



# Offerings

May - June 2021  
Volume 8 • Issue 3

## Estrangement, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation: How Fractured Families Mend Wednesday, May 26 | 7:00 pm EDT via Zoom Presented by: Karl A. Pillemer, PhD

### ABOUT US

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

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Family estrangements affect more than 65 million Americans, often with devastating consequences. Why do these rifts arise? How can we overcome them? Join this live, virtual talk by Karl Pillemer, PhD. This presentation combines science-based repair tools with Karl's study of the experiences of over 100 people who have mended family

rifts. Dr. Pillemer will explore connections between his research and spiritual themes of estrangement, forgiveness, and reconciliation. St. Augustine wisely wrote: "Peace in society depends on peace in the family." Pillemer discusses how practicing the discipline of reconciliation falls in the Christian tradition of reconciliation, helping us to create harmony in our own families while growing as human beings.

Dr. Karl Pillemer is Professor of Human Development at Cornell University and Professor of Gerontology at the Weill Cornell Medical College. The work upon which this talk is based was recently published in his book, *Fault Lines: Fractured Families and How to Mend Them* (Avery, 2020). He also created the Cornell Legacy Project, dedicated to finding out what older people know about life that the rest of us don't.

*Fee: \$20, or whatever you can afford.* Register online in advance on our website [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com) or by calling our office Monday-Thursday, 9 am - 1 pm.

### RECURRING GROUPS

The Center offers these regularly scheduled meeting groups for your spiritual growth. **Newcomers are always welcome.** Our **Tuesday** morning **Catch the Spirit** Bible study group meets online from 10 to 11:30 am. each week. Marise May, OSF, leads this discussion on the coming Sunday's lectionary readings. People who have completed the Spiritual Exercises are invited to the online **Ignatian Spirituality Group**. Meetings are one **Wednesday** a month, 6:30-7:30 pm, to pray together in the Ignatian way. Led by Lou Sogliuzzo, SJ.

Please email: [mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com) for zoom links for these virtual meetings.

## The Center's Ministry in time of COVID - Our doors are opening!

Like many of you individually, the Center has had to find new ways of doing things during this pandemic—now stretching into its second year! Despite the need to trim expenses and in-person offerings, we continue to see God's transforming grace at work, as we offer programs virtually and provide spiritual direction to over 200 people. We've been blessed to discover that our virtual events attract people from places far outside our previous Central New York reach; God surprises us again with generosity. Throughout this past year, we've been sustained by your faithful prayers and financial gifts; again, thanks!

As more people are vaccinated and COVID cases diminish, we are ready to take small steps to reopen our doors. We do this prayerfully and incrementally. Barring the unexpected, beginning May 4, we plan to welcome vaccinated people into the Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 am – 5 pm, for on-site spiritual direction and to browse the library. During these hours, you also will be able to shop at Hand to Hand, our fair-trade gift shop. For now, all group activities will remain virtual, on Zoom. People on-site will be required to be masked at all times, except when meeting one-on-one in a private space with the door closed.

You may also browse the library Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 am – noon **by prearrangement only**; call the Center first at 315-472-6546 or email Andrea at [admin@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:admin@spiritualrenewalcenter.com).

For now, for the safety of those on-site and while we fine-tune our protocols even as the pandemic continues, we ask that those who are not fully vaccinated (two weeks after getting your last shot) continue to access the Center's programs through our virtual platforms. We look forward to the time when we can fully open our doors to all.

And of course, we ask your continued financial support and are grateful for whatever you can give!

### Special Donations for Reopening

As we cautiously reopen our physical doors, the Center will incur additional expenses, for enhanced cleaning, hand sanitizer, portable air filters, and similar costs. Are you in a position to provide an additional donation to the Center for this purpose? We can accept donations by Paypal or Credit Card through our website or through the mail by check; please note that this special gift is for "COVID reopening". Thank you!

What Does Grace Look Like? is a series of reflections about God's grace. This month's feature is from Kathleen Osbelt, OSF, founder of Francis House and staff spiritual director. Francis House, Syracuse's only residential hospice, celebrates 30 years of ministry this year.

### What Does *Grace* Look Like?

Ken came to us from the hospital, having previously lived on the streets of Syracuse. To survive this brutal existence, he developed a crusty demeanor. Ken's lung cancer had taken its toll and he seemed far older than his 60 years. His only request, to have an occasional cigarette, required volunteers sit with him while he smoked. In those shared hours, Ken spoke of how he ended up on the streets. He grew up in an alcoholic family, escaped by joining the military but had become addicted himself and was discharged. He said that's when he finally woke up and went to rehab, fell in love and got married to a beautiful woman. Their little girl was killed in a car accident when she was five. Ken began drinking again and lost everything else.

One morning I walked into Ken's room and saw big tears running down his cheeks. I asked if he was in pain. He looked at me with a big question on his face saying: "How can people love ME like this? How can so many love ME?" He was overwhelmed by the love staff and volunteers had shown him in their many hours spent at his side, gently "walking him home."

Grace looks like the touch of love, reaching out to help another realize how loved they are. Grace is the igniter of love. It's God's love within us, expanding our hearts and brightening our souls, making ALL things new!

### That's What *Grace* Looks Like

## Paul: The Man and His Message

Thursdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27 | 10-11:30 am EDT via Zoom

Presented by Jim Krisher, Center Director

The Apostle Paul in his letters to churches can be profoundly inspiring, sometimes arrogant and provocative, yet always authentic and dedicated to his Lord. Join Center Director Jim Krisher for a four session study through Zoom of this courageous saint and author of multiple books in our New Testament. Jim will begin by introducing Paul the man, his background and what formed him, and then move to examine some of his mystical experiences, practical teachings, and spiritual and theological insights. Twenty-first century Christians have much to learn from this great first-century brother in Christ, whose message continues to be truly transformational. *Fee: \$15 per session (\$60 for the series) or whatever you can afford.*

## Exercise Your Spirit: A Springtime Journey

5 Weeks of Prayer in the Ignatian Tradition

Tuesdays, May 18 - June 22 | 7-8:30 pm EDT via Zoom

There are many physical exercises we can choose so as to grow stronger and healthier each day. When we have a daily exercise routine, we can experience a sense of contentment and become more physically fit. The same can be said for daily spiritual exercises. When we deepen our awareness of God on a daily basis, bringing our feelings and our needs to God in prayer, we become spiritually fit. We become more in tune with our connection to God, to others, and to our true selves.

In this prayer journey, participants commit to daily prayer based on weekly themes and Scriptures, and gather together weekly on Zoom to share the fruits of prayer and explore that week's themes. Rev. Gerry McKeon, SJ and Sr. Marise May, OSF will facilitate this program. *Fee: \$75, or whatever you can afford.*

## Director Search Update

Our search for a new director began last December when our founding Director, Jim Krisher announced to the Board of Trustees his plan to retire in July. Board Chair Sally Manahan was joined by Board members Fr. Don Kirby, Kathy Faber-Langendoen, and Fr. Daniel McMullin to form the Search Committee. After intense prayer and lively conversation among the Board of Trustees, we agreed that we were looking for a religiously faithful person with exceptional communication and management skills, eager to develop the best of our Christian, spiritual tradition. We also desire a person who would broaden our outreach to more diverse communities.

The job posting can be found on the Center website homepage ([spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com)). All applications received by May 17 will receive full consideration. Inquiries about the position are welcome, and should be directed to Dan McMullin at [dtgmcmullin@gmail.com](mailto:dtgmcmullin@gmail.com). After initial interviews, short-listed candidates will be asked to give a live-stream presentation, open to Center friends and supporters.

Our hope is to name a new director early in the summer to give ample time for a seamless transition between Jim and our new leader. We are excited about this next phase in the history of the Spiritual Renewal Center, even as we are deeply grateful for Jim's Spirit-guided leadership. We rely on your prayers and kind support as we make this momentous decision.

Preregistration is required for all of our events. Registration through our website is preferred. You can also register by emailing us at [mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com). Please include your full name, email and phone number.

## Are You Interested in Becoming a Spiritual Director?

The Spiritual Renewal Center has been committed to the training of spiritual directors for over thirty years. Have you been sensing God's call to this ministry?

HORIZONS is a two-year practicum-based program for people wanting to develop their gifts as spiritual directors. Monthly sessions focus on the principles and practices of spiritual direction, alongside close supervision of direction practice. 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 2021 through June 2022, on the first Monday of each month, 1-5:15 pm. During the second year (also October through June on first Mondays), monthly sessions are 2:45-5:15 pm. Tuition is \$700 per year. Instructors include Jim Krisher, Sr. Marise May, Rev. Steve Moore, and Rev. John Rose—all experienced staff spiritual directors at the Center. A certificate is awarded at the completion of the program. Next fall's cohort is forming; contact Center Director Jim Krisher by email at [mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com) for more details or an application. Distance learning may be possible depending on interest.

## The Spiritual Exercises: A 30-Week Adventure in Prayer

Are you interested in developing a consistent prayer practice? Has your relationship with Christ led you to want to know Him better? This may be a good time to consider the *Spiritual Exercises*, a program of prayer designed by St. Ignatius Loyola over 500 years ago. This classic of Christian spirituality leads a person into friendship with Jesus through prayerful contemplation of scripture and developing a discerning heart.

The Center offers the *Spiritual Exercises* spread over thirty weeks. Retreatants follow an assigned daily prayer time, and then gather together weekly for a group presentation and individual time with a personal Prayer Guide.

This year's programs begins September 14 and continues weekly through May 10 with breaks for holidays. We plan on offering it in person on Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 p.m. Depending on interest, there may be a virtual program via Zoom Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8:30. The cost for either program is \$600.

For more information or to apply, please contact Sr. Marise May at (315)447-9887 or [mariseosf@gmail.com](mailto:mariseosf@gmail.com).

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### 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](mailto:spiritualrenewalcenter.com) and get the the latest information sent right to your inbox.

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 [instagram.com/spiritualsyracuse](https://instagram.com/spiritualsyracuse)

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