



Offerings

The cost of this newsletter was subsidized by a member of our Board. 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 will continue to meet through the summer on Tuesday mornings, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

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 one **Thursday** a month (coming up: July 18, August 15) from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Led by Kathy Papa (315-457-4922), members meet for mutual spiritual encouragement as they navigate life.

HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Closed on Fridays until September 6.

The Center will be closed July 4, Independence Day

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

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



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

The 2019-2020 program begins Tuesday, September 17, continuing through mid-May. Space is limited, so don't wait to register. Contact Sr. Marise for more information at 315.472.6546 or mariseosf@gmail.com.

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 VOLUNTEERS

The Center's ministry thrives through the work of dedicated volunteers. We gratefully acknowledge our current volunteers:

Volunteer Coordinator

Fran Burton

Reception

Dave Babcock
Sr. Ann Marie Ball
Larry Baner
Cynthia Barnett
Carolyn Bordeleau
Romana Cabrey
Ann Derr
Melanie Emery
Chris Porter
Monica Rapazzo
Darlene St. John
Karen Susko
Bob Talomie
Penny Talomie
Mary Walsh

Hand to Hand Fair Trade

Judy Carr

Library

Molly Wilbur
Nathaniel Lawson

Plants

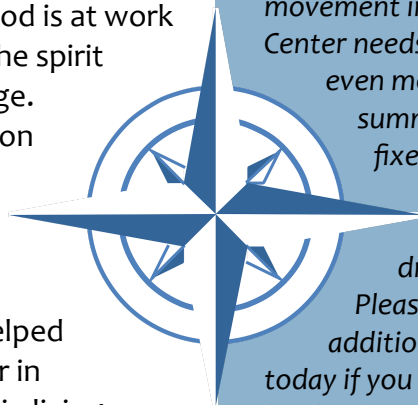
Grace Ferner

Ministry of Spiritual Direction Continues to Grow

The Spiritual Renewal Center is in its 41st year of providing spiritual direction. Our team of 24 spiritual directors from a range of Christian denominations provides direction to over 250 individuals—a number that has nearly doubled over the last five years!

Spiritual direction is an ancient ministry within Christianity. In this ministry, the spiritual director helps the directee become more aware of God and more responsive to God's presence. One's prayer life, discerning how to sort through issues and decisions, uncovering ways in which God is at work—all are fruitful areas for exploring during monthly visits. In the spirit of the gospel, the Center offers spiritual direction free of charge. However, as an independent, grassroots ministry, we depend on the offering of those who benefit from our services and we ask directees to consider making a \$50 donation per session, as they are able.

Receiving spiritual direction at the Spiritual Renewal Center helped me get “unstuck” on my faith journey. I often mull things over in isolation, sometimes endlessly: problems with God, struggles in living, choices to make. In direction, I was gently encouraged to sit with God with these things—to make them part of being in God's presence. It may seem obvious to you that, of course, that is what one ought to do. All I can tell you is that, despite being long in the faith, it was not obvious to me; the gentle questions and nudges of spiritual direction drew God and me closer. If you think God might be inviting you to spiritual direction, call us and we will be happy to speak further with you.



Your financial support allows us to continue to provide direction to all who come to us, regardless of their financial circumstances. Your donations help us provide the space, the library's resources, and skilled spiritual directors that help people see God's movement in their lives. The Center needs your support even more during these summer months, while fixed expenses continue even as income drops significantly. Please consider an additional contribution today if you are able (online, by check, or in person), and keep all our spiritual directors and those to whom we minister, in your prayers. Thank you!

Kathy Faber-Langendoen
Chair, Board of Trustees

What Does Grace Look Like? is a series of reflections about God's grace. This month's feature is written by Lou Sogliuzzo, SJ, one of our Spiritual Directors.

What Does *Grace* Look Like?

Several weeks ago I was awakened by the phone at 2:00 a.m. Since I'm on call at local hospitals, I guessed it was about a medical emergency. Indeed, it was. I was being asked to come in to baptize a two-day-old child, born at 23 weeks and not expected to survive. I found the child with her young parents and grandparents. It was a somber scene. They were simply holding a vigil witnessing to the truth of human mortality. After the baptism I sat with the family and was graced with their tears and with their stories of joy over the many other children in the family. In all of this, through the tears and reminisces, I saw the face of grace. As death drew near, these people had the courage to celebrate the gift of life that made them a family of faith. That premature newborn, barely able to breathe, made real for me the truth of life's sacredness.



That's what *Grace* looks like.

Save the Dates!

We're planning many wonderful offerings for Fall! Mark your calendar now for these events, and check our website and our September-October newsletter for details:

September 12, evening: Rev. Dr. Dan McMullin, Associate Dean of Students for Spirituality and Meaning Making at Cornell University, will speak on **Celts and their unique use of scripture**.

September 19: Meg Castellini, spiritual director and retreat facilitator, will lead a day-long retreat exploring **how music—and often, a particular song—can speak deeply of God's movement in our lives**. This retreat includes discussion, guided meditation, and time for reflection.

September 29, evening: Amy Aubrecht, a staff member at L'Arche and a yoga instructor who holds a Master's of Divinity degree, will lead a discussion and experiential session of **how, as embodied beings created by God, Christians can embrace that creation through including the body in prayer**.

October 10, evening. Sister Conchetta LoPresti, a nun, educator, and Coordinator of Deaf Ministry for the Buffalo Catholic diocese, will provide an **introduction to spiritual direction for Deaf people**. The session will be delivered in American Sign Language.

October 17 & 24, evenings: Center Spiritual Directors Marise May, Gerry McKeon, and Steven Moore, will lead a two-session workshop that explores a **Christian approach to discernment and decision making in daily life**, based on the spiritual and psychological insights of Ignatius of Loyola and others.

Four consecutive Wednesday evenings, beginning September 18: At the St. Joseph the Worker parish, Center Director Jim Krisher will present a series on **practical spirituality and the distinctiveness of the Christian way**, including discussion of images of God in scripture and listening to God through dreams.

Check out spiritualrenewalcenter.com for more information on our full slate of opportunities for spiritual growth.

Welcome, Andrea Pollock

We welcome Andrea Pollock as our new administrative assistant. Andrea also serves administratively at Onondaga Hill Presbyterian Church. She has a Bachelor's from Syracuse University, has studied anthropology, and has many years of office management experience. She is an avid reader, an artist, and a one-time Hula dancer. She is a joyous presence in the Center, and glad for a position that enables her to carve out some time for her art.



Andrea succeeds Mike DePew, who ably served us the past four years. Mike and his wife moved to Rochester, closer to family. We wish them God's blessings in this transition.

Change the World by Changing the Way You Shop!



A reminder that Hand to Hand Fair Trade Gift Shop remains open year-long. Many people think we are a seasonal "pop-up," but we provide the community with certified Fair Trade goods throughout the seasons. Having restocked after a busy Spring, we hope you will stop in to see what we have to offer. Your purchases help native artisans earn a living wage in respectful and safe environments.

Help the Center by Volunteering

We need volunteers for two of our ministries:

- The Center has a **prison ministry** that includes weekly spirituality and scripture sessions, and occasional “REC” weekend retreats (Residents Encounter Christ). Board member Dave Babcock and Center Director Jim Krisher are involved in this ministry and are looking for people interested in helping out, particularly at Mid-State and Mohawk (near Rome, NY). Contact Jim for more information at 315-472-6546.
- We also are looking for people interested in **staffing our reception desk**. If you enjoy people and can greet folks, answer the phone, and assist with library checkout and gift shop purchases, email Fran Burton at volunteer@spiritualrenewalcenter.com. We have openings for people able to regularly serve on a set half-day, or to fill in when necessary. Training is provided.

Thanks! The Spiritual Renewal Center is blessed by the work of so many volunteers, who give of their time alongside our staff members.



Connect with the Spiritual Renewal Center

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



facebook.com/spiritualrenewalcenter



instagram.com/spiritualsyracuse

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