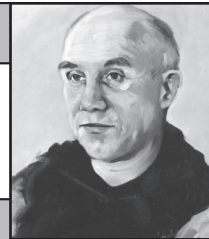


INTERNATIONAL THOMAS MERTON SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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Fall, 2019

**Sixteenth General Meeting a Success**

"O Peace, Bless this Mad Place" was the theme of the Sixteenth General Meeting of the International Thomas Merton Society, held June 27-30, 2019 at Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA. Approximately 180 people attended the conference, from 34 states and 4 other countries.

General session addresses included Ron Hansen: "Thomas Merton's *My Argument with the Gestapo*"; Robert Ellsberg: "'The Gate of Heaven Is Everywhere': The Journey Faith of Thomas Merton"; and Rose Marie Berger: "Direct Transmission of Faith." Mark C. Meade delivered the Presidential Address entitled "The Reality of Personal Relationships Saves Everything." A panel on Daniel Berrigan, SJ moderated by Michael W. Higgins featured presentations by Frida Berrigan, Anna Brown, Eric Martin and Ched Myers.

An evening concert on the opening day of the conference, entitled "Hidden Manna: Dialogue with the World through Poetry and Song," was presented by Cyprian Consiglio, OSBCam, with cellist Joseph Hebert. On the following evening, the films *Day of a Stranger* by Cassidy Hall and Patrick Shen, and *Merton Friends* and *Sleeping under Those Magnificent Redwoods* by Morgan Atkinson were screened.

On Thursday afternoon an Ecumenical Vespers Service was led by Rev. Dr. Margaret Boles of the Covenant Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto, CA, and Friday evening prayer was led by Kathleen Deignan, CND. The Benediction and Meal Prayer at the Conference Banquet on Saturday evening was delivered by Rev. Amanda Wagoner Meade. The banquet was preceded by the closing Eucharistic liturgy, celebrated by Rev. Daniel P. Horan, OFM.

The conference included five opening sessions, fifteen concurrent sessions, and eleven workshops, performances and guided prayer sessions with forty-seven presenters.

The Program Committee was chaired by ITMS Past President Michael W. Higgins and included Christine M. Bochen, Kevin Burns, Cassidy Hall, ITMS President Mark C. Meade, ITMS Treasurer David Orberon, Joseph Q. Raab and Natalie Terry.

At the ITMS Town Hall on Friday, June 28, it was announced that the ITMS Seventeenth General Meeting will be held June 24-27, 2021 at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN; outgoing president Mark C. Meade will serve as Chair of the Program Committee, and Arlene Montevecchio, Director of the Center for Spirituality at the college, as Site Coordinator; committee members include ITMS President David G. Golemboski, ITMS Secretary Cassidy Hall, Daniel P. Horan, OFM, Jonathan Montaldo, ITMS Treasurer David Orberon, ITMS Vice President Christopher Pramuk, Judith Valente and Julianne Wallace.

New Officers and Board

The Officers and Board of Directors of the International Thomas Merton Society for 2019-2021 were announced by outgoing president Mark C. Meade at the Town Meeting of the ITMS Sixteenth General Meeting on June 28, 2019 at Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA. In accordance with the ITMS by-laws, the officers were chosen by the Board and members of the Board by the membership at large, from a slate prepared by the ITMS nominating committee, David Golemboski (chair), Robert Grip and Monica Weis, SSJ. A total of 423 ITMS members, 36% of the membership, participated in the election, 390 through on-line voting and 33 by mail.

Officers are David Golemboski, president; Christopher Pramuk, vice-president; Cassidy Hall, secretary; and David Orberon, treasurer; Mark C. Meade will continue to serve on the board as past president. Newly elected members of the board are: Daniel Horan, OFM, Alan Kolp and Gray Matthews; Deborah Kehoe, Theresa Sandok, OSM and Judith

Valente were re-elected to the board.

David Golemboski is Assistant Professor of Government and International Affairs at Augustana University, Sioux Falls, SD. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri after completing his Ph.D. in the Department of Government at Georgetown University. A former Daggy Scholar, he has previously served as ITMS Secretary and Vice President and as co-chair of the Nominations Committee.

Christopher Pramuk is Associate Professor of Theology and University Chair of Ignatian Thought and Imagination at Regis University, Denver, CO, and author of numerous books, including the award-winning *Sophia: The Hidden Christ of Thomas Merton* (2009), and most recently, *The Artist Alive: Explorations in Music, Art, and Theology* (2019).

Cassidy Hall, current ITMS secretary, is a writer, photographer, filmmaker and trained counselor, currently studying for a master's of divinity degree at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN. She was part of the production team for the film *In Pursuit of Silence*, shown at the ITMS Fifteenth General Meeting, and director of the forthcoming film *Day of a Stranger*, shown at the ITMS Sixteenth General Meeting.

David Orbersen, current ITMS treasurer, received his Ph.D. from the University of Louisville and a Master of Theological Studies from the St. Meinrad School of Theology. He is author of *Thomas Merton – Evil and Why We Suffer: From Purified Soul Theodicy to Zen* (2018). He has been teaching theology part-time at Bellarmine University since 2007.

Mark C. Meade is Assistant Director of the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University and previously served as ITMS Vice President and Treasurer and as co-chair of the Communications Committee. He has been a board member of the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and has served on the National Council of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Daniel P. Horan, OFM is assistant professor of systematic theology and spirituality at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and the author of twelve books including *The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton: A New Look at the Spiritual Influence on his Life, Thought, and Writing* (2014). He received his

Ph.D. from Boston College and has been a previous member of the ITMS Board.

Deborah Kehoe, a current member of the Board, recently retired from teaching at Northeast Mississippi Community College and the University of Mississippi in Oxford, where she lives with her husband George. A member of the ITMS since 2001, she has frequently presented papers at ITMS General Meetings and has published essays and reviews in *The Merton Annual* and *The Merton Seasonal* and is co-editor of *The Merton Annual*.

Alan Kolp holds the University Chair in Faith & Life at Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, OH. A previous member of the ITMS Board, he is co-author, most recently of *Exception to the Rule* (2017), and has published articles on Merton in *The Merton Seasonal* and in *Merton and the Protestant Tradition*.

Gray Matthews teaches communication at the University of Memphis and coordinates the Memphis Chapter of the ITMS. He has been a previous member of the ITMS Board and has also served as co-editor of *The Merton Annual* and as site coordinator for the ITMS Tenth General Meeting in 2007.

Theresa Sandok, a current member of the Board, is president of the Servite Sisters of Ladysmith, WI, and former professor of philosophy and Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Bellarmine University. She served as interim director of the Thomas Merton Center in 1997-98.

Judith Valente, a current member of the Board, is a retired journalist and poet from New Jersey who currently lives in central Illinois. She is the author of the spiritual memoir *Atchison Blue* as well as two books of poetry, and has co-authored with Brother Paul Quenon a series of daily meditations. Her most recent book is *How to Live: What the Rule of St. Benedict Teaches Us About Happiness, Meaning, and Community* (2018).

ITMS President David Golemboski also announced that ITMS members from six countries will serve as International Advisors for 2019-2021. They are: Lars Adolfsson (Strängnäs, Sweden), James G. R. Cronin (Cork, Ireland), Linda Espie (South Oakleigh, Australia), Dominiek Lootens (Frankfort, Germany), Marcela Raggio (Mendoza, Argentina) and Ryan Scruggs (Montreal, Canada).

Paul Pearson will continue to serve as ITMS Resi-

dent Secretary and as ITMS Accounts Manager. Patrick F. O'Connell will continue as editor of *The Merton Seasonal* and Deborah Kehoe and Joseph Raab as co-editors of *The Merton Annual*. Michael Brennan will continue to serve as ITMS Chapters Coordinator.

Louies Awarded

The 2019 Thomas Merton Awards, informally known as “Louies,” were presented by outgoing ITMS president Mark C. Meade on June 29, 2019 at the banquet of the ITMS Sixteenth General Meeting at Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA. The award is a bronze bust of Thomas Merton created by sculptor David Kocka. The recipient of the “International” award, given to an individual who has made a significant contribution on an international level to the promotion of Merton’s writings (in English or in translation) and to the presentation of his ideas, is Detlev Cuntz. The recipient of the “Thomas Merton” award, given to an individual whose work has made a significant contribution to Merton studies, is Jaechan Anselmo Park, OSB. The recipient of the “Society” award, given to a member of the ITMS whose distinguished service has contributed to the aims of the Society and the furthering of its goals, is Kathleen Deignan, CND.

Detlev Cuntz is a retired financial director from Herzogenaurach, Germany who has served as an International Advisor for the ITMS and coordinated the symposium to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Thomas Merton entitled “To Be Human in This Most Inhuman of Ages,” held in January 2019 at Muensterschwarzach Abbey, Germany. He has coedited the bi-lingual proceedings of the conference: *Das Menschenbild als Abbild Gottes Bewahren Beiträge zu Thomas Merton / Guard the Human Image for It Is the Image of God: Essays on Thomas Merton* (Münsterschwarzach: Vier Türme, 2019).

Jaechan Anselmo Park, OSB, a member of St. Benedict Waegwan Abbey in South Korea, where he has been vocation director and director of the Monastic Experience program, is author of *Thomas Merton's Encounter with Buddhism and Beyond: His Interreligious Dialogue, Inter-monastic Exchanges, and Their Legacy* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2019). He received his STL and ThD degrees from Regis College at the University of Toronto, Canada.

Kathleen Deignan, CND, founder and director of the Iona Spirituality Institute at Iona College, New Rochelle, NY, served as the thirteenth president of the International Thomas Merton Society (2011-2013) and as Program Chair for the ITMS Fourteenth General Meeting at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY in 2015. She has edited *When the Trees Say Nothing: Writings on Nature*, by Thomas Merton (2003) and *Thomas Merton: A Book of Hours* (2007) and is a noted liturgical composer and pastoral musician.

Shannon Fellowships Awarded

At its June 2019 meeting, the ITMS Board of Directors awarded 2019-2020 Shannon Fellowships to Peter Bao (Bao Zhaojui) and Jim Robinson. Bao will use the fellowship to examine holograph, typescript and other unpublished materials at the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University for a project entitled “Study on Thomas Merton’s *The Way of Chuang Tzu*” for a master’s thesis at the China Graduate School of Theology in Hong Kong. Robinson, a doctoral candidate and graduate teaching fellow at Fordham University, will use his fellowship for a project entitled “Merton and Ruether: Toward a Contemplative-Prophetic Eco-theological Anthropology,” which will contextualize the contributions of Merton and Rosemary Ruether to eco-theology and theological anthropology.

The Shannon Fellowship program was established in 1997 in honor of the late Msgr. William H. Shannon, the founding president of the ITMS, to promote scholarship on Merton and his work. Up to five annual awards, of a maximum of \$750 each, are granted to scholars for research on primary-source Merton materials at the Merton Center at Bellarmine University or other archival collections. This year’s selection committee includes Paul M. Pearson (chair), Fiona Gardner and Joseph Raab.

The deadline for applications for Shannon Fellowships for 2020-2021 is March 15, 2020. Awards must be used between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Awards will be based on the quality of the proposal submitted and on the need for consulting archival materials at the site proposed. Applicants must be members of the ITMS; they may join the Society at the time of application by including a check for \$25, made out to “ITMS”, along with their proposals. Current officers and Board members of the ITMS, as well

as grant committee members, are not eligible for fellowships during their term of office. Fellowships may be granted a maximum of two times to any applicant.

Application for Shannon Fellowships must include the following:

- a detailed proposal of 500-750 words explaining the subject and goals of the applicant's research and the rationale for consulting primary sources at the Merton collection selected by the applicant; applicants are strongly encouraged to demonstrate in their application that they have consulted online finding aids for the Merton Center (<http://www.merton.org/Research>) or for other archival collections of Merton's work (a list of subjects of previous awardees can be found under "Previous Research Topics" on the web site);
- a letter of recommendation from a scholar familiar with the applicant's qualifications and research interests;
- a proposed expense budget: grants will cover costs of travel to and from collections; expenses for accommodations and food during time of research at archives; costs of photocopying;
- disclosure of any other sources of funding awarded or applied for, with amounts received or requested.

Applications are encouraged from established scholars, from researchers without academic affiliation, and from students and younger scholars, including those engaged in research for theses and dissertations.

Completed applications for fellowships should be sent to **Dr. Paul M. Pearson, Director, Thomas Merton Center, Bellarmine University, 2001 Newburg Road, Louisville, KY 40205; email: pmpearson@bellarmine.edu**. The committee's recommendations will be presented at the June 2020 meeting of the ITMS Board of Directors, who will make the final decisions on awards, and results will be communicated to applicants shortly thereafter.

Daggy Scholarships Awarded

Fourteen young people were able to attend the ITMS Sixteenth General Meeting at Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA as recipients of Daggy Youth Scholarships. These awards, named in honor of the late Robert E. Daggy, long-time director of the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University and resident secretary and second president of the ITMS, cover all registra-

tion, room and board expenses for attendance at ITMS General Meetings and include a year's free ITMS membership. The selection committee for this year's scholars was co-chaired by Virginia Ratigan and Jamie Fazio.

This year's recipients of Daggy Scholarships included:

- Eric Laubenstein, Johnson City, TN (Emmanuel Christian Seminary, Milligan College);
- Ethan Strouse, Rifle, CO (Regis University);
- Emma McDonald, New Haven, CT (Yale Divinity School);
- Mary Greenfield, Lexington, KY (Bellarmine University);
- Maura Hamilton, Schenectady, NY (Nazareth College);
- Anastasia Zapfe, Elizabethtown, KY (Bellarmine University);
- Sarah Schuler, Buffalo, NY (Nazareth College);
- Anthony Nuccio, Zurich, IL (Chicago Theological Seminary);
- Nicholas Dolan, Iowa (University of Iowa);
- Anne Pearson, Louisville, KY (Bellarmine University);
- Mary Reilly, El Cerrito, CA (Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University);
- Jacob Taylor, Columbus, OH (Methodist Theological School);
- Matthew Aragones, San Antonio, TX (Central Catholic High School – teacher);
- Simon Peter Odongo, CFS, Kenya (Iona College).

August Thompson (1926-2019)

Fr. August Louis Thompson, a correspondent of Thomas Merton and distinguished advocate of racial justice in the American Catholic Church, died August 11, 2019 in Houston, TX at the age of 93. Fr. Thompson was born in Baldwin, LA on July 7, 1926, the son of Louis D. Thompson and Eunice Barard. He graduated from Willow Street High School in Franklin, LA and began his seminary formation at St. Augustine Seminary in Bay St. Louis, MS in 1941. He studied at St. Mary's Seminary in Illinois and St. Paul Seminary in Iowa before completing his BA degree at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans in 1957. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Alexandria, LA at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans on June 8, 1957 and served the diocese in various capacities for the next 62 years. He served as a member of the Board for the National

Black Catholic Clergy Caucus from 1968 to 1980 and was the first black priest to be a member of the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Priests' Councils as a provincial representative.

Fr. Thompson began corresponding with Thomas Merton in 1963 after his interview in *Ramparts* magazine with Merton's friend John Howard Griffin, entitled "The Negro and the White Conscience," about his experience of being a black Catholic priest and the effects of racism on the Catholic Church, resulted in tensions with his bishop, Charles Greco of Alexandria, LA. Merton provided encouragement and counsel and the two men continued to correspond through the final year of Merton's life.

Fr. Thompson's funeral Mass was celebrated on August 20, 2019 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral; interment followed at the Maryhill Priests' Cemetery in Pineville, LA. An appreciation of Fr. Thompson's life and work entitled "A Sign of Contradiction," by ITMS member Gregory Hillis, who visited him in 2018 and gave a presentation about his correspondence with Merton at the ITMS Sixteenth General Meeting in June 2019, can be found on the *Commonweal* magazine web site at: <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/sign-contradiction>.

Call for Papers for CEA

The International Thomas Merton Society will once again sponsor panels and presentations at the College English Association annual convention, to be held at the Marriott Resort & Spa in Hilton Head, SC, March 26-28, 2020. The conference is a gathering of 500-600 scholar-teachers committed to literature, writing, college teaching and related fields. This year's theme is "Tides," and one or more Merton panels are planned, along with possible individual presentations at other concurrent sessions. An allied organization of the CEA, the ITMS will provide limited financial support to defray expenses for presenters.

Possible topics include: Merton's counter-cultural resistance: going against the tides of individualism, violence, racism, nationalism, etc.; currents of change: waves of hope, waves of peace; diving deep into the spiritual; images of the sea in Merton's poetry; resurgence of interest in Merton's writing.

Proposals of 200-500 words for a 6-8 page paper (15-minute presentation time) are due by November

1, 2019. Participants must be members of the CEA (\$50/year) by January 2020. Those interested in speaking at the convention are encouraged to contact Monica Weis, SSJ, coordinator of the CEA Merton sessions, at mweis9@naz.edu for further information on submitting a proposal and on CEA membership; additional information is available in the full Call for Papers at the CEA web site: <http://cea-web.org>.

ITMS Authors

Matthew Boedy has recently published *Speaking of Evil: Rhetoric and the Responsibility to and for Language* (Lexington Books, 2018) (\$86.94 cloth), which considers how people in different eras and situations have named evil and examines how taking responsibility for one's language is an integral dimension of a proper ethical stance toward evil. James Crosswhite calls the book "A necessary and purposeful and compelling work [that] explores the idea of an ethical rhetoric in a new and profound way – in the context of the problem of evil itself."

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The late Donald Grayston's *Conversations with a Painting: A Memoir* has recently been published (Tellwell Talent, 2019) (\$14.99 paper), a portrait of key aspects of his life as viewed in relation to a painting he purchased as a young adult: *The Holy Man* by Czech-Canadian artist Stanislava ("Velenka") Fanderlik (1914-1980). In his preface to the book, David Chang writes: "Don reveals all aspects of himself in this memoir In sharing his memoir with us, Don has provided an exemplar of a life well-lived. Following this account, we are called as readers to reflect on a source of wisdom in our lives. Whether this wisdom appears in a painting or elsewhere, may we nevertheless find our own light."

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Robert Hudson has recently published *The Art of the Almost Said: A Christian Writer's Guide to Writing Poetry* (Bold Vision Books, 2018) (\$15.95 paper), providing instruction for the aspiring poet on such topics as understanding the basics of poetry, discovering the elements that make up a poem, overcoming common obstacles to writing poetry, and learning to reach the reader. Leland Rykan calls the volume "a how-to-do-it book of the highest order" and Bruce Edward Walker writes that it "inspires, cajoles, and teases its readers to express themselves creatively."

William Meyer's new book is *Three Breaths and Begin: A Guide to Meditation in the Classroom* (New World Library, 2019) (\$16.95 paper), in which he draws on his own teaching experience to show how using a variety of meditation methods and techniques can be a key component for facilitating learning at all academic levels. Donald Altman writes that the book "offers a clear road map of realistic, accessible, and down-to-earth tools that can change young lives." Linda Graham adds, "The wealth of inspiring stories from the classroom and the practical, down-to-earth specifics make this guide a worthy treasure."

Christopher Pramuk has recently published *The Artist Alive: Explorations in Music, Art, and Theology* (Anselm Academic, 2019) (\$29.95 paper), drawing on his long experience using poetry, popular music and the visual arts in the classroom to explore the deepest questions of human existence and meaning. Wendy M. Wright calls this a "profound and beautiful book" that "allows us entry into the contemplative classroom of a gifted teacher. Drawing skillfully on religious and philosophical insights from a range of diverse traditions and perspectives, Christopher Pramuk allows us to experience musical and visual works of both popular and classic art – the Song of Songs to Pink Floyd – as 'texts' or doorways through which the creative and spiritual dynamism inherent in each of us might be awakened."

Awards for ITMS Authors

Br. Paul Quenon's recent book *In Praise of the Useless Life: A Monk's Memoir* (Ave Maria, 2018) received the first-place award in the memoir category from the Catholic Press Association at the group's annual Catholic Media Conference, June 18-21, 2019 in St. Petersburg, FL. Third place in the same category was awarded to a reprint of *Beyond East and West* by Thomas Merton's friend and correspondent John C. H. Wu (University of Notre Dame Press, 2018), while the reprint of Merton's own 1969 volume *The Climate of Monastic Prayer* (Liturgical Press, 2018) received Honorable Mention recognition in both the hard-cover and paperback spirituality category.

Merton Happenings

On November 8, 2018, Padraic O'Hare led a "Day Apart" retreat day on "Thomas Merton: Living a

Spiritual life, Assisting Others to Do the Same" at Rolling Ridge Retreat & Conference Center, North Andover, MA.

Beginning in April 2019, a Merton reading group led by Fr. Steve Wolf has been meeting at Immaculate Conception Church, Clarksville, TN to discuss-Merton's *New Seeds of Contemplation*. For further information call: 931-645-6275 or email: etc@idjc.org.

On June 10 and 17, Padraic O'Hare gave a two-part presentation on "Thomas Merton and Rediscovering Spiritual Life" at the Edgewood Residential Center, North Reading, MA.

On June 20, Thomas Malewitz led an afternoon workshop on "Self-Discovery & Advocacy: Utilizing the Wisdom of Thomas Merton in Catholic Education" at the Flaget Center in Louisville, KY.

On August 16-18, Libby Faulk Jones directed a retreat on "Thomas Merton and Mary Oliver: Poets of the Sacred" at the Bethany Spring Retreat Center in New Haven, KY.

On September 18, Paul Pearson gave a presentation entitled "Beholding Paradise: Merton's Encounter with Photography and Zen" at the Gumberg Library of Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, in connection with the exhibit "A Hidden Wholeness: The Zen Photography of Thomas Merton" which will be held at the library from September 16 through November 8; on November 7, Bruce Soun Harris Rōshi will give a presentation entitled "Seeing Which Is Being Which Is Acting" to mark the closing of the exhibit.

On September 18, Michael W. Higgins spoke on "Thomas Merton: Global Visionary" at the Church of the Redeemer in Toronto as part of the "Learning Thomas Merton at Redeemer" series.

On September 20, a dramatic presentation entitled *Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day – Pilgrims & Prophets for Peace* with David and Sharon Hoover of Inscape Ministries took place at Women Writing for (a) Change in Cincinnati, OH.

On September 20, Hugh Turley discussed “Why What You Think You Know about Thomas Merton’s Death Is Wrong,” at Maryhouse, The Catholic Worker, 55 E. Third Street, New York City.

On September 21, Douglas Hertler (aka Doug Lory) performed his one-person show “Merton and Me: A Living Trinity,” followed by a question-and-answer session, at Holy Trinity Church in New York City.

Upcoming Events

On the first four Tuesdays in October (1, 8, 15, 22) Vanessa F. Hurst will teach an adult continuing education class entitled “Merton: Echoes of Peace within Silence” at Bellarmine University. For further information, see: <https://www.bellarmino.edu/ce/EnrichmentCoursespg> or contact: lbailey@bellarmine.edu.

On October 4-6 and November 1-3, meditation instruction weekends will be held at the Bethany Spring Retreat Center in New Haven, KY, one mile from the Abbey of Gethsemani. On October 12-13, Libby Falk Jones will lead a retreat on “Contemplative Writing: The Art of Noticing Deeply” at the center. On November 8-10, Libby Falk Jones will direct a retreat on “Thomas Merton and Mary Oliver: Poets of the Sacred.” For further information on any of these programs see the Bethany Spring website: www.bethanyspring.org; or email: rick@bethanyspring.org; phone: 502-507-8576.

On October 15-17, Ephrem Arcment, OSB will direct a retreat entitled “In Silence with Thomas Merton” at the Saint Joseph Abbey Retreat Center, Covington, LA; for further information see: <https://www.saintjosephabbey.com/silent-retreats>; or contact: frephrem@sjasc.edu.

On October 16, Paul Pynkoski will speak on “Woods, Landscape, City: The Prophetic Spirituality of Thomas Merton” at the Church of the Redeemer in Toronto as part of the “Learning Thomas Merton at Redeemer” series. For further information see www.TheRedeemer.ca.

On October 18-20, Fr. Ken VanHaverbeke will direct “A Retreat in Nature with Thomas Merton” at the Diocese of Wichita Spiritual Life Center, Bel

Aire, KS; for further information see: <https://slc.re-treatportal.com/events/f?p=101:1:::NO:RP>.

On October 19, Daniel P. Horan, OFM will lead a retreat day entitled “Becoming Friends of God and Prophets: Holiness according to Thomas Merton and Pope Francis” at The Meditatio Centre in London, UK. For further information see: <https://www.christianmeditation.org.uk/index.php/whats-on/icalrepeat.detail/2019/10/19/1708/-/becoming-friends-of-god-and-prophets>.

The Fall 2019 Road Scholar “Week with Thomas Merton” Program will take place October 20-25 at the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY. The Spring 2020 program is scheduled for March 15-20. For further details contact Linda Bailey at: lbailey@bellarmine.edu or 502-272-8161.

On October 24, Daniel P. Horan, OFM will lead a pre-congress workshop at the Abbey of Gethsemani and Sisters of Charity of Nazareth motherhouse entitled “Wisdom from Thomas Merton for Becoming Signs of Courageous Hope Today,” preceding the Religious Formation Conference annual meeting in Louisville, KY. For further information see the conference website: <https://rfccongress2019.com>.

On November 2, Thomas Murphy will give a presentation on: “Silence as the ‘Mother of Speech’: Cultivating a Contemplative Orientation for Dialogue and Communion across Difference,” at the 2019 annual meeting of the Religious Education Association in Toronto, ON. For further information, see the conference website: <https://religiouseducation.net/rea2019>.

On November 20, Christopher Pramuk will speak on “Thomas Merton and Wisdom-Sophia: Awakening to the Feminine Face of God” at the Church of the Redeemer in Toronto as part of the “Learning Thomas Merton at Redeemer” series. For further information see www.TheRedeemer.ca.

On January 15, 2020, Paul Dekar will speak on “We Are Already One: Indigenous Peoples and Race

in Thomas Merton” at the Church of the Redeemer in Toronto as part of the “Learning Thomas Merton at Redeemer” series. For further information see www.TheRedeemer.ca.

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On February 25, 2020, Andrew L. Prevot will deliver the Fourteenth Annual Thomas Merton Black History Month Lecture at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY. For further information see: <http://www.merton.org/Events>.

Chapter and Affiliate News

On May 21, the Cleveland ITMS Chapter met to listen to the new CD album *Point Vierge*, a collaborative effort of musician Alana Levandowski and Merton scholar James Finley. On September 17, Patrick O’Connell addressed the group on the topic “Merton and the Bible: An Evolving Engagement.” For further information contact Chapter Coordinator Donna Kristoff, OSU, at dkristoff@ursulinesisters.org or 440-449-1200, ext. 314.

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On September 15, Phyllis Tribble spoke to the New York City ITMS Chapter on “The Dilemma of Dominion: A Close Reading of the Creation Story in Genesis 1” at Corpus Christi Church in Manhattan. On September 28, Kathleen Deignan, CND and Kevin Cawley, CFC will lead a discussion on “The Great Work and the Ecological Spirituality of *Laudato Si’*: A Conversation with Thomas Merton, Thomas Berry, and Pope Francis.” For further information visit the chapter website at: <http://www.thomasmertonnyc.org>, or contact: info@thomasmertonnyc.org.

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On October 20, Barbara Carlo will speak to the Chicago ITMS Chapter on “Possibilities and Challenges of Aging” at the Rectory Assembly of Immaculate Conception Church in Chicago. For further information, contact Chapter Coordinator Mike Brennan at cc.itms@gmail.com or 773-447-3989.

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On September 21 the Belmar, NJ ITMS Chapter viewed a multi-media presentation entitled “The Life and Times of Thomas Merton: Author, Monk, Poet, Peacemaker” at the St. Rose Parish Center; for further information contact Greg Ryan at: GJRyan@optonline.net or 732-681-6238.

At its July meeting, the monthly reading group of the Thomas Merton Society of Washington, DC continued its discussion of Merton’s *The Seven Storey Mountain* in the Guest Library of St. Anselm’s Abbey in Washington, and completed its reading of the autobiography at its August meeting. On September 14, the group began its discussion of Merton’s *Cassian and the Fathers*, the first volume of his novitiate conference notes. For further information see the Society’s Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/Thomas-Merton-Society-of-Washington-155831121105772> or contact: tmsociety@fastmail.fm.

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The initial meeting of the newly formed DePere/Green Bay, WI ITMS Chapter, coordinated by Pam Proietti and Kathie Tilot, took place at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality, at St. Norbert Abbey, De Pere, WI, on September 16, 2019. The group plans to meet at the Center on the second Monday of each month. For further information contact Pam Proietti at pproietti@luc.edu.

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On October 12, the Thomas Merton Society of Canada will host a day-long “Consonantia” program at St. Andrew United Church, N. Vancouver, BC, featuring two workshops: “Chanting with Joy” with Leah Hokanson and “Travelling the Road to Joy with Thomas Merton” with Christine Bochen, followed by a closing ecumenical Eucharist. On October 16, Christian Bochen will present a lecture entitled “Awareness, Witness and Joy: Thomas Merton’s Vocation and Ours” at Canadian Memorial Centre for Peace in Vancouver. For further information see the society web site: www.merton.ca, or contact Susan Cowan, Community Relations Director, at tmssc@telus.net or 604-988-8835.

Send all Merton-related news to:

Pat O’Connell
Department of English
Gannon University
Erie, PA 16541
[oconnell001@gannon.edu](mailto:connell001@gannon.edu)

The ITMS Newsletter is also available online at:
www.merton.org/ITMS