Holiday giving. Your purchases help us support the native artisans who have been given new beginnings through their Fair Trade participation.

Watch the Center website and like us on Facebook for upcoming January/February sales, making way for fresh Spring merchandise. Shop during regular Center hours and before events.

**Change the world
by changing the way you shop!**



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

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