



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

Dear Fellow Mystics,

Greetings of love and peace from Two Thomases' Hermitage, now day 424.

I hope to see you next weekend, May 15th, for my presentation: "Two Thomases: Merton and Keating Leading us to Transformation." Find out more about it in the Taste of Two Thomases on page 2. [Sign up on our website here](#) to attend. Apply for scholarships [here](#).

Coming June 12th Leslie Geer of St. Anthony of Padua is heading our team for our We Gather Together Big Sit on the theme Justice, on June 12th, the week before Juneteenth. Plan to join us for a deeply moving morning of scriptural justice filling our Centering Prayer.

Our next Contemplative Outreach Atlanta Coordinating Team Meeting will be at 7 pm Thursday May 20th by Zoom. We will vary our meeting times to provide other options for those who can't make Monday mornings. Everyone is invited to the team. Email me for a Zoom link [here](#).

Put on your calendar our new schedule our last Coordinating Team meeting has planned. If you would like to be a team member for an event, contact me [here](#):

June 12th We Gather Together Big Sit – Justice theme

July 17th Zoom One-Day all-day Retreat

July 14th One-day Zoom Retreat

August 14th We Gather Together Big Sit - Divine Feminine theme

August 28th -Revolutionary Contemplatives – Heart theme

Sept 16-19th International Contemplative Outreach Ltd. Biannual Conference Denver & Zoom

Sept 24-26 Conspire Center for Action and Contemplation Zoom conference

October 9, Saturday 10 am We Gather Together Big Sit IN THE PARK and hybrid Zoom

Hope to see you at the many valuable events are planned for May, some beginning this weekend. Check them out on page 2.

We would like to hear from you. Please send your comments, suggestions, and any reflections on what Centering Prayer means to you [here](#).

Love draws us closer,

Maggie

A Taste of Two Thomases

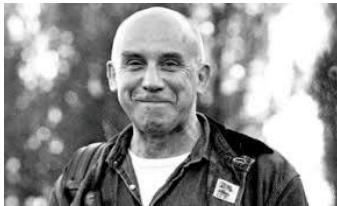
On Saturday, May 15th, Maggie will present her paper “Two Thomases: Merton and Keating Leading Us to Transformation.” Here is a taste.

The Desert Fathers and Mothers were the key with which Thomas Merton and Thomas Keating opened a long-shut door to contemplation. Their stories revitalized forgotten ways we can connect to God.

Maggie’s “trapdoor” experience opened a whole new world for her that changed her life. Plunging into a new way of growing closer to God, her spiritual journey became a brave adventure into new territory that the two Thomases guided.

Both Thomases beckon us to our Beloved in our center through their exquisite recordings of their own experiences. We follow them to transformation. Thomas Keating picks up the torch from Thomas Merton and shows us how we are healed of our human condition through contemplative prayer.

We find them reach unitive consciousness where we want to be also. We learn what that looks like. We pray with them their prayers for the unity of the world.



Thomas Merton says, “For me to be a saint means to be myself. Therefore the problem of sanctity and salvation is in fact the problem of finding out who I am and of discovering my true self.”
New Seeds of Contemplation

Thomas Keating says, “Every time there is significant growth in our spiritual development our relationships change—to God, to ourselves, to other people, and to all creation. We become a new person...From this arises a new kind of activity which might be called ‘contemplative service’... that comes from the experience of the divine indwelling—from the Spirit living and at work within us. It is God in us serving God in others.” *The Better Part*





On-Line Opportunities and Virtual Resources

May 3-8, 2021-Contemplative Outreach Sarasota & Manatee County is hosting a **Julian Festival**:

To attend, [registration is required on the Friends of Julian website here.](#)

- 5 am ET Saturday May 8- Eucharist celebrated at Julian Shrine in Norwich England via Live Streamed Details TBA
- 10 am ET Sat May 8- Annual Julian Lecture by Professor Vincent Gillespie, the JRR Tolkien Professor of English Literature at U of Oxford "Julian in Troubled Times" Live Streamed

May 4-20 Six 60-minute webinars 8:00 pm EDT Mirabai Starr presents "The Dark Night of the Soul"

May 7-8 Mirabai Starr will be offering an online retreat "Wild Mercy for the Earth" through Eremos.

[Register here.](#)

May 2 & May 9 – Monastery of the Holy Spirit free **Lectio Divina** during Eastertide with

Martha Gross to lead weekly virtual meetings to discuss readings and reflections with participants.

Just email Patti Wilson at retreat@trappist.net with your name and email address, and she will send you free links to join the sessions. Free Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87378208819>

May 8 Simon Fraser University's Contemplative Studies Collective and the Thomas Merton Society of Canada present: "Thomas Merton and Contemplation" on Sat May 8 1:30 – 3:00

pm EDT Panel Discussion with Dr. Monica Weis, Dr. Michael Higgins, Dr. Ajit Pyati Zoom

link: : <https://sfu.zoom.us/j/65040837115?pwd=V2dtMTU5cWxaclY2SjFMQk9yZW8vZz09> passcode merton

May 11 - Center for Christogenesis offers online course "Christophany, Creativity, and the Church of the Planet: Introductory Course on the Center for Christogenesis" Tuesday evenings May 11 to June 1st 7-8:30 pm ET – [Register here](#)

May 13 Thursday 4 – 5:30 pm ET Center for Christogenesis presents Mathew Fox "Teilhard de Chrdin & Carl Jung: A Convergence" [Register here.](#)

May 14- 9 – 1:00 pm CT Zoom Contemplative Outreach Chicago presents an In-Depth Introduction to Centering Prayer by Zoom [Register here](#) .

Saturday, May 15th - "Two Thomases: Merton and Keating Leading Us to Transformation" [Register here.](#) A flyer with more information is at the end of this newsletter.

May 17 Monday Our Lady of the Assumption Guest Speaker Series hosts Fr. Victor Galier. Please [register here](#) to get the Zoom link.

May 20 Thursday Allison Harney will be leading a two hour writing workshop on Thursday, May 20th 10 am – noon on Zoom [Register here.](#)



May 21-23, 2021 - Merton and Women - Bonnie Thurston, Merton Scholar, will explore women and the feminine in the life and teaching of Thomas Merton. Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center, 916 Convent Rd NE, Cullman, AL 35055 [Register here.](#)

May 22 Saturday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon Mountain Time - Contemplative Outreach Colorado presents Fr. Carl Arico “Peace in Our Time: A Contemplative Means of Finding Security in an Uncertain World.” [Register here.](#)

May 27 Mary & Martha’s Place is offering a 4-part series that will begin meeting once a month beginning at the end of April. **“Building Resilience: Ordinary Issues, Basic Tools, Necessary Skills” with Bobbi Patterson**, Thursdays 12 – 2 pm EDT April 29, May 27, June 24, July 15 [Register here.](#)

Monastery of the Holy Spirit Zoom Retreats

May 8 Saturday – The Power of Prayer – Fr. Gerard

May 22 Saturday – Codependency – Br. Michael

To register, please call the retreat house office at 770-760-0959 Mon-Fri 8:00 – 1:00. Donation \$45. Visit at www.trappist.net

June 2 begins Contemplative Outreach Chicago’s eight-week course “Enter the Seven Mansions” with James Finley and Mirabai Starr. [Register here](#) .

July 5-9 Christine M. Bochen returns to Vancouver School of Theology via Zoom to teach a summer school course called, “Created for Joy: TM’S Spirituality of Awareness and Witness” from July 5 to July 9, 9 am – noon Pacific time

The International Thomas Merton Society and The Bernardin Center at Catholic Theological Union present:

- Michael W. Higgins - Merton and David Jones: Visionaries Both
May 11, 2021, 8 pm EST. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- Jim Forest - An Army that Sheds No Blood: Thomas Merton’s Response to War
June 8, 2021, 8 pm EST. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- Lynn R. Szabo - Poetry as Spiritual Direction with Thomas Merton and Denise Levertov
July 13, 2021, 8 pm EST. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- Judith Valente - Why We Still Read and Need Thomas Merton: A Personal Journey
August 10, 2021, 8 pm EST. [REGISTER HERE](#)



Center for Action and Contemplation presents [Wisdom in Times of Crisis](#), a free series of videos featuring all five of our core faculty and **Learning How to See: Podcast Series**-Brian McLaren, Jacqui Lewis and Richard Rohr- six-episode podcast series [Learning How to See](#). Brian McLaren, Barbara Holmes, Richard Rohr, Cynthia Bourgeault, James Finley speaking [here](#).



[Encountering Silence](#) Podcast by Carl McColman, Cassidy Hall, and Kevin Johnson



Ignatius House is open for socially-distanced retreats – [info here](#).



Br. Elias Marechal OCSO is on YouTube. [Find him here](#).



Find Fr. William Meninger on YouTube! [click here](#) to find his many videos.



Monastery of the Holy Spirit Zoom Retreats can be found at www.trappist.net. To register, please call their office at 770-760-0959 Mon-Fri 8 am – 1 pm. Retreat donation is \$45.



Save the date International Conference of Contemplative Outreach in-person and via Zoom hosts “The Global Embrace: Our Widening Reach, Our Deepening Connection” on **September 16-19, 2021** Denver, Colorado, USA details forthcoming

Group Meetings and Coordinating Team Gatherings

We will continue to suspend physical gatherings indefinitely. Details will be developed as we receive more information.

Centering Prayer groups will be meeting virtually. Find a group [here](#).

Our monthly Coordinating Team Gatherings for 2021 will be on Zoom.

“Returning, returning, returning, and releasing, releasing, releasing will lead us to reality. Right now is the gateway of eternity.” Martin Laird, in talk presented by Contemplative Outreach Colorado on April 24, 2021.



Be still and know that I am God. Ps 46:10

Silence Solitude Solidarity Service

Join the online Meditation Chapel at Contemplative Outreach Ltd. [here](#).



Contemplative Outreach

Contemplative Outreach Atlanta is a chapter of

Contemplative Outreach Ltd,

1560 Union Valley Rd #909, West Milford, NJ 07480
973.838.3384 Mary Jane Yates, Administrator

maryjane@coutreach.org

Contemplative Outreach Ltd.'s monthly e-bulletin is available [subscribe here](#).



Contemplative Outreach Atlanta

Contact us at coatlantageorgia@gmail.com

Our website:

<https://www.contemplativeoutreachatlanta.com/home-1>

Maggie Winfrey, Coordinator

[Subscribe to our newsletter here](#).



is excited to offer

Two Thomases: Merton and Keating Leading Us to Transformation



Presented by Maggie Winfrey

on Zoom 10 am ET Saturday, May 15, 2021

Devotee of both Thomas Merton and Thomas Keating, Maggie Winfrey will share her reflections how these two have guided her spiritual journey simply as an ordinary seeker.

[Register here.](#)

"To pray 'in spirit and in truth' enables us to enter into contact with that infinite love, that inscrutable freedom which is at work behind the complexities and the intricacies of human existence."

Thomas Merton, [Contemplative Prayer](#), 112

"The spiritual journey is therefore not about getting something, but awakening to the gifts we already have."

Thomas Keating [Heartfulness](#), 143



A contemplative for over four decades, Maggie Winfrey taught kids to read as well as led adult spiritual enrichment for over 35 years. A commissioned presenter of Contemplative Outreach Introductory Workshops, she is coordinator for Contemplative Outreach Atlanta and the Atlanta Chapter representative for the International Thomas Merton Society.