



# Offerings

March / April 2022  
Volume 9 • Issue 2

## ABOUT US

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

1342 Lancaster Avenue  
Syracuse, NY 13210  
spiritualrenewalcenter.com  
315-472-6546

## OUR HOURS

M-TH 9 am - 5 pm  
Friday 9 am - 4 pm (Sep-June)  
Closed April 15 & 18

## OUR STAFF

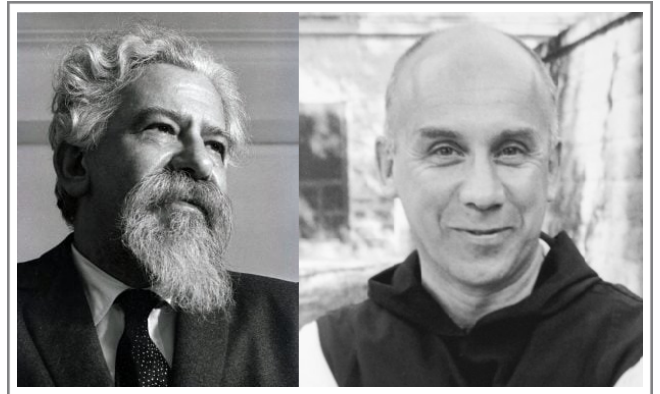
Steve Moore, *Center Director*  
Marise May, *OSF  
Programming Associate*  
Andrea Pollock,  
*Administrative Assistant*  
Meg Castellini,  
*Communications Specialist*

## OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Anne Corasaniti  
Ann Derr, *Secretary*  
Brigid Dunn  
Scott Kelso, *Treasurer*  
Rev. Don Kirby, *SJ, Vice-Chair*  
Maureen Lasda  
Sally Manahan, *Chair*  
Bishop Colette Matthews-Carter  
Robert McKinstry  
Rev. Dr. Steve Moore, *Director*  
Kathy Papa  
Bob Talomie  
Amanda Webster  
Randy Wolken

## Interfaith Dialogue between Thomas Merton and Abraham Joshua Heschel Presented by Dr. Cristóbal Serrán-Pagán y Fuentes Thursday, March 24 | 6:30 p.m. EDT via Zoom

Thomas Merton's interfaith dialogue with the Jewish rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel sets an example of how these two religious figures from the twentieth century learned from each other and respected their theological differences while finding common ground. Cristóbal Serrán-Pagán y Fuentes will share his insights via Zoom as to how Merton and Heschel have become models of creative interreligious dialogue and witnesses for global peace. He will highlight major themes found in the exchange of letters between the Trappist monk and the Jewish spiritual master.



Dr. Cristóbal Serrán-Pagán y Fuentes is Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Valdosta State University. He received his Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Boston University. He is the editor of the Thomas Merton series, *Merton and the Tao: Dialogues with John Wu and the Ancient Sages* (Fons Vitae, 2013) and the author of *Saint John of the Cross: His Prophetic Mysticism in the Historical Context of Sixteenth-Century Spain*. He is a member of the International Thomas Merton Society; and has published and lectured widely on the works of Thomas Merton.

Fee: \$20, or whatever you can afford. Visit [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com) or call 315-472-6546 to register.

## Lenten Taizé at the Center | Friday, April 1 | 7:00 pm EDT

Taizé is a meditative prayer service with candlelight, chanting and silence that originated in the ecumenical community in Taizé, France. Please join Erin Moore and Jeff Wise as they lead us in this beautiful service! *Free will offering*. Please register online or call the Center to let us know you're coming.

## Get Unstuck and Live Fully

Presented by Steve Moore

Mondays, March 7 - April 25 | 9-10:30 a.m. EDT (in person, 7 weeks)

In this course we will learn to use acceptance and commitment skills to move your life forward. This group will use the *ACT Daily Journal* by Diana Hill & Debbie Sorensen to guide us through an introduction to Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and how these principles can help us move forward in our lives. Fee: \$10 per session or whatever you can afford, plus the price of the book.

## What Now? Discernment Bootcamp

Presented by Steve Moore

Saturday, April 9 | 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. EDT  
(in person)

This day-long retreat guides seekers through different ways to clarify what they are looking for in life and how to make a good decision. Values clarification and engaging in committed action based on your values will be the focus of our retreat. Insights from Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Ignatian Spirituality, Jungian Psychology, and Quaker Spirituality will be used to provide tools and insights for our life journey. Fee: \$40 or whatever you can afford. Please bring a bag lunch.

## Exploring Ways to Exercise Your Spirit

Presented by Rev. Gerry McKeon, SJ

Tuesdays, April 19 - May 24 | 3-4:30 p.m. EDT (in person, 6 weeks)

There are many physical exercises we can choose to grow stronger and healthier each day. When we have a daily exercise routine, we can experience a sense of contentment, and we become more physically fit. The same can be said for spiritual exercises. We deepen our awareness of God on a daily basis. During our 'spiritual exercises' we bring feelings, needs, personal and social concerns to God in prayer. We deepen our relationship with God, with others, with the environment, and with our authentic self. And from this place of spiritual fitness, we can allow Christ's desires for us to bear good fruit: 'I have come that you may have life and life to the full' (Jn. 10:10) Fee: \$65 or whatever you can afford.



Preregistration is required for all of our events; space is limited. 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.

## Care for Our Common Home

Presented by Rev. Timothy Taugher

Thursday, April 21 | 7:00 p.m. EDT (virtual option available)

Join Fr. Tim as he reflects on our Christian commitment to care for creation and the responsibility that we have to protect our common home. Using the insight from Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* and a host of other resources, we will reflect on our connection to the planet and how we can work together for the common good. Fee: \$20, or whatever you can afford.

Fr. Timothy Taugher is the pastor of St. Francis parish in Binghamton and works on the *Laudato Si* Task Force in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse. Fr. Tim has been an activist since the 1960s when he saw a film on poverty during a Holy Week retreat at Catholic Central High School in Binghamton (now Seton Catholic Central High School) where he was a student. He has balanced his duties as a parish priest with an intense social activism focused on workers' rights, poverty issues and nonviolence. He's a member of the Binghamton Labor-Religion Coalition and the upstate group Friends of Franz Jagerstatter (named for an Austrian farmer who was executed for refusing to serve in Hitler's army).

## The May Formation Program in the Spiritual Exercises

The Spiritual Renewal Center has been committed to promoting Ignatian Spirituality in Central New York. As a way of honoring our commitment to this work we are launching a new training program beginning this fall. Named after Sr. Marise May, OSF, who began our 19<sup>th</sup> Annotation program over 30 years ago, this training is for those who have completed the Spiritual Exercises and wish to deepen their knowledge and experience. Participants will be trained in giving the Spiritual Exercises and have practical experiences of learning to guide others in prayer.

Our first cohort will be forming this fall and will begin the training year with an experiential retreat in September, followed by meetings on the second Thursday of the month until June. Contact Center Director Steve Moore for more details and an application.



## Recurring Groups

The Center offers these regularly scheduled meeting groups for your spiritual growth. **Newcomers are always welcome.** Our **Tuesday** morning **Bible study** group meets via Zoom from 10 to 11:30 a.m. each week. Dc. Bob Talomie leads this discussion.

**Wisdom Wednesday** meets every Wednesday via Zoom from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Throughout March continue studying Julian of Norwich. Please visit our website under “events” to get the link.

**Women’s Faith Sharing** group meets from 2:30-4:00 the third Thursday of each month in person and is led by Kathy Papa. Upcoming meetings are **March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16.** Please join us!

People who have completed the Spiritual Exercises are invited to the **Ignatian Spirituality Group.** Meetings are one **Wednesday** a month, 6:30-7:30 p.m., to pray together in the Ignatian way. Led by Lou Sogliuzzo, SJ, upcoming dates are **March 9** and **April 13.**

What Does Grace Look Like? is a series of reflections about God’s grace. This month’s feature is written by Erin Moore, staff member of Christian Brothers Academy and wife of our director, Steve Moore.

## What Does *Grace* Look Like?

My grandfather Jim was a person with an extremely tough exterior. He could be downright insulting at times– if he didn’t care for a Christmas present he wasn’t going to pretend to like it. Throughout his life he had a real temper. As the only child of Irish immigrants that struggled significantly with alcoholism, he didn’t have a lot of kindness modeled to him as a child. He gravitated towards athletics– as a young man he played baseball in the minor leagues as well as in the Marine Corps.

A lot can be said about marrying the right person– my grandmother Lorraine was his opposite, the person who never spoke ill of another and who was endlessly patient and kind. Their love for one another really transformed him throughout their life.

When his oldest son, named after him, came out as gay, my grandfather had a choice. So many Christian families in the 1980s faced the same situation and chose to reject their children. When it came down to it, though, my grandfather looked at his son, and looked at his wife, and knew that if he didn’t love his son unconditionally he would really lose them both. Thus my grandparents became celebrities in the gay community of New York in the late 80s– the Irish Catholic family that didn’t reject their son! My Uncle Steve recalls going home for Thanksgiving and always seeing a random person at the table– one of my Uncle Jim’s friends who had been kicked out of home and had nowhere else to go. When my Uncle Jim died of AIDS in 1991, my grandparents were with him until the end.

In 2000 my grandmother Lorraine suffered a debilitating stroke and was no longer able to speak or walk. For the next 8 years my grandfather came to the nursing home every day and sat by her side.

When my grandfather died last year of COVID-19, he still had that tough exterior, but was remembered far more for the way that he loved throughout his life.

That’s What *Grace* Looks Like

## HORIZONS Foundational Program for the Training of Spiritual Directors

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

HORIZONS is a 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 2022 through June 2023, on the first Monday of each month, 1-5:15 p.m. During the second year (also October through June on first Mondays), monthly sessions are 2:45-5:15 p.m. Tuition is \$700 per year. A certificate is awarded at the completion of the program. Next Fall's cohort is forming—contact Center Director Steve Moore for more details and an application.



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

 [facebook.com/spiritualrenewalcenter](https://facebook.com/spiritualrenewalcenter)

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

1342 Lancaster Avenue  
Syracuse, NY 13210

