

# WIDE OPEN TO HEAVEN & EARTH: Contemplation, Community, Culture

## The Tenth General Meeting of the International Thomas Merton Society

### Christian Brothers University – Memphis, TN – June 7-10, 2007

In June, 2007, the International Thomas Merton Society will hold its Tenth General Meeting in Memphis, TN, on the campus of Christian Brothers University, a Catholic school in the Lasallian tradition, founded in 1871 by the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Set upon 75 acres close to the center of Memphis, CBU is home for 2000 students as well as home to the Gandhi Center for Nonviolence. Memphis—named after the ancient *desert* city of Memphis, Egypt—is the largest city in Tennessee, and the 18<sup>th</sup> largest city in the United States.

Featured participants in the conference include:

- **James Forest**, close friend and correspondent of Thomas Merton, is currently secretary of the Orthodox Peace Fellowship; he is the author of the Merton biography, *Living with Wisdom*.
- **Arun Gandhi** is the grandson of Mohandas Gandhi and founder of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence at Christian Brothers University; he is the author of numerous books on Gandhi and nonviolence.
- **Bishop Thomas Gumbleton** has served as auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit since 1968 and pastor of St. Leo Church in inner-city Detroit since 1983; he was the founding president of Pax Christi USA, and continues to speak widely on issues of peace and social justice.
- **Joyce Hollyday** is a United Church of Christ minister in Asheville, NC and a former associate editor of *Sojourners* magazine; she was a founding member of Witness for Peace and is the author of several books including *Then Shall Your Light Rise: Spiritual Formation and Social Witness*.
- **Albert J. Raboteau** is a professor at Princeton University, specializing in American religious history with a focus on American Catholic history and African-American religious movements; he is the author *A Fire in the Bones*, which includes a chapter on Merton and Martin Luther King, Jr.
- **Paul M. Pearson**, director of The Merton Center at Bellarmine University, and editor of Merton's *Seeking Paradise: The Spirit of the Shakers*, will deliver the presidential address.

Many other Merton scholars will also be participating in concurrent sessions and workshops.

Other highlights will include:

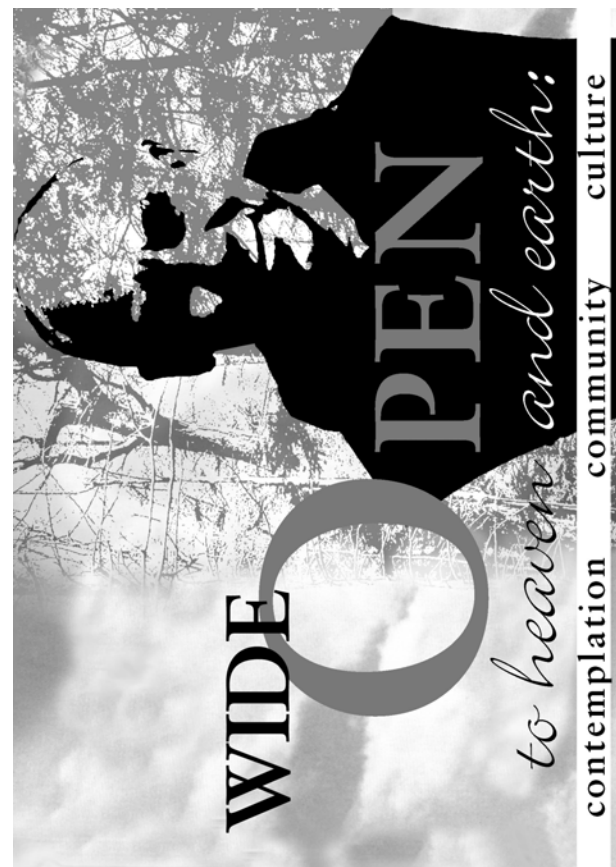
- An opening ecumenical prayer ceremony and celebration
- Tour of The National Civil Rights Museum
- Special musical guests

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Registration fee is \$150.00 for ITMS members (\$200.00 for non-members; for information on ITMS membership, see within). Lodging is \$150.00; 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/memphis](http://www.merton.org/memphis).

Art by Donna Kristoff

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Bellarmine University  
2001 Newburg Road  
Louisville, KY 40205



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of the  
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Christian Brothers University  
Memphis, Tennessee  
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*And what is the person? Precisely, he is one in the unity which is love. He is undivided in himself because he is open to all. He is open to all because the one love that is the source of all, the form of all, and the end of all is one in him and in all. He is truly alone who is wide open to heaven and earth and closed to no one ...*

Thomas Merton: "Honorable Reader"

## REGISTRATION FORM

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

Gray Matthews, Site Coordinator  
University of Memphis  
Department of Communication TC-143  
Memphis, TN 38152

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Disabled/special needs (*attach explanation*)
- I prefer vegetarian meals

### TRANSPORTATION

- I will be arriving by private transportation. Please send directions to campus. (Parking will be available at CBU for those arriving by car.)
- I will be flying to Memphis International Airport. Please send information on transportation from the airport to the university.
- I am willing to have my name and address included in list of conference participants.

### GROUP TOUR: Civil Rights Museum

If interested in visiting the **National Civil Rights Museum** on Thursday, June 7, 12:00 noon, please check below and send an additional **\$10.00** to insure ticket and bus seat:

- I DO plan to take the tour
- I do NOT plan to take the tour

**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, regional 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 of \$25US made out to ITMS.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## FEES

### Registration Fees for the Conference and all meals:

- ITMS Member - \$150.00
- Late Registration (after May 15) - \$200.00

- Non-Member - \$200.00
- Late Registration (after May 15) - \$250.00

### Accommodation (Three Nights):

- \$150 **Note:** All rooms have private bedrooms with shared baths (dorm-suite arrangement).

### Additional Lodging Fee:

Participants arriving on campus Wednesday, June 6, may stay for \$55.00 no meals included; participants may also stay on campus Sunday, June 10, for the same additional cost. This fee must be enclosed with registration to secure a room.

- Please reserve – fee enclosed:  Wednesday  Sunday

- I will not be staying on campus.

- Please send information on other accommodations in the Memphis area.

- Would you like to make a donation to the **Daggy Youth Scholars?**  
Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note: All registrants must enclose registration fee(s) with this form and submit by May 15, 2007.**

**Total Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I learned about this conference through:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

### Thursday, June 7

- 10:00 a.m. Registration begins
- 12-2:30 p.m. Tour of the National Civil Rights Museum
- 1:00 p.m. Opening Sessions:
  - First Timers' Session
  - Youth Scholars Orientation
  - ITMS Chapters Workshop
  - Merton & *Jubilee* Magazine
  - Zen & Merton's Stone Garden
  - Merton & Dylan: Prophets
- 3:00 p.m. Stories of Gandhi:
  - Arun Gandhi
- 5:30 p.m. Ecumenical Meditation
- 7:00 p.m. Banquet
- Presidential Address:
  - Paul M. Pearson
- Presentation of "Louie" Awards

### Friday, June 8

- 7:30 a.m. Morning Meditation
- 9:00 a.m. Springboard Session:
  - Albert Raboteau
- 10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions:
  - Merton & Southern Writers
  - Merton's Civil Rights Letters
  - Merton & Spiritual Formation
  - Workshop: "Letting Go"
  - Guided Prayer: Sky Within
- 12:00-30 p.m. Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. General Session:
  - Joyce Hollyday
- 3:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions:
  - Merton & Alternate Communities
  - Merton's Prophetic Humanism
  - Merton's Philosophical Roots
  - Performance: Merton & Elvis
  - Workshop: Personhood
  - Prayer: Contemplative Living
- 5:15 p.m. Meditation
  - Merton's Transforming Vision
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 8:00 p.m. Keynote Address:
  - Jim Forest

### Saturday, June 9

- 7:30 a.m. Morning Meditation
- 9:00 a.m. General Session:
  - Bishop T. Gumbleton
- 10:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions:
  - Merton & Faulkner
  - Merton & Non-Violence
  - Merton's Spiritual Forbears
  - Workshop: Merton & Eliot
  - Prayer: Spiritual Geography
- 12:00 noon Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions:
  - Merton, Music & the Muse
  - Merton & Ecology
  - Merton & Contemplation
  - Workshop: Merton-Bonhoeffer
  - Prayer: Embracing All Life
- 3:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions:
  - Merton & Dialogue
  - Merton & MLK, Jr.
  - Merton & Wholeness
  - Merton & Photography
  - Workshop: Architecture
  - Prayer: Ps. 173 & Darfur
- 5:00 p.m. ITMS Town Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 8:00 p.m. Special Entertainment

### Sunday, June 10

- 8:00 a.m. Meditation
- 9:00 a.m. General Session:
  - Merton & Percy Panel
- 10:30 a.m. Closing Liturgy
  - James Conner, OCSO
- 12:00 noon Light Lunch & Departure

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

**Gray Matthews**  
**University of Memphis**  
**Dept. of Communication, TC-143**  
**Memphis, TN 38152**  
**Email: matthews@memphis.edu**