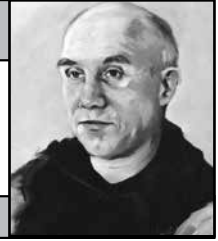


INTERNATIONAL THOMAS MERTON SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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**Donald E. Grayston (1939-2017)**

Donald E. Grayston, Anglican priest, teacher, author, peace activist and eleventh President of the International Thomas Merton Society, died on October 23, 2017 after a lengthy battle with pulmonary fibrosis. Born August 31, 1939, he was a graduate of the University of British Columbia in his home town of Vancouver and of Trinity College and the University of Toronto, where he received his doctorate in 1980 with a dissertation on the successive versions of Merton's *Seeds/New Seeds of Contemplation*, a groundbreaking textual and thematic study subsequently published in two volumes as *Thomas Merton: The Development of a Spiritual Theologian* (1985) and *Thomas Merton's Rewritings: The Five Versions of Seeds/New Seeds of Contemplation as a Key to the Development of his Thought* (1989).

He was a principal organizer of the first major conference on Thomas Merton, held at the University of British Columbia in 1978 to mark the tenth anniversary of Merton's death, and was co-editor with fellow Canadian Michael Higgins of *Thomas Merton: Pilgrim in Process* (1983), a volume of essays that drew on many of the conference presentations. Ordained for the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster, British Columbia, beginning in 1977 he served for many years as rector of All Saints Anglican Church in Burnaby, BC. For fifteen years, beginning in 1989, he taught Religious Studies at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, serving for the last three of these years as Director of its Institute for the Humanities, until his retirement in 2004.

He was one of the founding members of the Thomas Merton Society of Canada, serving as its president in 2003-2005 and subsequently as ITMS vice president in 2005-2007 and president in 2007-2009. He was also Program Chair for the ITMS Twelfth General Meeting in Chicago in 2011 and led numerous pilgrimages sponsored by the Canadian Merton Society, especially

to Merton's birthplace in Prades and related sites in southern France, as well as to Rome, Cuba and New York City. His own Asian pilgrimage in the footsteps of Thomas Merton in 2000 led to his encounter with Chatral Rinpoche about which he spoke and wrote eloquently.

Between 1988 and 2011, he was director of the Pacific Jubilee Program in Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Direction, and the initiator of Jubilee Associates, a Canadian network of spiritual direction programs. After his retirement he was actively involved in Building Bridges Vancouver, a public education project in response to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and in the Canadian Network for a Moral Economy. He was instrumental in developing the Consonantia Program of spiritual formation, jointly sponsored by the Merton Society of Canada and St. Andrew's United Church in North Vancouver.

His final book, *Thomas Merton and the Noonday Demon: The Camaldoli Correspondence* (2015) is considered one of the most important biographical studies of Thomas Merton in recent years. He was the recipient of the 2017 ITMS International "Louie" award, given to an individual who has made a significant contribution on an international level to the promotion of Merton's writings and to the presentation of his ideas.

His memorial service was celebrated at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver on November 15, 2017. He is survived by his three children, Megan, Rebekah and Jonathan, as well as by his sister Helen Williams.

In his brief 2015 essay "*Non Finis Quaerendi: My Journey with Thomas Merton*," written for the centenary of Merton's birth, Donald Grayston sums up the importance of his encounters with Merton that began as a high-school student in 1954 with his serendipitous attraction to the odd burlap-backed cover of the original 1949 edition of *Seeds of Contemplation*. He writes: "I

acknowledge that, at some point in this journey, Merton shifted from being simply the object of academic study and became my spiritual director *in absentia*. I realized that I had taken his major concerns – contemplation, war and peace, and the engagement with the world’s great religious traditions – as together comprising a paradigm both for my walk as a Christian, for my pastoral and academic work and for my understanding of our world” – a reflection that Donald Grayston’s many friends and admirers would affirm as an apt summation of the relationship of two remarkable teachers and two remarkable human beings. Rev. Judith Hardcastle, his friend and coworker in the Canadian Merton Society, writes: “Twenty years ago I walked into a lecture hall at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver to introduce myself to Don. I would never have guessed how my life would change that day. Don and I became instant friends initially because of our mutual interest in Thomas Merton, but really because, well, Don is Don. He was outrageously generous in every way that matters; he loved people and ideas and conversation; he had a razor sharp intellect that kept everyone on their toes, and a delightful joie de vivre that I cherished. He was a beloved friend.” Michael Higgins, fellow Canadian Merton scholar and immediate past president of the ITMS, said of his longtime friend: “Don was both a marvel and a hoot. His scholarship, intellectual curiosity and temerity, constituted the marvel. The hoot: possessed of a rich and liberating sense of humor, he humanized all who knew him.” Thomas Merton Center Director Paul M. Pearson adds, “Don exemplified the spirit of Merton that so many discover within the ITMS and other Merton gatherings. I worked very closely with Don over many years, most especially during the time we were both serving respectively as ITMS vice-president, president and program chair, but our cherished friendship went much deeper, time after time discovering shared interests, from good beer to Leonard Cohen, of course, with a little Thomas Merton here and there along the way!”

Annual Marks Thirty Years

The newly issued 2017 volume of *The Merton Annual* completes thirty years of publication of this key resource for Thomas Merton studies. Under the direction of founding co-editors Robert E. Daggy, Patrick Hart, OCSO, Dewey Weiss Kramer and Victor Kramer, the

initial volume appeared in 1988 to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the death of Thomas Merton. Originally an independent, refereed scholarly journal of articles, reviews and interviews on Thomas Merton and on topics of interest to Merton, its expressed purpose, as presented in the first volume and repeated in all subsequent volumes, is to “enhance Merton’s reputation as a writer and monk, to continue to develop his message for our times, and to provide a regular outlet for substantial Merton-related scholarship.” The International Thomas Merton Society began subsidizing the *Annual* with volume 11, financed principally by reduced-rate subscriptions available exclusively to ITMS members, and with volume 17 (2004), the ITMS took over responsibility for publication of the journal. Now published by Fons Vitae Press of Louisville and coedited by Deborah Pope Kehoe and Joseph Quinn Raab, the *Annual* is available to ITMS members at a reduced price as an optional part of their membership. Contents of all volumes are listed on the ITMS website at: <http://merton.org/ITMS/Annual/annualarchive.aspx>. Full texts of volumes 1-12 are available on the website and full texts of volumes 13-30 can be accessed through the EBSCO databases. Recent issues are available for purchase from the Merton Center; for further details see: <http://merton.org/ITMS/Annual/annual18-29.htm>. Information for ITMS members who wish to order volume 30 but who do not currently subscribe to *The Annual* can be found at: <http://merton.org/ITMS/Annual/orderannual.htm>.

ITMS Member Elected Bishop

On December 2, 2017, Rev. Brian Cole, a member of the International Thomas Merton Society and a frequent visitor to the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University and to the Abbey of Gethsemani, was ordained and consecrated as the fifth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee at the Church of the Ascension in Knoxville by Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry. The diocese includes some 16,000 Episcopalians in 50 congregations, including 44 parishes, three college chaplaincies, and three worshipping communities in an area that includes Chattanooga as well as Knoxville. He had been elected bishop on July 28, 2017 by delegates gathered for the electing session of the Thirty-third Annual Convention of the diocese

at St. John's Cathedral in Knoxville. The election culminated a search process lasting just over a year.

Since 2012, Rev. Cole, 49, had served as rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Lexington, KY. A native of southeast Missouri and a graduate of Murray State University in Murray, KY, with a degree in business administration, he subsequently studied at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, with additional graduate work at the School of Theology at The University of the South in Sewanee, TN. He taught in the Religion Department at Warren Wilson College and served on the program staff of the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center in Berea, KY. Ordained to the priesthood in 2002 for the Diocese of Western North Carolina, Rev. Cole served as vicar of Church of the Advocate in Asheville, NC, and from 2005 to 2012 as sub-dean at the Cathedral of All Souls in Asheville. He served on the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church during the period 2006-2012, and is an associate of the Order of the Holy Cross. He is married to Susan Parker Weatherford, a graduate of Berea College and the University of Kentucky; their son Jess is a student at Samford University in Birmingham, AL.

In response to his election, Bishop-elect Cole told the delegates: "With an open heart, I am both excited and humbled to be chosen by the lay and clergy delegates of the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee to serve as your fifth bishop. Susan and I look forward to joining with you all in practicing resurrection, in the apostolic work of revealing the Living Christ to a beautiful but broken world."

Italian Merton Symposium

A Symposium entitled "Thomas Merton: Prophecy and Renewal" will be held June 12-15, 2018 at the Athenaeum Sant' Anselmo in Rome, Italy, organized and sponsored by the Sant' Anselmo Monastic Institute. Keynote addresses will be "Thomas Merton: Poet, Monk, Prophet," presented by Paul M. Pearson, and "Thomas Merton and Monastic Renewal," presented by Michael Casey, OCSO. Official greetings opening the conference will be delivered by Gregory J. Polan, OSB, Benedictine Abbot Primate; Mauro-Giuseppe Lepori, OCist, Abbot General of the Sacred Order of Cistercians; Maurizio Renzini, President of the Asso-

ciatione Thomas Merton Italia; and Stefano Visintin, OSB, Rector of the Athenaeum Sant' Anselmo. The conference schedule will include daily lauds with celebration of the Eucharist, mid-day prayer and vespers, in the Church of Sant' Anselmo.

Other speakers participating in the bi-lingual event include:

- Ephrem Arcement, OSB: "Monasticism in Search of its Heart: Thomas Merton's Vision of a Renewed Monasticism";
- Maria Helena Barrera-Agarwal: "The Grace of *Mauna*: Silence in the Thought of Thomas Merton and Ramana Maharshi";
- Edivaldo José Bortoleto: "Thomas Merton and Edith Stein and the Caribbean-Latin American Baroque Aesthetic";
- Alessia Brombin: "La Pratica Escicasta secondo T. Merton: Una Via Contemplativa per la Vita Spirituale Contemporanea" ("Hesychasm according to Thomas Merton: A Way to Rediscover Genuine Spiritual Renewal through the Inner Discipline of the Heart");
- Peter Ellis: "Married to the Silence of the Forest: Merton's Prophetic Life in the Gethsemani Woods";
- Vaughn Fayle, OFM: "The Stubborn Portrayal of the *Swischenzeiten* in Thomas Merton's Poetry: 'The Eight Freedom Songs'";
- Reiner Fuchs: "'Le Point Vierge' – A Contemplative *Heterotopos* in Pastoral Work in Addiction Treatment";
- Marco Galloni: "L'amore di Thomas Merton per l'Esistenzialismo";
- Fiona Gardner: "Thomas Merton, 'Accessible Exemplar' of the New Mysticism";
- Fred W. Herron: "Thomas Merton and the Emerging Catholic Paradigm";
- Joseph Hoerter: "Merton on Fire";
- Susanne Jennings: "Time Unbound? Thomas Merton's Engagement with Islam";
- Judith King: "Thomas Merton, Woods Mystic, Gethsemani" and Gabrielle Roth: "Urban Shaman, New York" – in Conversation;
- Anibal José Lopez: "Svegliare la Coscienza del Paradiso Interiore nel Mondo di Oggi" (Awakening the Awareness of Inner Paradise in Today's World");

- David Martin: “What We Know about Thomas Merton’s Death”;
- Sam McNally-Cross: “For the Subjective Life to Flourish It Must Be Rooted in the Objective Life of the Church – An Examination through Merton’s Writings”;
- Jean Michel: “A Mission Link in the Works of Thomas Merton”;
- Jonathan Montaldo: “A Legacy of Confession and Witness: Thomas Merton’s Christian, Monastic and Personalist Philosophy”;
- Peter Nissen: “The Prophetic Voice of Silence: Thomas Merton and the Carthusians”;
- Jaechan Anselmo Park, OSB: “Thomas Merton’s Encounter with Buddhism and Beyond: His Inter-Monastic and Contemplative Dialogue”;
- Paul M. Pearson: “Emblems for a Season of Fury: The Art of Thomas Merton”;
- Malgorzata Poks: “Dismantling the Rule of the Father: Prophecy and Renewal in *The Geography of Lograire*”;
- Thomas Quartier, OSB: “Contemplation: Performance and Engagement. Thomas Merton’s Writings as Prophetic Voice for Pacifism”;
- Maurizio Renzini: “Thomas Merton sul ‘Caso Pasternak’: Libertà Spirituale e Sacralità della Vita” (“Thomas Merton on the Pasternak Affair: Spiritual Freedom and Sacredness of Life”);
- Joel Rippinger, OSB: “Discovering the Authentic Voice of Merton: The Journals and Personal Correspondence”;
- Stefano Santasilia: “True Self as Real Self”;
- Bernard Sawicki, OSB: “Was Thomas Merton a Celebrity? Some Observations about the Presence of Monks in Modern Society”;
- Cristóbal Serrán-Pagán y Fuentes: “Engaged Spirituality in Thomas Merton and Thich Nhat Hanh: An Inter-Monastic Dialogue on Contemplation and Prophetic Action”;
- Bill Simpson: “John Cassian as Critical Theorist: Discretion and False Consciousness in Merton’s Bangkok Lecture”;
- Filip Strzelecki: “Thomas Merton and Monastic Architecture”;
- Paolo Trianni: “Teologia della Contemplazione in

Thomas Merton”;

- Mario Zaninelli: “Profezia o Sopravvivenza? La Corrispondenza tra Jean Leclercq e Thomas Merton”;
- Jason Zuidema: “Thomas Merton as Prophet for Protestant Religious Life.”

The symposium will also include a presentation by Judith King entitled: “An Experiential Diptych – Two Contemplative Exercises: (1) Earth as Monastery: To Know Living Things; (2) Photographic Image as Means of Contemplation.” The conference will conclude with a guided tour of Mertonian sites in Rome. The registration deadline is May 31. For further information see the conference website at: <http://www.anselmianum.com/facolta-di-teologia/istituto-monastico/merton-symposium-welcome>.

Nassif J. Cannon (1943-2018)

Nassif J. (Nass) Cannon, Jr., MD died January 18, 2018 at the age of 74. A longtime member of the International Thomas Merton Society and frequent presenter at conferences both in America and Great Britain, he was also a distinguished physician.

Born in Farmville, NC on January 27, 1943 to Lebanese immigrant parents, he was the youngest of four siblings. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame and the University of North Carolina Medical School. In 1969 he moved to Birmingham, AL for internship, residency and fellowships at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Medical School. Birmingham remained his home for the rest of his life. He became Clinical Professor of Medicine at the medical school as well as a highly respected physician at Cooper Green Hospital and subsequently at the Cooper Green Mercy Clinic. He held various positions at the hospital, including Chief of Staff for twelve years. Service to the poor and forgotten was a central dimension of his medical vocation. In 1971, he married Gail Barber, with whom he had three children, Br. John Cannon, Bryant Cannon and Clare Barber Cannon.

Among the topics related to Merton which Dr. Cannon explored in his speaking and writing were John of the Cross, global spirituality, final integration and the “new monasticism.” His essays and reviews have appeared in *The Merton Annual*, *The Merton Journal*, *The Merton Seasonal* and *Weavings*.

His funeral service took place at St. Elias Maronite

Catholic Church in Birmingham on January 22, with a second memorial mass on February 3 at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church, his original home parish in Farmville, NC, followed by burial in the local cemetery in Farmville.

Noreen Hurter, OSB (1927-2017)

Sister Noreen Hurter, OSB, a Benedictine sister of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, KS, died August 29, 2017, at the monastery at the age of 89. She was known by many members of the International Thomas Merton Society from the series of conferences which she organized at the monastery in the 1990s.

Georgette Hurter was born in Cranford, NJ on November 22, 1927, to Henri and Ruth Saunderson Hurter. After graduating from Mount St. Scholastica College in 1950, she entered the monastery, making her monastic profession in 1952. After years of teaching on elementary, secondary and college levels in Kansas and Missouri, she became a librarian at Mount St. Scholastica College and then at Benedictine College in Atchison. She served for a year as academic dean at Benedictine College before being elected prioress of her monastic community in 1975. As prioress, she encouraged an ecumenical and international outreach, including concern for refugees, peace work, medical services and rural ministry. After leaving office in 1988, she spent six months at the sisters' mission in Mineiros, Brazil, and subsequently served as Mount development director, development and program director of the Mount Community Center, and principal of St. James School in St. Joseph, MO. In her retirement, she was monastery librarian. Sister Noreen was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Eugene. She is survived by a nephew, cousins, and her monastic family. A mass of the Resurrection was celebrated in the chapel at Mount St. Scholastica on September 2, 1917.

Between 1993 and 1998, Sr. Noreen organized six annual conferences on Thomas Merton at Mount St. Scholastica that attracted scholars from throughout the country to Atchison. In the brochure for one of these Kansas Merton Conferences, Sr. Noreen wrote: "In his essay, 'What Is the Monastic Life?' Merton wrote, 'Life is made of encounters.' A true encounter stimulates questions and answers. . . . Merton's writings are just such an encounter. His words reveal many

of his personal characteristics – his hopes and desires, his emotions and dreams – which lead his readers to believe that they have found the 'real' Merton, only to discover a new vision revealed in yet another work." Through these conferences Sr. Noreen made possible repeated encounters with Merton and with many others interested in his work.

In a message left by Sr. Noreen to be read at her wake, she wrote: "I have asked that the quote from the prophet Micah be on my memorial card and you have heard me quote it often, 'This is what the Lord asks of you, only this, that you act justly, that you love tenderly, that you walk humbly with your God' (Micah 6:8). This is the message I would leave with you. Nothing is more important than living those words, 'that you act justly, that you love tenderly, and that you walk humbly with your God.' In these words are summed up our purpose, direction, and final end in the fulfillment of the Gospel message and Benedict's directives to us."

Richard Hauser, SJ (1937-2018)

Richard Hauser, SJ, professor of theology at Creighton University and longtime member of the International Thomas Merton Society, died April 3, 2018 at the age of 80. Born June 22, 1937, in Milwaukee, WI, Fr. Hauser entered the Society of Jesus in 1955 after graduating from Marquette University High School, and professed his first vows in 1957. He graduated from Saint Louis University in 1961 and spent the next years as a teacher of English and religion at Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie du Chien, WI, followed by a year earning a master's degree in history at SLU, then another year teaching at the St. Francis Mission in South Dakota. He was ordained a priest on June 4, 1968.

Fr. Hauser came to Creighton as a professor in the Department of Theology after earning his doctorate in religion and religious education in 1973 from the Catholic University of America. His dissertation, "The Value of Abraham H. Maslow's Personality Theory for Understanding the Approach to Christian Prayer in Selected Writings of Thomas Merton," was one of the first written on Merton in the period following his death.

In 1990, Fr. Hauser founded Creighton's master's degree programs in ministry and theology, serving as the program director until 2002. He also served as

director of the master's degree program in Christian Spirituality since 1993. He was rector of the Creighton Jesuit community between 2001 and 2007.

He was the author of three books: *In His Spirit: A Guide to Today's Spirituality* (1982), *Moving in the Spirit: Becoming a Contemplative in Action* (1986) and *Finding God in Troubled Times* (1994). He also wrote articles, book chapters and book reviews in dozens of scholarly journals and periodicals, including numerous reviews of books by and about Thomas Merton, which appeared in *The American Ecclesiastical Review*, *The Merton Annual*, *The Merton Seasonal*, *Theological Studies*, and particularly in *America* and *Review for Religious*.

Fr. Hauser was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Dorothy, and two younger sisters, Jane Hauser and Kristin Chabot. He is survived by his brother Joseph Hauser and sisters Mary Jo Nakashima and Anne Diliberti.

Creighton President Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ called Fr. Hauser "the face of the Creighton Jesuits, ever-present in classrooms, conference rooms, Creighton events, and his long-standing late-night candlelight Mass on Sundays in the St. John's Church. His impact on faculty and staff, in particular, demonstrated an authentic inclusion of these colleagues and friends in the mission and identity of Jesuit higher learning. I will miss his warmth, passion, determination, and playfulness."

Reg C. Bradley (1941-2017)

Longtime ITMS member Reg Bradley died peacefully at his home on September 11, 2017 following a 15-month battle with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. He was born in Portland, OR on December 28, 1941 to Amy (Palmer) and Sydney Bradley. Following two years as a missionary with Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Reg and his then-wife Janet founded Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre during their years in Hawaii where Reg was a youth pastor at Makiki Christian Fellowship on Oahu. When they returned to the mainland, the theater flourished and was for many years part of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts.

In later life, Reg became a member of St. Andrew Catholic Church in northeast Portland, whose mission he found to correspond with his own strong sense of social justice, Christian activism and advocacy for

marginalized people. He participated in a number of ITMS conferences and was a presenter at the ITMS Fourteenth General Meeting at Bellarmine University in 2015, performing his original work "Shadow Raids on the Unspeakable," exemplifying Merton's own use of antipoetry and antidrama.

He is survived by his wife Trish, his son Jonathan Bradley of Dallas, TX, his daughter Emily Alexander, his stepson Chris Ryan and eight grandchildren. His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Andrew Church on September 19, and a Celebration of Life was held on September 29 at the St. Andrew Community Center.

Richard Bartlett, CMF (1925-2018)

Longtime Chicago ITMS Chapter member Fr. Richard Barlett, CMF died April 1, 2018 at Presence Resurrection Life Center in Chicago. He was born on February 10, 1925 in Chicago, the son of the late George and Blanche Dandurand Bartlett. He made his religious profession as a Claretian Missionary on November 23, 1943 and was ordained a priest on August 15, 1950, serving as a pastor and associate pastor both in the United States and in African Claretian missions. During the 1960s, Fr. Bartlett was Vocation Director at St. Jude Seminary in Momence, IL and also served as Principal of the Claretian School for Brothers in Peru, IL. He worked in parishes in Chicago, Lakewood, Perth Amboy and Casvill, NJ in the 1960s and 1970s, and from 1977-1980 was chaplain at the Sangre de Cristo Renewal Center in Santa Fe, NM and then at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. From 1980 to 1986 he was a missionary Equatorial New Guinea in Africa, after which he became chaplain at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, MO while also serving as pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Springfield. In 1990 he returned to Chicago and served as associate pastor at three local churches through 2002, when he moved first to the Claretian community in Oak Park, IL, then to the Resurrection Life Center, where he spent his final years. His funeral was celebrated on April 6, 2018 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Chicago, followed by burial at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, IL. He is survived by his sister Ann Bartlett.

Peacemaker Honored

Rose Marie Berger, senior associate editor of *Southern* magazine and frequent reviewer for *The Mer-*

ton Seasonal, received a 2017 Peacemaker of the Year Award from the Metro DC/Baltimore Chapter of Pax Christi, the International Catholic Peace Advocacy Organization, at a Mass and dinner held on November 11 at Holy Redeemer Church in Washington, DC. She is a poet and peace activist, author of three books and editor of another, and writes a regular column on the intersection of religion, peacemaking and the arts for *Sojourners*, where she has been a part of the magazine staff for more than three decades. She was a participant in the 2016 Rome conference on nonviolence and is active in the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative that emerged from the conference. She is the daughter of John Berger, coordinator of the Northern California Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society.

Dinner for Tautra Mariakloster

On July 14, a dinner will be held in Seattle, WA at the home of ITMS member Ginny Bear to support the expansion of the Cistercian women's monastery of Tautra Mariakloster, located on the island of Tautra in the Trondheim Fjord in central Norway. The first permanent Cistercian settlement in Norway since the Reformation, the Trappistine convent was started in 1999 near the ruins of the thirteenth-century Cistercian abbey of Tautra, as a foundation of Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey, Dubuque, IA. The foundation stone was laid by Queen Sonja of Norway on May 23, 2003. The new monastery was granted general autonomy on May 26, 2006, and on March 25, 2012, the Feast of the Annunciation, the status of the monastery was raised to that of a Major Priory in the Cistercian Order. The community presently includes eleven nuns, with four more entering in the coming months, at which point nine different countries will be represented: the USA, Norway, England, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, Vietnam and Hungary. A new structure has been designed in the existing modern Scandinavian style, with rooms both for the newest sisters as well as infirmary rooms for the oldest sisters. The menu of the dinner will be drawn largely from *A Nun's Kitchen*, a cookbook authored by Sr. Sheryl Chen of Tautra. At the meal, Ginny Bear, who has visited Tautra, will be showing photographs and expansion plans, and sharing her experiences there. The suggested minimum donation is \$75. For further information on the monastery,

see the community website at: <http://www.tautra.org>. For further information on the dinner, contact Ginny Bear at: ginnybear@outlook.com.

ITMS Authors

Ron Dart's latest book, *Erasmus: Wild Bird* (CreateSpace, 2017; \$12.99), includes nine chapters on the sixteenth-century biblical scholar and reformer, including "Erasmus and Thomas Merton: Soul Friends," as well as an appendix on "Thomas More and Thomas Merton." Brad Jersak writes of this book: "These essays highlight Ron Dart's insight and wisdom . . . a quick but supremely helpful introduction to Erasmus in his historical and our contemporary context."

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John Dear has recently published his latest book, *They Will Inherit the Earth: Peace and Nonviolence in a Time of Climate Change* (Orbis, 2018; \$20.00). Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune writes of this book: "In these heartfelt essays, John Dear navigates our most challenging environmental issues with simple decency, purposeful compassion, and an unswerving commitment to justice."

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Daniel Horan's latest book is *All God's Creatures: A Theology of Creation* (Fortress Press, 2018; \$110). Ilia Delio writes of this work: "Dan Horan has written a comprehensive creation theology for the twenty-first century. He brings the best of Franciscan theology into dialogue with the contemporary world in a way that is consonant with Pope Francis's *Laudato Si*. This work will be treasured by all who seek a new 'planetarity,' that is, a unified creation bound in love and flowing from the heart of God."

He has also recently written the reflection booklets *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas* (Liguori Publications, 2017; \$1.99) and *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter* (Liguori Publications, 2018; \$1.99). He is also the presenter of the new audio/video series *The Saint and the Pope: What the Spirituality of Two Men Named Francis Can Teach Us about Christian Living* (Now You Know Media, 2018; \$59.95 [sale: video]; \$39.95 [sale: audio])

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Alan Kolp has recently published *Exception to the Rule: The Surprising Science of Character-Based*

Culture, Engagement, and Performance, co-written with Peter J. Rea and James K. Stoller (McGraw Hill, 2018; \$32). Steve Reinemund writes of this book: “The noble profession of business has never been under more intense criticism than we face today despite the existence of more laws and regulations. *Exception to the Rule* presents a compelling case for the return to a marketplace inspired by a commitment to virtues rather than rules while recognizing the rule of law can’t be ignored. The reader comes away from this book with an inspiring urgency to examine personal leadership styles and practices.”

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Bonnie Thurston’s latest volume of poetry is *From Darkness to Eastering* (Wild Goose Publications, 2017; \$16.10); Esther de Waal writes of this book: “You are in skilled hands here, so let yourself be carried along, ready to experience delight, or be jarred into discomfort. Above all ponder, weigh, take time. For each poem comes out of the quiet depths of a person who is a fellow pilgrim, illuminating the familiar with her own God-given insight.”

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Susan M. Tiberghien has recently published *Writing toward Wholeness: Lessons Inspired by C. G. Jung* (Chiron Publications, 2018; \$32 cloth/\$16.95 paper). Maureen Murdock writes of this book: “Tiberghien gives the reader access to Jung’s inner thoughts as he dialogued with his soul in his journals. . . . Calling upon the writings of Etty Hillesum, Thomas Merton and Annie Dillard, she shows us how to write toward wholeness as we engage this ‘silent place of the spirit.’ A deeply nurturing and inspiring book.”

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Judith Valente’s new book is *How to Live: What the Rule of St. Benedict Teaches Us about Happiness, Meaning, and Community* (Hampton Roads Publishing, 2018; \$16.95 paper). Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB writes: “For those of you who suspect that it is ‘high time to rise from sleep’ this book holds much promise. Filled with the practical wisdom of St. Benedict, it is a work that can help you discern ways to enrich your daily life. With keen insights into monastic living the author shares her own journey of discovering that the Rule of Benedict is not just for monks.”

Awards for ITMS Authors

The Editorial Committee of *The Catholic Library World (CLW)* has selected Paul M. Pearson, Director and Archivist at the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky, to receive the John Brubaker Memorial Award for the best article appearing in *CLW* for 2016-2017. His article, “The Seven Storey Goldmine: The Extraordinary Success of Thomas Merton’s Autobiography,” appeared in the March 2017 issue. The Brubaker Award is presented annually by the committee, to recognize an outstanding work of literary merit published in *Catholic Library World* during the previous year.

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At the Fifth Annual Illumination Book Awards, sponsored by the Jenkins Group to celebrate and recognize exemplary books produced by Christian publishing and bookselling, Jim Forest’s new book *At Play in the Lions’ Den: A Biography and Memoir of Daniel Berrigan* was awarded a Gold Medal in the Biography category.

Merton at CEA

On April 5-7, 2018, the College English Association annual convention, focused on the theme “Bridges,” was held at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront Hotel in St. Petersburg, FL. Seven presentations on Thomas Merton were made, four in a panel on Merton and three in other sessions. The panel, entitled “Bridging Past, Present & Future: Thomas Merton’s Wisdom Revisited,” included the following presentations: John Allard, OP: “Thomas Merton’s Retrieval of Monastic Sources”; Christine M. Bochen: “‘Everybody Is an Unbeliever More or Less’: Merton and the ‘Nones’”; Sarah Kothe: “Merton’s Retreat Guidance: Contemplative Practice & Social Action”; Monica Weis, SSJ: “Early Irish Hermit Wisdom: Insights for Merton and Us.” In a session on composition theory, Matthew Boedy spoke on “First Year Composition and Thomas Merton’s Contemplative Writing”; in a twentieth-century literature session, Maryann DiEdwardo gave a presentation entitled “Building Bridges To Cultivate Civil Rights: Thomas Merton’s Prose Elegy ‘Raids on the Unspeaking’”; Cassidy Hall showed excerpts from the film *The Bridge of Silence*, of which she was co-producer. The International Thomas Merton Society is an affiliated society of the College English Association.

Old Yet New

A new edition of Thomas Merton's 1969 book *The Climate of Monastic Prayer* (also published with a virtually identical text as *Contemplative Prayer*) has been issued by Liturgical Press (\$19.95 cloth), with a new foreword by British author and theologian Sarah Coakley. Wendy Wright calls this volume "a gorgeous and wise book: the mature Merton at his best. I found myself with renewed gratitude, even after all these years, for his witness, ripened and made spacious by years of attentive awareness. I will return to engage these pages again and again."

James Finley's *Merton's Palace of Nowhere* has been reissued in a fortieth anniversary edition, with a new preface by the author, by Ave Maria Press (\$16.95 paper). Joyce Rupp writes of this volume: "James Finley is a superb mentor of spiritual transformation. *Merton's Palace of Nowhere* contains a gold mine of wisdom. It is a book that will never leave my library. There are always more nuggets of spiritual growth in this book that wait for my discovery."

A revised version of the audio series *Thomas Merton's Great Sermons* (2012), retitled *Thomas Merton's Great Sermons and Reflections*, has been issued by Now You Know Media (2018; \$19.95 [sale]). The same four Merton presentations as in the original set are now followed by an Afterword by Michael Higgins.

A collection of Thomas Merton's spiritual writings and poetry first published in *Commonweal* magazine is now available to view at: www.commonwealmagazine.org/thomas-merton.

The following books and DVDs by or about Thomas Merton are currently available at sale prices in the Liturgical Press annual sale: *Survival or Prophecy? The Correspondence of Jean Leclercq and Thomas Merton*; *The Life of the Vows: Initiation into the Monastic Tradition 6*; *In the Valley of Wormwood: Cistercian Blessed and Saints of the Golden Age*; *Soul Searching The Journey of Thomas Merton*, edited by Morgan Atkinson, with Jonathan Montaldo (book and DVD); *The Many Storeys and Last Days of Thomas Merton*

(book and DVD). Order form at: <https://www.cistercianpublications.org/Products?pageSize=15&sortBy=category&sortReverse=True&onSale=True&start=0>.

Merton Happenings

A Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton discussion group led by Pauline Viviano has begun meeting in Niles, IL. For further information, email: cc.itms@gmail.com.

On October 26-27, Christopher Pramuk led a program entitled "Breakthrough to Wisdom and Peace: Thomas Merton's Awakening to the Feminine Divine, sponsored by the Sophia Institute, Charleston, SC. The Friday evening lecture was held at Lance Hall in Charleston, while the Saturday program took place at Our Lady of Mepkin Abbey, Moncks Corner, SC.

On November 13-18, Ramón Cao Martínez led a Merton retreat at the Cistercian Monastery of Sobrado, Spain.

On December 9, 2017, Fr. Rafael de Pascual of the Cistercian Abbey of Santa Maria de Viaceli marked the opening of the fiftieth anniversary year of Thomas Merton's death by a homily entitled "Contemplation Cannot Be Experienced without Compassion" at a Mass at the Calatrava Cistercian women's monastery in Moralzarzal, Madrid, Spain.

On January 27, a book-launch celebration for Kathleen Tarr's new book *We Are All Poets Here: Thomas Merton's 1968 Journey to Alaska* was held at The Writer's Block Bookstore & Café in Anchorage, AK.

On January 31, February 1 and February 2, Michael Higgins gave three presentations on the theme "Epic Visionaries, Radical Humanists" in the Faith and Life Lecture Series at Baldwin-Wallace University, Berea, OH. The presentations, entitled "Cipher of Our Tremulous Time," "Trackers of the Soul" and "Sacred Disrupters," focused on Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen and David Jones.

On February 9-11 Rick Furman led a "Lent and Easter with Thomas Merton" retreat based on the Lent/Easter Bridges to Contemplative Living with

Thomas Merton booklet at Bethany Spring Retreat Center in New Haven, KY. On April 13-15, Rick Furman led a retreat entitled “Beyond Meditation – An Inner Spiritual Journey toward Contemplation” that explored and compared various types of meditation: Mindfulness, Zen and Buddhist Meditation and Contemplative Prayer through instruction and practice.

On March 1, Christopher Pramuk gave a presentation entitled “Contemplation and the Suffering Earth: Thomas Merton, Pope Francis and the Next Generation” at Benedictine University, Lisle, IL.

On the four Tuesdays of March, 2018, Vanessa Hurst presented a four-week program on “Thomas Merton on Nonviolence” as part of the enrichment program at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY.

On March 11-16, the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY hosted the semi-annual “Week with Thomas Merton” Road Scholar (elderhostel) program. The fall Merton week will take place October 21-26, 2018. For further information contact Linda Bailey: 502-272-8161 or: lbailey@bellarmine.edu.

On March 18, a program entitled “We Are All Shining like the Sun,” celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of Thomas Merton’s “epiphany” at Fourth and Walnut Streets, was held at the Louisville Islamic Center, featuring Louisville Mayor Greg Fisher speaking about Merton’s epiphany and its importance for the city of Louisville; Paul Quenon, OCSO, discussing how Islamic spirituality has impacted his own life and experience as a Catholic monk; and Imam Mohammed Wasif Iqbal, reflecting on Merton’s epiphany and its relevance for Muslims in the Louisville community.

On March 19, Union Theological Seminary in New York City hosted a reception marking the opening of the photographic exhibit “A Hidden Wholeness: The Zen Photography of Thomas Merton” which was on display at the seminary chapel through April 13.

On March 22, Fiona Gardner led a study day en-

titled “Beyond the Shadow and the Disguise: The Spiritual Maturity of Thomas Merton” at Sarum College in Salisbury, UK.

On April 28, an ecumenical conference entitled “Voices for Peace” took place at the Cardinal Flahiff Basilian Centre on the campus of the University of Toronto, sponsored by the Anglican Church of the Redeemer Parish, the Henri Nouwen Society, Citizens for Public Justice and the Basilian Centre for Peace and Justice. Jim Forest spoke on the theology and spirituality of peace, utilizing the writings of Thomas Merton and Henri Nouwen as well as his own experience, and addressed the possibilities of contemporary Christian activism, drawing on his decades of experience as a peacemaker and his friendships with Merton, Daniel Berrigan, Dorothy Day, and Thich Nhat Hanh. The day also featured presentations by Canadian rapper Shad K.

Upcoming Events

From May 21 through May 25, Jonathan Montaldo will direct a retreat at Our Lady of Mepkin Abbey, Monck’s Corner, SC, entitled “*Devotions & Spiritual Exercises: Mary Oliver & Thomas Merton as Mentors for Contemplative Living.*” The retreat will focus on poems by the two writers that present themes for living a contemplative life in action and loving the world, seen through the lens of the literary legacies of these two American “poets of the sacred.” For further information or to register for the retreat, contact Fr. Guerric Heckel at: guerricheckel@gmail.com.

On June 1, Louis Albarran will give a presentation entitled “Merton and Dylan Revisited: The Implications of Dylan’s Art in 1968 for the Church in 2018” at the College Theology Society Annual Meeting at Saint Catherine’s University, St. Paul, MN.

On June 10-13, L. Roger Owens will teach a mini-course entitled “Thomas Merton and the Journey to True Self: A Spiritual Formation Elective” as part of the continuing education program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The fee is \$375 and includes some meals. For further information, see ConEd@pts.edu.

On July 12-14, Jim Forest will teach a course entitled “Thomas Merton’s Advice for Peacemakers” at the Vancouver School of Theology in Vancouver, British Columbia; cost: \$255 (audit); \$330 (certificate credit). For further information contact Margaret Trim: 604-822-0824.

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On June 22-24, Stephen Dunhill, Canon John McLuckie and Canon Anne Tomlinson will lead a retreat entitled “Alive to the Splendour: A Weekend with Thomas Merton” at the Cathedral of the Isles on The Isle of Cumbrae in the Forth of Clyde, Scotland. For further information see: <http://cathedraloftheisles.org/college/retreats/alive-to-the-splendour>.

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From September 2 through January 6, 2019, Spalding University in Louisville, KY will host an exhibit entitled “Merton among Us” at the university’s Huff Gallery, featuring interpretations of Merton by seven visual artists and seven guest writers from the local community.

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On September 2-4, Richard Sisto will direct a Men’s Retreat at Bethany Spring Retreat Center in New Haven, KY, one mile from the Abbey of Gethsemani, entitled “Immersion in Zen” which will include viewing of the film on Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh entitled *Peace Is Every Step*, and discussion and meditation at Thomas Merton’s hermitage with Br. Paul Quenon, OCSO. Suggested donation is \$250, which includes lodging, meals, the retreat and related materials. On October 12-14, Rick Furman will direct a “Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton” retreat at the Center. For further information on these programs see the Bethany Spring website: www.bethanyspring.org; or email: rick@bethanyspring.org; phone: 502-507-8576.

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On September 20-22, an Intercultural Studies Congress in Tribute to Thomas Merton will be held in Mendoza, Argentina, focusing on Merton as a thinker, writer, translator and intercultural explorer whose legacy is still alive and meaningful in the twenty-first century. Submissions of abstracts for presentations will be accepted through May 15; conference registration opens July 1. For further information contact: jornadasmertonmendoza@gmail.com

On September 27, journalist and author Austen Iver-
eigh will speak at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY.

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On September 28-29, a conference entitled “Thomas Merton’s Alaska Journey” will be held in Anchorage, Alaska to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Merton’s seventeen-day visit to Alaska, sponsored by the Alaska Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society and the Archdiocese of Anchorage. Speakers include Ron Dart, Archbishop Paul Etienne of Anchorage, Jonathan Montaldo, Paul M. Pearson and Kathleen Tarr. The conference will also include a panel discussion featuring stories and photographs highlighting aspects of Merton’s time in Alaska, and an optional field trip to Eagle River, north of Anchorage, site of the former convent of the Sister Adorers of the Precious Blood where Merton gave his September 1968 talks to priests and nuns. For more information, contact conference coordinator Carrie Robicheau at: carrie.robicheau@gmail.com or call: 907-306-3386.

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On October 20, the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University and the Louisville Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society will sponsor a program entitled “Awakening the Creative Spirit: A Day Inspired by Thomas Merton,” featuring a keynote address by Robert Ellsberg, a panel of Gethsemani monks who knew Merton, and art, film, music and poetry celebrating the Merton legacy.

Chapter and Affiliate News

At its January through April, 2018 meetings, the Belmar, NJ Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society read and discussed selections from *The Hidden Ground of Love: The Letters of Thomas Merton on Religious Experience and Social Concerns*. On May 16, the group will discuss *What I Am Living For* a collection of essays on Merton and his influence edited by Jon M. Sweeney. At its June 13 meeting, the group will view of DVD entitled *One Day – The Monks’ Life at the Abbey of Gethsemani*. For further information contact Greg Ryan at: GJRyan@wccm.org or 732-681-6238.

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On November 5, the Chicago ITMS Chapter featured a presentation by Tony Sorgi on “Statesman and Servant of Peace Dag Hammarskjöld.” On November 19, Paul

Pearson gave a presentation entitled, "I Love Beer, and by That Very Fact, the World: The Humor and Humanity of Thomas Merton." On December 10, Kate Hennessy, granddaughter of Dorothy Day, discussed her new book, *Dorothy Day: The World Will Be Saved by Beauty: An Intimate Portrait of My Grandmother*. On March 18, Park Forest mayor and Chicago Chapter member John Ostenburg gave a presentation entitled "Where the Spirit of Christ Reigns, Then There Is a Supernatural Respect for All." On April 15, chapter member and ITMS Board member Judith Valente discussed her new book *How to Live: What the Rule of St. Benedict Teaches Us about Happiness, Meaning, and Community*. For further information contact Chapter Coordinator Mike Brennan at cc.itms@gmail.com or 773-447-3989.

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On January 20, Peter Steinfels spoke on "Prophecy and Policy: Merton, MAD (and Us)" at Corpus Christi Church, co-sponsored by the New York City ITMS Chapter and Corpus Christi Conferences. On April 21, Jonathan Montaldo gave a presentation to the chapter entitled "A Testament of Confession and Witness: The Legacy of Thomas Merton's Philosophical Life" at Union Theological Seminary. The chapter reading group, led by Bryon Gordon, which meets monthly at the Corpus Christi Parish rectory, read Merton's *New Seeds of Contemplation* during the fall; the winter session focused on *Seeds of Destruction*, and during the spring term the group will discuss *The Nonviolent Alternative*. On September 22, the chapter will host actor Douglas Hertler's one-person show entitled "Merton & Me: A Living Trinity," an exploration of his own life-changing encounter with Merton's writings, followed by a discussion and reception, at Corpus Christi Church. For further information visit the chapter website at: <http://www.thomasmertonnyc.org>, or contact: info@thomasmertonnyc.org.

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On October 17, the Cleveland Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society marked the five-hundredth anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. On November 14, the chapter viewed the film *One Day: The Monks' Life at the Abbey of Gethsemani*. On December 12, the group marked the anniversary of Thomas Merton's entrance into the Abbey of Gethse-

mani as well as of the death of Merton with its annual Taizé prayer service. On February 20, chapter members viewed the film *In Pursuit of Silence*, coproduced by ITMS Secretary Cassidy Hall, and celebrated Merton's birthday. On April 17, Len Calabrese gave a presentation entitled "All That Jazz: Merton, King and 'the Other,'" commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as of Thomas Merton. For further information contact chapter coordinator Sr. Donna Kristoff, OSU at 440-449-1200, ext. 314; dkristoff@ursulinesisters.org.

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On January 28, the Thomas Merton Society of Canada celebrated Merton's birthday at a special Jazz Vespers at St. Andrew's United Church in North Vancouver. Lynn Szabo served as guest liturgist and was joined by the well-regarded "Quintessentials," her brother's jazz band. Readings from Merton's writings and his jazz favorites were featured. On March 18, the program was reprised at Brentwood Presbyterian Church in Burnaby, BC. On March 23, Monica Weis gave a presentation at the Canadian Memorial Centre for Peace in Vancouver, entitled "Seeing with Rinsed Eyes: Thomas Merton and the Early Celts." The following day she led a retreat at the Centre entitled "Exploring the World of Thomas Merton: Inner and Outer Landscapes." On July 12, Jim Forest will give the annual Thomas Merton Lecture, co-sponsored by the Thomas Merton Society of Canada and the Vancouver School of Theology, entitled "Thomas Merton: One Foot in the Wilderness, One Foot in the World." It will be preceded by the TMSC Annual Meeting, in the Vancouver School of Theology Atrium, and a reception. For more information, contact Susan Cowan, Community Relations Director, at tmsc@telus.net or 604-988-8835; website: www.merton.ca.

Send all Merton-related news to:

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The ITMS Newsletter is also available online at:

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