

*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 from Two Thomases' Hermitage, now day 359. As we approach one year of the pandemic shutdown, we honor and grieve with all who have suffered. We are thankful how Centering Prayer has provided us deep encounters with God's healing presence.

We are excited that our own **Mark Dannenfels** has joined our international Contemplative Outreach organization as Program Coordinator on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Finding Fr. Keating's work in the mid-1980's, he has been studying him and practicing Centering Prayer since. A commissioned presenter of Centering Prayer, Mark has worked as Director of Faith Formation for Adults at Our Lady of the Assumption parish in Atlanta teaching and hosting Centering Prayer workshops as well as leading retreats and workshops at Ignatius House. He founded two Centering Prayer groups that continue to meet today.



Holding Masters Degrees in Counseling Psychology and Pastoral Studies, as well as a Mindfulness Teacher Certificate from the Center for Mindfulness in Medicine, Health Care, and Society at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, Mark has extensive experience in mental health counseling and addictions treatment. He participates in mindfulness research at Emory University and Georgia State University. Mark also taught at Spring Hill College for 15 years in the theology and ministry program, concentrating his teaching in spiritual director certification. We are truly blessed that Mark has maintained a clear focus on exploring the relationship between contemplative practice and psychological healing throughout his career that will definitely enrich his coordination of Contemplative Outreach International programs.

Plan to attend our next **We Gather Together Big Sit** at 10 am ET, **Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**. It is free, but you need to [register here](#) to get the Zoom link.

Our **Coordinating Team** met on March 1<sup>st</sup> to plan our future activities. In addition to our April 10<sup>th</sup> Big Sit, join us for my presentation of "**Two Thomases: Merton and Keating Leading Us to Transformation**" on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. [Register here](#). A flyer with more information is on page 5. If you would like to join our team, [email here](#). Our next Coordinating Team meeting is Monday 10 am ET by Zoom on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Hope to see you at the many valuable events are planned for March, 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*

## March and Lenten Activities

**March 6<sup>th</sup> - Pray with us on for our 29<sup>th</sup> annual United in Prayer Day!** In global unity in silence as God's first language, we honor of Fr. Thomas' birthday on March 7<sup>th</sup> with a 24-hour day of prayer, hosted on a Zoom chapel by international Contemplative Outreach Ltd. to unite countries, languages, groups, and chapters worldwide. Each one-hour segment begins at the top of the hour with 20 minutes of Centering Prayer, including Lectio Divina, a video, or readings. **To attend an hour, go [here](#)** for the 24-hour schedule. **Click the join button at the bottom: "Enter chapel here."** We missed the window to host an hour, so many of our Atlanta groups will be joining Contemplative Outreach Tallahassee at 1:00 pm ET. Join in silence as much as you are able.

**March 7 - Dr. Simona Weik** will be coordinating a 7-part series **"To Be and Become Life: Embodiment of the Divine Feminine"** through Mary and Martha's Place on Sundays, 2-4 pm ET. Begins March 7<sup>th</sup>. [Register here](#).

**March 8** - Our Lady of the Assumption Church sponsors **Fr. Greg Boyle SJ Live Online: "Just Us: The Call to Kinship and Love"** **March 8 at 7-8p ET** [Register to receive Zoom link here](#).

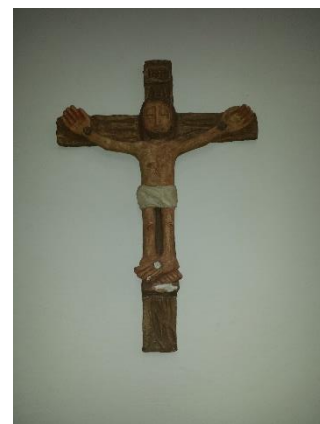
**March 13** - St. Mary's of Sewanee, TN's Rev Tom Ward presents **"The Process of Forgiveness-Centering Prayer"** by Zoom 9:00 am – 12:00 noon CST Saturday, March 13. [Register here](#)

**March 13** - Br. Elias Marechal will guide a Zoom retreat **"Dancing Madly Backwards"** on Sat, March 13 in 2 sessions at 9:30 am and 1:30 pm. To register, call 770-760-0959 Mon-Fri 8-1

**March 20** - Contemplative Outreach Colorado hosts **Mirabai Starr presenting "Forgiving: The Art of Mercy"** at 9 am MST (12 noon EST) on Saturday, March 20. Mirabai will take a deep, feminine dive with her book *Wild Mercy: Living the Fierce and Tender Wisdom of the Women Mystics*. [Register here](#).

**March 27** - St. Mary's of Sewanee, TN's Rev. Tom Ward presents **"Holy Week Centering Prayer Silent Retreat by Zoom"** 6:30 am – 5:30 pm CST on Saturday, March 27. [Register here](#).

"Christ is the way to the Father. His human nature and personality is the door to his divinity. By identification with him as a human being, we find our true self—the divine life within us—and begin the process of integration into the life of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit... The ultimate state to which we are called is beyond any fixed point of reference such as a self... To embrace the cross of Christ is to be willing to leave behind the self as a fixed point of reference. It is to die to all separation, even to a self that has been transformed. It is to be one with God, not just to experience it." Thomas Keating, *Mystery of Christ*, 56-57





## On-Line Opportunities and Virtual Resources



**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](#).



**Zeitgeist** presents **Carl McColman on Integral Theory** Saturday, March 6, 9:30 - 2:30 pm (with lunch break) online via ZG Zoom \$40 non-members \$32 ZG Members \$5 option if you need it [Register here](#). **Carl's interview "Eating the Chocolate Elephant"** explains Integral Theory [here](#).



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



**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](#).



**Monastery of the Holy Spirit** is offering a **Lenten challenge**: a daily virtual Lenten activity from February 17 to April 1, for \$49 contribution to the Monastery. [Check it out here](#). To register, email [retreat@trappist.net](mailto:retreat@trappist.net) or call 770-760-0959 Mon-Fri 8 am – 1 pm ET. Find virtual retreats on the [Website here](#).



Our Lady of the Assumption Church sponsors **Fr. Greg Boyle SJ Live Online: "Just Us: The Call to Kinship and Love" March 8 at 7-8p ET**. Fr. Greg will speak about the power of kinship and inclusion and how Homeboy Industries provides hope and job training for formerly gang involved and previously incarcerated men and women. Free. Must [Register to receive Zoom link here](#).



**Via Lumen** presents Sophronia Scott with "The Humanity of Thomas Merton and the Key to Grace for an Impossible World" by Zoom 7-9 pm ET, April 14. [Register here](#).

### 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 only meeting virtually. Find a group [here](#).

Monthly Coordinating Team Gatherings for 2021 will be on Zoom. A Doodle Poll will help us find our next best meeting day and time.

“The divine therapy is relentless in its zeal to heal our wounds. It arranges circumstances in our lives, however horrendous, in our opinion, to look deeper into our unconscious and to be more vulnerable to its contents, without being the least bit discouraged or falling into despair—rather, loving the honesty, truth, authenticity and integrity of being exactly who God wants us to be in the present moment and responding accordingly. One then becomes a channel of divine grace rather than a paragon of merely human virtue. Thomas Keating, *Heartfulness*, page



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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](mailto:maryjane@coutreach.org)

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



Contemplative Outreach Atlanta

Contact us at [coatlantageorgia@gmail.com](mailto:coatlantageorgia@gmail.com)

Our website:

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

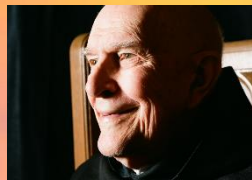
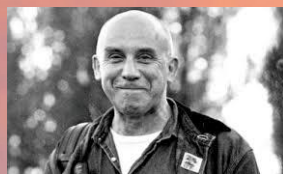
Maggie Winfrey, Coordinator

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*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 will share her reflections how these two have guided her spiritual journey not as clergy, theologian or academic, simply as an ordinary seeker***

**\$10 [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 fundamental theological principle of the spiritual journey is the divine indwelling. The Trinity is present within us as the source of our being on every level. Each level of life from the most physical to the most spiritual is sustained by divine presence."* Thomas Keating *The Divine Indwelling*, 3



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. Her current writing projects draw from Thomas Merton and Thomas Keating.