



# Offerings

...touching lives in Christ

November / December 2014  
Volume 1 • Issue 3

This issue was underwritten by St. Mary of the Lake in Skaneateles and St. Ann Church in Manlius.

Thank you for your support!

## WEEKLY MEETINGS

Catch the Spirit will meet on Tuesdays at 10 am for a weekly Bible study. Registration is not required and there is no fee to attend.

Women's Faith-Sharing Group—formerly known as Women's Spiritual Direction Group—will meet on November 20 and December 18, 7 to 8:30 pm. Spiritual Director Kathy Papa guides this gathering of Christian women. We ask for \$15 per session.

Contemplative Prayer Group will meet on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. Registration is not required and there is no fee to attend.

## Upcoming Events at the Center

Be sure to join the Spiritual Renewal Center at these upcoming events. All programs are held at our 1342 Lancaster Avenue location in Syracuse.

**JOB'S DILEMMA AND OURS:  
BIBLICAL INSIGHTS ON THE PROBLEM OF EVIL**  
Nov. 13 at 7 pm | Presenter: Dr. Joseph Kelly  
Fee: \$20 or whatever you can afford

If God is a good God, then why do bad things happen to good people? It is the question Job asked in the Scriptures and one Christians still struggle with today. This presentation will explore wisdom from the Book of Job and how believers can better cope with the pain and suffering of human life.

Dr. Joseph Kelly recently retired after teaching religious studies courses for 37 years—11 years as a professor of Hebrew Scriptures at St. Bernard's Seminary and 26 years as a professor of Religious Studies at Nazareth College. He now devotes his time to Adult Education courses at various parishes and congregations in the Rochester and Upstate New York areas.

**ADVENT EVENING OF RENEWAL:  
OUR RADIANT LIFE IN CHRIST**  
Dec. 3 at 7 pm | Presenter: Jim Krisher  
Fee: \$20 or whatever you can afford

Advent is the season when we ponder the mystery of Christ's coming into human history. What a perfect time to renew our wonder at the beauty and the incredible riches of the life given to us in the person of Jesus Christ! Attendees will leave with a renewed awareness of God's love and the astonishingly good news of God's designs for humanity.

Jim Krisher, director of the Spiritual Renewal Center, will lead one of his most requested presentations. The evening will include guided meditation and refreshments.

Register for these events online at [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com), call 315-472-6546 or email us at [mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com).

## 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).

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jim Krisher, chairperson  
Kathy Papa, vice chairperson  
Ann Derr, secretary

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Chris Bart  
Kathy Faber-Langendoen  
Patty Hubbard  
Rev. Don Kirby, SJ  
Rev. Joe Neville, SJ  
Chris Porter  
Matt Shuff  
Scott Wincheck

## 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 & Friday: 9 am - 5 pm

Thursdays: 9am - 7:30 pm

## HOLIDAY HOURS

The Center will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Thanksgiving: Nov. 27 & 28  
Christmas: Dec. 24, 25 & 26  
New Years: Dec 31, Jan 1 & 2

# Make an Impact and Keep the Center Thriving



The Spiritual Renewal Center is fortunate to have a strong community of friends and supporters who possess a true philanthropic spirit. Your partnership has blessed us with so many wonderful gifts. And now, we need your support more than ever in order to continue our work and grow the ministry.

Your contributions – no matter their size – are vital to our success and serve as an investment in our future. Supporting the Center gives us the ability to reach Christians across New York State while providing quality spirituality programming that informs, enlightens and engages.

## HERE IS HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE SPIRITUAL RENEWAL CENTER

### CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

Becoming a generous donor is the easiest way to get involved and ensure the longevity of the Center. Visit us online at [spiritualrenewalcenter.com/donate](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com/donate) to make an online gift or use the envelope in this newsletter to mail a check.

### IN MEMORIAM & HONORARIUM

Making a gift in memoriam or honorarium is a special way to celebrate the life of a loved one. These gifts help us carry out our mission and work.

### GIFTS-IN-KIND

Professionals, organizations and businesses can contribute by donating their services or goods to the Spiritual Renewal Center. This may include computer equipment, printing services, furniture, artwork or labor.

### MONTHLY DONATIONS

Setting up your bank account to send a recurring donation is a great way to make sure the Center receives your monthly contribution. Contact your financial institution to make the necessary arrangements.

### PLANNED GIVING

Establish your legacy by leaving a gift to the Center in your will or estate planning.

Learn more about giving online at [spiritualrenewalcenter.com/get-involved](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com/get-involved) or contact Jim Krisher at 315-472-6546 or [jakrisher@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:jakrisher@spiritualrenewalcenter.com). +

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## Volunteers: The Heartbeat of the Center!

From answering phones to finding books in our extensive spirituality library, volunteers at the Spiritual Renewal Center play an essential role in our day-to-day operations. Their energy, talents and time help us accomplish vital tasks and keep the heartbeat of the Center going! Each volunteer's experience is unique and tailored to their interests, field of study or experience.

Some opportunities include:

- Working with books in our library
- Offering hospitality to guests
- Assisting staff with special administrative projects
- Promoting Center events and workshops
- Performing clerical work and database entry

To become a volunteer at the Spiritual Renewal Center, contact us at 315-472-6546 or [mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com). +



Volunteers, like MaryLou Paratore, help keep the Center running smoothly by offering hospitality to guests and keeping our library in order.

# The Center announces winter retreat dates

## Silent Directed Retreat Weekend

Friday, Jan. 2, 6 pm – Sunday, Jan. 4, 12 pm  
Stella Maris Retreat Center, Skaneateles, NY  
Fee: \$250 | \$50 deposit required

Check-in with God and jumpstart your New Year! This annual event gives you time away to reflect and prepare for 2015. Retreatants meet one-on-one with spiritual director several times during the weekend. Please register by December 30.

## 24-hour Retreat

Friday, March 13, 7 pm – Saturday, March 14, 7 pm  
Stella Maris Retreat Center, Skaneateles, NY  
Fee: \$140 | \$25 deposit required

Refresh and recharge during Lent at our 24-Hour Retreat. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear three inspiring talks, meet with a spiritual director and have time for personal prayer and reflection. Retreatants will also have the choice to celebrate Eucharist together. Please register by March 11.

Register for these events online at [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com), call 315-472-6546 or email us at [mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com).

# Smile for the Spiritual Exercises!

The Spiritual Exercises are under way at the Center. This dedicated group is meeting Tuesdays to go through the 19th annotation of St. Ignatius of Loyola's timeless program.



Back, from left: David Mosvovich, Ron Russell, Pam Kelsey-Goddard; middle, from left: Peg Barr, Martha Savage, Alice Makul, Elizabeth Fallon, Pam Ellerton, Sister Marise May, Tony Paratore; front, from left: Patti Callahan, Penny Anderson, Lynda Liberatore, Wendy Depew Partelow.

# Merton lecture was a success!



Presenter Dr. Christine Bochen and Jim Krisher, the Center's director.

On Oct. 2, noted Merton scholar Dr. Christine Bochen presented, "Envisioning What It Means to be Church with Thomas Merton." The topic drew in a large crowd that buzzed with excitement!

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?



A young businessman, who comes for spiritual direction, told me about a recent Sunday morning when his little daughter's soccer game ran longer than usual. He was unable to attend the 11 am service at his church and was feeling some good, old-fashioned religious guilt about it. As they were heading home, at his daughter's request they stopped at a Dunkin' Donuts to get a treat.

The place was crowded, but his daughter was so excited to be there. Apparently, Dunkin' Donuts had given all the kids on the soccer team a uniform shirt with the words, "Free Donut and Hot Chocolate," printed on bottom. When they got to the counter, the girl pulled out the bottom of her shirt to show the message and gleefully collected her free treat.

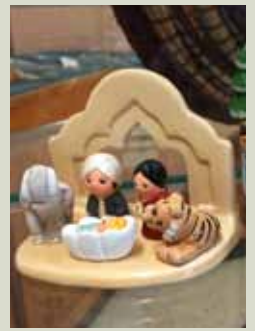
"She was just so happy, so joyful," said the businessman. And at the remembrance of it, he broke down and started to cry.

That's what *Grace* looks like. +

# Hark! The holidays have arrived at Hand to Hand Gift Shop.

Holiday shoppers looking for unique gifts will love what Hand to Hand has in stock! New merchandise has arrived just in time for the yuletide season. Please check our website and Facebook page for special hours on Saturdays and Sundays during the holidays. Hand to Hand will also post special deals and sales online. Make sure you stay connected to the Center!

Your purchases benefit Third World artisans. Change the world by changing the way you shop at Hand to Hand!



The Hand to Hand Gift Shop is full of fantastic ideas for holiday presents! Top: A chef-inspired gift basket. Right: Nativity ornaments.

**BRING FAIR TRADE TO YOUR COMMUNITY!** Call Judy Carr, our volunteer gift shop manager, at 315-472-6546 to bring these great gift ideas to your business, organization, church or home party. +

## 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 the latest information sent right to your inbox.



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