



Offerings

May / June 2019
Volume 6 • Issue 3

The cost of this newsletter was subsidized by two members of our Board. Thanks!

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. Led by Kathy Papa (315-457-4922), members meet for mutual spiritual encouragement as they navigate life. Upcoming meetings include May 16 and June 20.

Seeing the World with Rinsed Eyes: An Evening with Irish Hermit poetry, Thomas Merton and You

Thursday, May 16, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Dr. Monica Weis, SSJ

This evening of renewal will be presented in two parts. First, we will look at some early Irish hermit poetry scribbled on sacred manuscripts. Thomas Merton was fascinated with these "graffiti" and their shared vision of a deepening relationship to God, kinship with animals, and the solace of the hermit life.



In the second part of the evening, our presenter will talk about praying with Merton's own poetry: overcoming fear of poetry and seeing the poetic lines with new eyes that invite a deeper encounter with the Divine. The evening will include the presentation by Dr. Weis, silent reflection on one or two poems, and some time for small group sharing. *Fee: \$20, or whatever you can afford.*

Dr. Monica Weis, SSJ is a professor emerita of English, at Nazareth College in Rochester and was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar in Hungary. She is a frequent national and international presenter on Thomas Merton and is the author of *Thomas Merton's Gethsemani: Landscapes of Paradise* (2005), *The Environmental Vision of Thomas Merton* (2011) and *Thomas Merton and the Celts* (2016).

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 STAFF

Jim Krisher, Director
Meg Castellini,
Communications
Ann Derr, Interim
Administrative Assistant
Marise May, OSF,
Programming Associate

HOURS

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
May 27, Memorial Day

Upcoming Workshops & Events

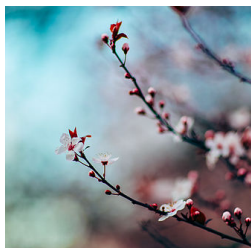
Register today by calling 315-472-6546,
email: mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com or visit our website
spiritualrenewalcenter.com

Last Call to Join Us for a Spring Retreat in Daily Life

Eight Wednesdays, May 1 - June 19, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

OR eight Thursdays, May 2 - June 20, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Registration closes April 26th



This eight-week Ignatian retreat involves daily prayer exercises which help us to accept and live out of God's unconditional love. As we pray with Gospel passages, we hope to discover obstacles to our relationship with God, revealed to us by Christ's tender mercy and compassion. In response to our heightened awareness through this prayer, we are freed to make choices more in tune with God's desires and to collaborate with him in building up God's Reign on earth.

Participants commit to praying 20 - 30 minutes each day and using a journal to jot down their reflections. We will gather weekly for group sharing and input. Materials will be given for prayer and spiritual reading. This retreat will be led by Gerard McKeon, SJ, Marise May, OSF, and Rose Wagner, OSF, all of whom are seasoned spiritual directors and have extensive experience with the Spiritual Exercises. *Fee \$100, or whatever you can afford.*

What Does Grace Look Like? is a series of reflections about God's grace. This month's feature is written by Meg Castellini, retreat leader and the Center's Communications Specialist.

What Does *Grace* Look Like?

He was the fourth of seven children, and the fourth son that my parents, who are in their nineties, would lose to death. It's an unnatural occurrence for parents to bid farewell to their children, yet my parents have survived this tragedy again and again.

My brother, the most recent loss, had suffered much of his life from mental illness and alcoholism. When he was placed into hospice care, his vision was nearly gone and his heart was operating at twelve percent. This brother, a known survivor of cross-country hitchhikes and swimming in a Florida pond with a resident alligator, fooled everyone living 18 months under hospice care.

Near the end, he was content to "survive" in his humble condo, making do with Dinty-Moore beef stew and York peppermint patties. I enjoyed our bi-weekly telephone conversations when we would "go shopping" at online stores. His final order consisted of several bars of white chocolate. I thought this request was a bit odd, but hey, he's dying and sometimes cravings are weird.

He passed the first day of spring, on the Feast of St. Joseph, something we were anticipating, but which took us by surprise nonetheless. A couple of days went by and my parents welcomed a friend from their building who stopped by to share her condolences. This thoughtful woman brought several elegantly wrapped white chocolates. Coincidence? Not for me and my family. We read it as a sign from Bill, that he is ok and in peace at last.

That's what *Grace* looks like.



Upcoming Workshops & Events

Register today by calling 315-472-6546,
email: mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com or visit our website
spiritualrenewalcenter.com

The HORIZONS Program: Training to Be A Spiritual Director

For over thirty years, the Spiritual Renewal Center has been training men and women for the vitally important ministry of spiritual direction. Have you sensed that God might be calling you to this work? Consider applying for our two-year HORIZONS Foundational Program for the Training of Spiritual Directors. HORIZONS is a practicum-based program for people wanting to develop their gifts for this 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 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 October 2019 through June 2020, on the first Monday of each month, 1:00-5:15 pm. During the second year, monthly sessions are held October 2020 through June 2021 on the first Mondays, 2:45-5:15 pm. Tuition is \$695 per year. A certificate is awarded at the completion of the program. This year's cohort is currently forming—contact Center Director Jim Krisher for more details or an application.

New Titles in Our Library

We are always adding new books to our nearly-10,000 volume library. Recent acquisitions include:

- *Saint John of the Cross: His Prophetic Mysticism in the Historical Context of 16th Century Spain* (2018), Cristóbal Serrán-Pagán y Fuentes
- *Merton for Our Times* (audiobook, 2017), Don Bisson
- *Keeping Place: Reflections on the Meaning of Home* (2017), Jen Pollock Michel
- *The Listening Life: Embracing Attentiveness in a World of Distraction* (2015), Adam McHugh
- *Scripture and Cosmology: Reading the Bible Between the Ancient World and Modern Science* (2015), Kyle Greenwood
- *Encountering Truth: Meeting God in the Everyday* (2015), Pope Francis

Check out our full catalog at spiritualrenewalcenter.org and click on Library/Library Search.

Help Needed with Our Prison Ministry

Visiting the imprisoned is one of Christianity's "works of mercy," based on the multiple calls in Scripture for believers to do so. Here at the Spiritual Renewal Center, we've had an active prison ministry that has included both weekly spirituality and scripture sessions, and occasional weekend retreats known as "REC" weekends: Residents Encounter Christ. Our last REC weekend was at Midstate Correctional Facility; 28 prisoners were deeply enriched by the event.

We need more men and women willing to help with our prison ministry, particularly with the REC weekends. Even if you could only help once a year, we'd be very grateful, as would the men we serve in prison.

If you might be interested or would like more information, please contact Jim Krisher at the Spiritual Renewal Center.

Shop Hand to Hand Fair Trade




Welcome spring by checking out our new merchandise at Hand to Hand, the Center's fair trade shop. Featuring goods from our vendor partners, Ten Thousand Villages and Serrv, you'll find baskets, household decorative items, scarves and jewelry. Stop in soon to see our newly-restocked shelves.

Thanks as always for shopping Fair Trade. Your purchase helps support artisans in developing countries. *Change the world by changing the way you shop!*

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

1342 Lancaster Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13210

