



Offerings

...touching lives in Christ

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS
OF GOD'S GRACE!

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Volume 5 • Issue 5

The cost of this newsletter was generously subsidized by a member of the Board of Trustees in thanksgiving for Jim Krisher's 40 years of leadership.

WEEKLY MEETINGS

The Center has a variety of meeting groups held on a regular basis for your spiritual growth. Newcomers are always welcome.

Our [Catch the Spirit Bible study group](#) resumes on Tuesday, September 4. It will be led by Jesuit novice Chris Holownia and meet on Tuesdays 10-11:30 a.m. to discuss the readings assigned for the coming Sunday.

The [Contemplative Prayer Group](#) meets on 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 with upcoming gatherings on September 20, October 18, and November 15 from 3 - 4:30 p.m. Led by Kathy Papa, members meet for mutual spiritual encouragement as they navigate life. Contact Kathy at 315-457-4922.

Celebrate our 40th anniversary!



Join us Friday, September 28, 5-8 p.m. to celebrate 40 years of God's grace at the Center!

Our anniversary celebration festivities will include wine and cheese, a catered dinner, dessert, and a silent auction. In addition, everything in our Hand to Hand Fair Trade gift shop will be 25% off that evening only. Tickets are \$40 per person and must be reserved by Friday, September 14. No tickets will be available after that date or sold at the door on the evening of the celebration. Get your tickets today by calling 315-472-6546 or online at spiritualrenewalcenter.com (click on *Celebrate our 40th!*)

Since Jim Krisher's original call in 1978 to promote the spiritual renewal of adults, the Spiritual Renewal Center has grown and flourished. Our 22 spiritual directors are from a range of Christian denominations and provide skilled direction to more than 250 people by helping individuals see God's presence in their lives. Through the efforts of the Center's staff, volunteers and partners, we provide thought-provoking workshops and lectures, lead spiritual retreats for prisoners, host a library of almost 10,000 books on Christian spirituality, and offer fair trade goods through Hand to Hand Fair Trade.

ABOUT US

The Spiritual Renewal Center is a Christian ministry that provides 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

VOLUNTEERS
Dave Babcock
Sr. Ann Marie Ball
Larry Baner
Cynthia Barnett
Judy Carr
Ann Derr
Grace Ferner
Patrick Galway
Tim Licitra
Chris Porter
Monica Rapazzo
Bill Rosbrook
Karen Susko
Bob Talomie
Penny Talomie
Mary Walsh
Molly Wilbur

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 on:
Sept. 3, Labor Day
Oct. 8, Columbus Day



We are celebrating 40 years of ministry thanks to hundreds and hundreds of generous souls who supported this work with their generosity! We are still a grassroots organization and depend on gifts of all sizes to stay alive.

Thank you for whatever you can give to keep us growing into the future!
Please use the enclosed contribution envelope or contribute online.

Captivating Memoir is our Library Pick!



One of the newest additions to our library is Kate Bowler's compelling memoir, *Everything Happens for a Reason (and Other Lies I've Loved)*. An assistant professor at Duke Divinity School and author of a previous book on the American prosperity gospel, Bowler was diagnosed with advanced colon cancer in her thirties. Her memoir is a poignant, raw, humorous, and a spiritually challenging account of how serious illness helped her reconsider her beliefs

about God. Here is one of her spiritual insights:

What would it mean for Christians to give up that little piece of the American Dream that says, "You are limitless"? Everything is not possible. The mighty Kingdom of God is not yet here. What if rich did not have to mean wealthy, and whole did not have to mean healed? What if being people of "the gospel" meant that we are simply people with good news? God is here. We are loved. It is enough.

Come take a look at this and other great books in our library or by searching our library catalog online at spiritualrenewalcenter.com.

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to help fill a few roles at the Spiritual Renewal Center. Looking to get involved? Here are two opportunities waiting for you.

- **Prison Ministry Team:** The Center sponsors periodic weekend retreats for incarcerated men that promote a 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.
- **Reception-area Volunteers:** We are looking for volunteers to help with front desk duties, which include answering the phone, greeting guests, working in our library and Hand to Hand Gift Shop. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator Fran Burton at mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com if you are interested.

Upcoming Workshops & Events

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

Shadow Work and Christian Growth

Free yourself on **Wednesday, September 19, 7-9 p.m.** with Rev. Dr. David McCallum, SJ.

Fee: \$20 or whatever you can afford.



God calls us into freedom from our fears, ego attachments, and the variety of illusions that hold us back from living with joy, inner peace, and generosity toward others. In this workshop, Rev. David McCallum will present a Christian perspective on deepening spiritual growth and facilitate our exploration of

what Carl Jung called our *shadow*. This session will combine presentation, reflection, and one-on-one sharing in an engaging, and perhaps, even transformational workshop.

David McCallum SJ is an educator, spiritual director, and retreat guide. He currently serves as the Vice President for Mission Integration at Le Moyne College.

Jesus at Prayer

Join us to welcome Pheme Perkins, MA, PhD on Thursday, October 11, 7-9 p.m.

Fee: \$20 or whatever you can afford.



Christians have recited the Lord's Prayer as recorded in Matthew since the first century. They are often surprised by the shorter version in Luke's gospel, where we see Jesus praying which leads the disciples to ask him to teach them how to pray. This workshop will follow that model. First, we will look at the images

of Jesus, praying as presented in the gospels. Then, we will consider the teaching on prayer that Jesus offers his disciples. Finally we will suggest ways to follow Jesus's example in praying today.

Internationally-recognized New Testament scholar Pheme Perkins is a faculty member in the Theology Department at Boston College and is the University's Joseph Professor of Catholic Spirituality. She is a renowned Biblical scholar and educator with a focus on John and Paul's letters and the early church's social and cultural context. She is an active member of Good Shepherd Parish in Wayland, MA, where she is engaged in adult faith formation projects.

The Gospel of Matthew

Explore the gospel on Wednesdays, September 19 & 26 and October 3 & 10, 6:30-8:30 pm with Jim Krisher, the Center's Director, at St. Joseph the Worker Parish.



This four-session study will explore some of the key stories and teachings found in this magnificent account of the life and teachings of Jesus from an early Jewish-Christian evangelist. Jim Krisher will be our instructor and provide the historical and theological background to the gospel of Matthew, as

well as draw forth its rich meanings for our lives as Christians today.

Join us for this course at St. Joseph the Worker Parish Center, 1001 Tulip St, in Liverpool. Contact the Parish office at 315-451-2452 to register in advance and for more information.

Spirituality & Community Engagement: How Men & Women of Faith Can Serve the Common Good

Get connected on Thursday, October 25, 7-9 p.m. with Rev. Brian Konkol, PhD from Hendricks Chapel.

Fee: \$20 or whatever you can afford.



We are connected with people and places in ways that could never have been imagined in previous generations. The world has become a global village, with its rich and poor, its powerful and powerless. Given the multitude of connections that shape our communal lives, how can our religious and spiritual

principles guide our engagement in service to the human family?

Rev. Dr. Brian Konkol, Dean of Hendricks Chapel at Syracuse University, will be our presenter. Brian is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He has a global background of service, ministry, and teaching. Brian spent four years in South Africa, where he served as coordinator of a global mission program and assisted in parish ministry with Zulu-speaking Lutheran congregations. He is a much-sought-after preacher, presenter, and writer. Be sure to join us for this inspiring and thought-provoking presentation!

On Wednesday, October 10, Pheme Perkins will present, "Wisdom's Tragic Fall from God's Assistant to the Lost Soul of Gnostic Myth" at Syracuse University. Co-sponsored by Syracuse University's Lutheran Campus Ministry, Hendricks Chapel, and Department of Religion, this lecture will begin at 6 p.m. in the Noble Room of Hendricks Chapel. All are welcome to this free event.

An Invitation to Deepen Your Life with God: Ignatian Spirituality



The spiritual legacy of St. Ignatius of Loyola has blessed Christians since the 16th century. Once a Spanish soldier, Ignatius became a Christian while recovering from a war injury. He developed into one of the Catholic church's most influential theologians and founded the Society of Jesus, also known as the Jesuits. One of his essential teachings was to *find God in all things*, an encouragement that resonates with Christians across denominational boundaries. Ignatian spirituality focuses on discovering God's activity throughout our world – in the physical world surrounding us, in our hearts and minds, and in our relationships. He developed useful ways for those seeking God to increasingly sense God's presence and discern God's way, such as the Prayer of Examen and imaginative praying with scripture.

The Spiritual Renewal Center offers several programs in Ignatian spirituality to deepen your life in God.

The Spiritual Exercises: A 30-week Adventure in Prayer

Ignatius's classic Spiritual Exercises have 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 circumstances of everyday life.

The Center offers the full program of the Spiritual Exercises as a 30-week retreat on Tuesday afternoons, from 1 to 3 p.m. or evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. Led by Sr. Marise May, OSF, and Rev. Gerard McKeon, SJ, participants meet for a group session led by one of the retreat leaders and one-on-one with a prayer guide. Material for daily prayer is provided. The 2018-2019 program begins Tuesday, September 18, and continues through mid-May.

Space is limited, so register now! Contact Sr. Marise for more information at 315-472-6546.

And, if you're a reader...

We have over 175 books on Ignatius and Ignatian spirituality in our lending library. Visit spiritualrenewalcenter.com and click on Library to search our catalog from anywhere.

Ignatian Spirituality Group

Many find benefit from continuing an Ignatian approach to prayer and spiritual reflection. The last meditation of the retreat asks, *Now what do I do?* The Spiritual Renewal Center has your answer. For the last several years, people who completed the Spiritual Exercises have been meeting on the second Wednesday evening of the month to support each other, build community, consider recent developments in Ignatian spirituality and pray together in the Ignatian way. Why don't you consider joining us on October 10 at 6:30 pm at the Center? This group will be led by Jesuit Lou Sogliuzzo, a member of our spiritual direction staff.

Ignatian prayer summer program

For the past two years, we've offered a popular early summer eight-week session on praying with Christ, using the approach of Ignatius. Stay tuned for further details early next year!

Jesuit Novice assigned to the Spiritual Renewal Center



We're delighted that the Society of Jesus has once again assigned a novice to the Center for the next four months!

We welcome Chris Holownia, a second-year Jesuit novice from Wellesley, MA. He holds a master's degree in Education from Simmons College and a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Yale College. At Yale, he conducted the Whiffenpoofs, regaling audiences all over the world with humor and song and producing five albums. He has taught a variety of languages, including Mandarin Chinese, at several Massachusetts high schools. Chris also served as a choir director and organist at his home parish in Wellesley and performed in or directed more than 50 musicals throughout the Boston area. He brings a rich background to be shared with us through the Spiritual Renewal Center.

Chris will teach our Tuesday morning Bible study group, offer other programs, and serve in our prison ministry. We are very grateful for his presence. Be sure to introduce yourself to Chris when you come to the Center this fall.

What Does Grace Look Like? is a series of reflections about God's grace. This month's feature is written anonymously by a friend of the Center.

What Does *Grace* Look Like?



It was late April, and at age 14 I had been enduring what was the most troubling time of my life. Several days prior, a dear friend named Michael had hanged himself at his birthday party. It was the result of long conflict and rejection from his parents, and by the time of his death he was the shell of the friend that I had known as long as I could remember.

I spent three days in torment, wondering if there was anything I could have done. By the third day I just wanted peace, I wanted to see Michael again and to tell him that I understood and loved him. So, I waited until my family was asleep, and I snuck off to the basement and hanged myself from an exposed beam.

I came to in a hospital and learned that I had been unresponsive for several days. When my father found me I was not breathing and my lips were cold. On the advice of the doctors my parents had me spend that summer at a camp with other kids who had experienced significant trauma, with counselors tasked with showing us that there was a tomorrow.

Later I was to learn from my father how he happened to find me. He had been sound asleep when the face of my recently dead friend appeared to him in a dream, shouting, "Your son is in grave danger! Go to him now!" He was startled awake and ran to my room, which he found empty. He eventually made his way to the basement where he saw me. Screaming for help, he undid the rope that bound me.

I miss Michael to this day. I know that my attempt to follow him was, at the time, the only coping strategy I could see. I am so glad it failed, that God, and Michael, intervened to bring me to this rich adult life and a vocation to ministry. I will be forever grateful for all I've experienced since that day, and grateful that I've been able to help others walk back from that same abyss.

That's what *Grace* looks like.

Fair trade shopping at the Hand to Hand Gift Shop

Now is the perfect time to stop by the Hand to Hand Gift Shop! New merchandise, including stunning jewelry pieces and gorgeous scarves, are now on display. These one-of-a-kind pieces sell fast, so stop by soon before they are gone! Your purchases support impoverished artisans in developing countries of the world, as well as the work of the Spiritual Renewal Center.


Get a headstart on the holiday shopping season by bringing the gift shop to you! Hand to Hand Gift Shop will bring its fair-trade products to any church, business or organization. To learn more about outside sales, please contact Judy Carr at 315-472-6546.



BOOK YOUR SALES EVENT NOW! The Hand to Hand Gift Shop still has dates available for sales events. Call Judy Carr, our volunteer gift shop manager, at 315-472-6546 to reserve your date for events at your church or organization .

Connect with the Spiritual Renewal Center

Get social with the Spirtual 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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1342 Lancaster Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13210

