



# CONTEMPLATIVE OUTREACH OF ATLANTA

## MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

**We embrace the process of transformation in Christ both in ourselves and in others, through the practice of Centering Prayer.**

Contemplative Outreach is a network of communities and individuals seeking the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit and to contribute to the renewal of the Christian contemplative tradition through the practice of Centering Prayer. • Vision Theological Principal 1

Rusty Weitzel capped his seven years of service at Contemplative Outreach Atlanta on Saturday, May 5, handing over his role of coordinator to Maggie Winfrey. The Coordinating Team congratulated Rusty, who unified and supported the many centering prayer groups in the North Georgia area, promoted retreats at Ignatius House and the Monastery of the Holy Spirit, and brought Cynthia Bourgeault to Atlanta.

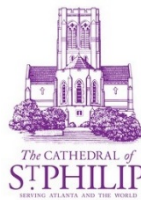
Maggie plans to organize a budget based on COA vision and goals, train more presenters, deliver more Introduction to Centering Prayer workshops and retreats, support centering prayer groups, increase publicity, and bring inspiring speakers to Atlanta.

Marie Howard, of Contemplative Outreach Ltd. based in San Diego, our new mentor, pledged her support and previewed the vision and guidelines of CO Ltd. through which she will guide us in our July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Fr. Keating flew by private jet in March to St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts where he is receiving better 24-hour care. Fr.



Thomas is in less pain, eating well and gaining strength. He is still not able to engage in regular activities or return correspondence. He appreciates your continued prayers.



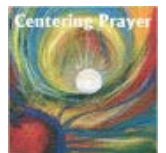
**Cynthia Bourgeault** cracked the *Cloud of Unknowing* code at her **Day on March 17th at St. Philip's Cathedral**. She explained that our goal in centering prayer is to reach "objectless awareness, the mode of consciousness

that can remain aware without a specific object of awareness." Over 400 people attended. "If we put together all the nanoseconds we have in silence with God each time we return to the sacred word, that's a lot," she said. Over the next three days, she led a **retreat at Ignatius House**, showing that "by naked love God may be got" through a heart-centered cognition and walked attendees through the new insights from her latest book, *The Heart of Centering Prayer*. Many thanks to Rusty Weitzel,



Roberta White, Jeannie Mahood, and Rev. Cathy Zappa for coordinating these two events.

For the **Presenter Training Retreat for Intro to Centering Prayer** sponsored by Contemplative Outreach of Tampa Bay at Holy Name Monastery, St Leo, FL- Aug 17 to Aug 19, 2018, Contact Rev. Stephen Hoffman at [stephen\\_palmetto@earthlink.net](mailto:stephen_palmetto@earthlink.net). Scholarships are available.





Please join us at our **Pot Luck meeting at Ignatius House on Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM.** Marie Howard of Contemplative Outreach Ltd. will guide our July meeting with meditative readings of CO's vision and guidelines by conference call. RSVP Maggie if you plan to attend and what you will bring.



CO Ltd. once called it the Leadership Team; it is now the Coordinating Team. With this focus we invite all members of Contemplative Outreach Atlanta to participate in our Coordinating Team Meetings because your participation and input are important to keep our organization effective and growing. We will be strong, thanks to your sharing your gifts.



Fr. Keating has recommended we move toward structuring our groups following the "Evolutionary Teal Model" described in Fredric Laloux's illustrated book *Reinventing Organizations*. In this kind of structure, all the members of the organization actively engage to accomplish united goals. If you purchase this book, make sure it is the illustrated version.

You, O Divine Breath, dwell within our hearts;  
with unconditional love you assuage our fears.  
You call us to holiness, to justice, and integrity,  
to free those bound by oppression, to bring  
light where ignorance and darkness dwell.  
Come! drink from the stream of Living Water.  
Come! Feast of the bread of Life. *Psalm 110, Nan Merrill*



Please pray for Fr. Joseph Boyle, the Abbott of Our Lady of Snowmass Monastery, diagnosed recently with cancer.



## Budget Stewardship

CO Atlanta has funds! During our May meeting, we confirmed that we have more than \$16,000 in our account and decided to create a comprehensive plan on how to best use it for our COA members. We'll hold a meeting to create a spending plan that follows CO vision and guidelines at **2:00 PM on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, at Ignatius House, 6700 Riverside Drive, Sandy Springs.** We look forward to your suggestions and input. If you would like a copy of the newly printed CO Ltd.'s Vision and Guidelines, you can find it here: <https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/vision>. If you would like a printed copy, let Maggie know and she will mail one to you.

## 5-Day Intensive/Post Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat

at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Monastery  
2625 Highway 212 SW, Conyers, GA

Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

to Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Facilitators Vernon and Mary Joyce Dixon

cost \$350 for all meals and accommodations

Register at 770-760-0959 or [retreat@trappist.net](mailto:retreat@trappist.net)

For more information, call 706-896-8275.



*Silence Solitude Solidarity Service*



## Contact Information

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