

LIVING TOGETHER WITH WISDOM: Merton's Call to Transform Our Hearts and Lives

The Thirteenth General Meeting of the International Thomas Merton Society

Sacred Heart University – Fairfield, CT – June 13-16, 2013

In June 2013 the International Thomas Merton Society will hold its Thirteenth General Meeting in Fairfield, CT, on the campus of Sacred Heart University. Founded in 1963, Sacred Heart University is a coeducational institution with undergraduate and graduate studies in the liberal arts and sciences and professional programs. It is the second-largest Catholic university in New England and was the first in America to be led and staffed by lay people..

Featured participants in the conference include:

- **Ilia Delio, OSF**, Senior Research Fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center. Her books include *The Emergent Christ*, *Christ in Evolution*; and *Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth*.
- **Elizabeth A. Dreyer**, Professor of Religious Studies at Fairfield University, where she specializes in medieval mysticism, theology of grace, the Holy Spirit and contemporary lay spirituality. She is the author of *Making Sense of God: A Woman's Perspective* and *Earth Crammed with Heaven: A Spirituality of Everyday Life*.
- **Christopher Pramuk** teaches at Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH, and is the author of *Sophia: The Hidden Christ of Thomas Merton* (Liturgical Press, 2009), for which he received an ITMS "Louie" award in 2011.
- **Ronald Rolheiser, OMI** is president of the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, TX. His books include *Forgotten Among the Lilies: Learning to Love Beyond Our Fears*, *The Restless Heart: Finding Our Spiritual Home in Times of Loneliness*, *The Shattered Lantern: Rediscovering a Felt Presence of God* and *The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality*.
- **Deanna Witkowsi** is a native of Webster, NY, and earned her master's in jazz piano performance at City College of New York. Her albums include *Having to Ask* (2000), *Wide Open Window* (2003), *Length of Days* (2005), and *From This Place* (2009).
- **Kathleen Deignan, CND**, Professor of Religious Studies at Iona College in New Rochelle, NY and editor of *When the Trees Say Nothing: Thomas Merton's Writings on Nature* and *Thomas Merton: A Book of Hours* will deliver the presidential address.

Many other Merton scholars will also be participating in concurrent sessions and workshops, including panels on Thomas Merton and James Laughlin and Thomas Merton and Henri Nouwen.

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Registration fee is \$240.00 for ITMS members (\$290.00 for non-members; for information on ITMS membership, see within). Campus dormitory lodging is \$165.00; arrangements can be made for those who need to arrive Wednesday evening or stay over Sunday evening (see additional lodging fee). All fees must be included with completed form. For those preferring to stay off-campus, motels and restaurants are easily accessible to the meeting site (a list of accommodations will be mailed to those requesting it). Directions to the campus and/or information about transportation from the airport will be provided with registration confirmation. For further details, visit the ITMS website at www.merton.org/2013.

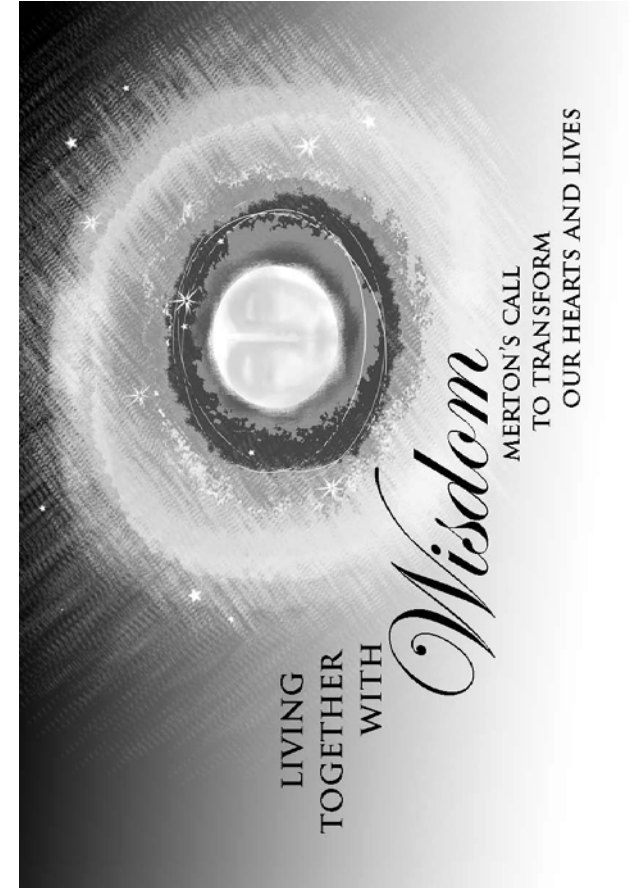
Art by Donna Kristoff

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In a letter to Abdul Aziz Thomas Merton spoke of "the hour of dawn when the world is silent and the new light is most pure," as "symbolizing the dawning of divine light in the stillness of our hearts." At that virgin point of the new day, Merton writes in *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*, the dawn deacon cries "wisdom" but "we do not attend."



REGISTRATION FORM

Please detach and return this form, with check or money order made out to **ITMS**, to:

Michael W. Higgins, Site Coordinator
Sacred Heart University
5151 Park Avenue
Fairfield, CT 06825-1000

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- Handicapped/special needs (*attach explanation*)
- I prefer a vegetarian entrée at the banquet.
- Please do not include my name, address and e-mail in a list of conference participants.

TRANSPORTATION

- I will be arriving by private transportation. Please send directions to campus. (Parking will be available for those arriving by car.)
- I will be flying. Please send information on transportation from the airport to the university.

Cancellation Policy

For cancellations before April 1 a full refund (less a non-refundable deposit of \$25) will be given.
For cancellations between April 1--May 15, a refund of 50% of fees will be given.
For cancellations between May 15--31, a refund of 25% of fees will be given.
For cancellation after May 31, no fees are refundable.

The International Thomas Merton Society promotes an understanding and appreciation of the multifaceted character of Thomas Merton and encourages study and research to make better known the unique contribution he has made to the literature of spirituality and to American literature and religious life in general. Membership is open to all who identify themselves with the purposes of the society. The ITMS sponsors biennial general meetings, retreats, and other activities. Members receive *The Merton Seasonal* which features articles about Merton, reviews of Merton-related books, and information about activities related to Merton. To join, enclose a separate check for \$25 US made out to ITMS.

Name _____ Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

FEES

Registration Fees for the Conference and all meals:

- ITMS Member - \$240.00
- Non-Member - \$290.00

Late registration (between May 15 and June 1)

- ITMS Member - \$290.00
- Non-Member - \$340.00

Accommodation (Three Nights):

- \$165 Private bedroom
- \$120 Shared bedroom

If sharing, preferred roommate: _____

Additional Lodging Fee:

Participants arriving on campus Wednesday, June 12, may stay for \$55.00 no meals included; participants may also stay on campus Sunday, June 16, for the same additional cost. Fee must be enclosed with registration.

- Please reserve additional on-campus lodging (fee enclosed).
 - Wednesday
 - Sunday
- I will not be staying on campus.
- Please send information on other accommodations in the Fairfield area.
- I would like to make a donation to the **Daggy Youth Scholarship Fund.**

Amount: _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

I learned about this conference through:

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, June 13

- 10:00 a.m. Registration begins
- 12:00 noon Mass
- 1:30 p.m. Opening Sessions:
 - First Timers' Session
 - ITMS Chapters Workshop
 - The Merton Annual Workshop*
 - Emerging Scholars
 - The Merton Center in Bridgeport
- 3:00 p.m. Merton and Henri Nouwen Panel
- 5:00 p.m. Interfaith Prayer Sharing
- 6:30 p.m. Banquet
- Presidential Address:
 - Kathleen Deignan, CND
- Presentation of "Louie" Awards

Friday, June 14

- 7:30 a.m. Morning Meditation
- 9:00 a.m. Springboard Session:
 - Christopher Pramuk
- 10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions:
 - Merton & Poetry I
 - Merton in Dialogue I
 - Merton & Vatican II
 - Merton & Barth
 - Workshop: Sharing the Wisdom
 - Workshop: Living with Wisdom
 - Prayer: Yoga's Wisdom
- 12:00 noon Mass
- 2:00 p.m. General Session:
 - Elizabeth Dreyer
- 3:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions:
 - Merton & Poetry II
 - Merton in Dialogue II
 - Merton & Peacemaking
 - Merton: Cloister to Classroom
 - Workshop: Playing at God's Side
 - Workshop: Called by Name
 - Prayer: Building Wisdom's House
- 5:30 p.m. Meditation
- 8:00 p.m. Deanna Witkowski

Saturday, June 15

- 7:30 a.m. Morning Meditation
- 9:00 a.m. General Session:
 - Iliia Delio, OSF
- 10:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions:
 - Merton & Spiritual Geography
 - Merton & the Inner Landscape
 - Merton & the Inner Light
 - Merton as Intellectual Critic
 - Workshop: Merton Light
 - Prayer: Merton's Writings
- 12:00 noon Mass
- 1:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions:
 - Merton & Poetry III
 - Merton & Spiritual Masters
 - Merton & Wisdom for Life
 - Merton & Young Adults
 - Workshop: Merton's Wisdom
 - Workshop: Health as Union with God
 - Prayer: Wisdom & the Dawn Deacon
- 3:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions:
 - Merton & Literary Friends
 - Merton & Indigenous Wisdom
 - Merton & Vatican II
 - Workshop: Merton & Rilke
 - Workshop: Sophia
- 5:00 p.m. ITMS Town Meeting
- 8:00 p.m. Keynote Address:
 - Ronald Rolheiser, OMI

Sunday, June 16

- 7:30 a.m. Morning Meditation
- 9:00 a.m. General Session:
 - Merton & Laughlin Panel
- 10:30 a.m. Closing Liturgy
 - John Eudes Bamberger, OCSO
- 12:00 noon Light Lunch & Departure

All questions or requests for further information should be directed to the site coordinator:

Michael W. Higgins
Sacred Heart University
5151 Park Avenue
Fairfield, CT 06825-1000
Email: higginsmw@sacredheart.edu