

INTERNATIONAL THOMAS MERTON SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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Fourteenth General Meeting a Success

“Merton 100: Living the Legacy” was the theme of the Fourteenth General Meeting of the International Thomas Merton Society, held June 4-7 at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY. Approximately 475 people attended the conference, from forty states and seventeen other countries.

General Session addresses included Christine Bochen: “Striving for Mercy: Envisioning the Church of the Twenty-first Century”; James Finley: “Thomas Merton: Mystic Teacher for Our Age”; Bryan N. Massingale: “Engaging Racism: Thomas Merton and the Unfinished Quest for Justice”; and Archbishop Rowan Williams: “Words, War and Silence: Thomas Merton for the Twenty-first Century.”

David Joseph Belcastro delivered the Presidential Address entitled “Dear Beneficiaries of the Merton Legacy.” A Panel on “Thomas Merton and Interfaith Dialogue,” moderated by Joseph Raab, featured Edward Kaplan, Sidney Griffith and Bonnie Thurston. Morgan Atkinson’s new film *The Many Storeys and Last Days of Thomas Merton* was shown on Thursday afternoon of the conference. An exhibit of paintings by Charles MacCarthy entitled “‘Heaven in Ordinary’: Contemplating Merton’s Photographs through Painting” was open throughout the conference in the McGrath Gallery on the Bellarmine campus. The Sean Breton Trio of Louisville provided musical entertainment on Thursday evening following the Kentucky buffet. The closing liturgy was celebrated by Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville.

The conference included six opening sessions, thirty concurrent sessions, workshops, performances and guided prayer sessions with fifty-eight presenters, as well as interfaith meditation and worship sessions. One hundred sixty-five participants made a pre-conference trip to the Abbey of Gethsemani on Thursday

morning, where they toured the abbey grounds and visited Thomas Merton’s hermitage.

The site coordinator for the conference was Paul M. Pearson, Director of the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine. The Program Committee was chaired by Kathleen Deignan, CND, and included ITMS President David Belcastro, Christine M. Bochen, James Conner, OCSO, Robert Grip, Judith Hardcastle, Joseph Madonna, ITMS Treasurer Mark C. Meade, Jonathan Montaldo, Erlinda G. Paguio, Paul M. Pearson, Melanie-Prejean Sullivan and Monica Weis, SSJ.

At the ITMS Town Meeting on Saturday afternoon of the conference, ITMS President David Belcastro announced that the ITMS Fifteenth General Meeting will take place June 15-18, 2017 at St. Bonaventure University, Olean, NY, where Thomas Merton taught in 1940-1941 before entering the Abbey of Gethsemani. David Belcastro will chair the Program Committee and Julianne E. Wallace will serve as Site Coordinator; other members of the committee include Christine M. Bochen, Margaret Carney, OSF, Michael W. Higgins (*ex officio*), Paul M. Pearson (*ex officio*), Joseph Q. Raab and Monica Weis, SSJ.

New Officers and Board

The Officers and Board of Directors of the International Thomas Merton Society for 2015-2017 were announced by outgoing president David J. Belcastro at the Town Meeting of the ITMS Fourteenth General Meeting on June 6, 2015 at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY. 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, Judith Hardcastle (chair), Joseph Madonna and Mark Meade.

Officers are Michael W. Higgins, president; Mark C. Meade, vice-president; David Golemboski, secretary; and Paul M. Pearson, treasurer; David J. Bel-

castro will continue to serve on the board as past president. Newly elected members of the board are: Fiona Gardner, Deborah Kehoe, Alan Kolp and Theresa Sandok, OSM; Daniel P. Horan, OFM and Patrick F. O'Connell were re-elected to the board.

Michael Higgins is Professor of Religious Studies and Vice-President for Mission and Catholic Identity at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Connecticut. He is former president of St. Jerome's University, Waterloo, ON and of St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB and author, most recently, of *Thomas Merton: Faithful Visionary* and *The Unquiet Monk: Thomas Merton's Questing Faith*. He served as site coordinator of the ITMS Sixth and Thirteenth General Meetings.

Mark C. Meade is Assistant Director of the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY and has served as ITMS Treasurer and as co-chair of the ITMS Communications Committee. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a major interfaith peace organization.

David Golemboski is a graduate of the University of Louisville and Harvard Divinity School and currently a doctoral student in the Department of Government at Georgetown University after working as a staff person at the Catholic social justice lobbying group Network. He is a former Daggy Scholar and youth representative to the ITMS Board and served as co-chair of the ITMS Retreats Committee. He serves on the board of directors for Witness for Peace, a grassroots organization working for peace, justice and sustainable economies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Paul M. Pearson is Director of the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY and Chief of Research for the Merton Legacy Trust. He is Resident Secretary of the International Thomas Merton Society and has served as ITMS President. He has edited *Seeking Paradise: Thomas Merton and the Shakers* (2003), *A Meeting of Angels: The Correspondence of Thomas Merton with Edward Deming and Faith Andrews* (2008) and *Thomas Merton on Christian Contemplation* (2012).

David Joseph Belcastro is co-editor of *The Merton Annual* and immediate past president of the International Thomas Merton Society. He is Professor of

Religious Studies at Capital University, Bexley, OH and has presented and published papers on Merton for the past twenty-seven years.

Fiona Gardner works as award leader for the MA in Counseling and Psychotherapy Practice at Bath Spa University, England. She is former co-editor of *The Merton Journal*, former chair of The Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain and Ireland and former ITMS international advisor.

Daniel P. Horan, OFM is a Franciscan friar of Holy Name Province and currently a doctoral student in systematic theology at Boston College. He is a columnist for *America* magazine, and the author of numerous books, most recently *The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton*. He is a former Daggy Scholar and Shannon Fellow and currently serves on the ITMS Board.

Deborah Kehoe teaches English at Northeast Mississippi Community College and the University of Mississippi. She is a frequent presenter at ITMS General Meetings and has also spoken on Merton at the College English Association annual meeting. Her work has appeared in *The Merton Annual* and *The Merton Seasonal*, and she serves on the *Merton Annual* editorial board.

Alan Kolp has been a college and seminary professor of historical and spiritual studies and currently teaches at Baldwin Wallace University in Cleveland, OH. A Quaker and a Benedictine oblate, he has served on the board of directors of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality as well as other organizations.

Patrick F. O'Connell, professor of English and Theology at Gannon University, Erie, PA, is a founding member and former president of the International Thomas Merton Society and editor of *The Merton Seasonal*. He is editor, most recently, of *Merton's Charter, Customs, and Constitutions of the Cistercians* and *Early Essays: 1947-1952*.

Theresa Sandok, OSM is president of the Servite Sisters of Ladysmith, WI. She is a former professor of philosophy and Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY. She served as interim director of the Thomas Merton Center in 1997-98 and was a speaker at the first conference of the Polish Merton Society in 2002. She has translated many works of Polish philosophers into English.

ITMS President Michael Higgins has also announced that ITMS members from six countries will serve as International Advisors for 2015-2017. They are: Lars Adolfsson, Strängnäs, Sweden; Maria Barros, São Paulo, Brazil; Gary Hall, Birmingham, England; Colleen O'Sullivan, Sydney, Australia; Malgorzata Poks, Koszecin, Poland; and Ryan Scruggs, Montreal, Canada.

Paul M. Pearson will continue to serve as ITMS Resident Secretary and Donna Kristoff, OSU will serve as ITMS Chapters and Affiliates Coordinator. Committee Chairs for 2015-2017 include: Veronica Dagher: Advancement; Robert Grip: Communication; Jamie Fazio and Virginia Ratigan: Daggy Scholarship; Monica Weis, SSJ: Education; David Golemboski and Natalie Terry: Nominating; Mark Meade: Membership and Outreach; Patrick O'Connell: Publications; Kathleen Deignan, CND: Retreat; Paul Pearson: Shannon Fellowship.

Louies Awarded

The 2015 Thomas Merton Awards, informally known as "Louies," were presented by outgoing ITMS president David Belcastro on June 6, 2015 at the banquet of the ITMS Fourteenth General Meeting at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY. 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 Fiona Gardner. The recipient of the "Thomas Merton" award, given to an individual whose work has made a significant contribution to Merton studies, is Gordon Oyer; 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 John Collins.

Fiona Gardner works as award leader for the MA in Counseling and Psychotherapy Practice at Bath Spa University, England. She is former co-editor of *The Merton Journal*, former chair of The Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain and Ireland, former ITMS international advisor and newly elected member of the ITMS Board of Directors. She trained and has worked as a social worker, a psychoanalytic psychotherapist and more recently as a spiritual director.

She is editor of *Precious Thoughts: Daily Readings from the Correspondence of Thomas Merton* (2011).

Gordon Oyer is the author of *Pursuing the Spiritual Roots of Protest: Merton, Berrigan, Yoder, and Muste at the Gethsemani Abbey Peacemakers Retreat* (Cascade Books, 2014), a detailed study of the 1964 ecumenical retreat hosted by Thomas Merton for leaders of the Christian peace movement. He is an administrator with the University of Illinois system and former editor of *Illinois Mennonite Heritage* and has served on boards for four regional Mennonite history organizations.

John P. Collins served on the faculty of the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester State University and the International Education Program. For over a decade he has contributed a monthly column on Thomas Merton to the Worcester, MA *Catholic Free Press* and served a similar length of time as facilitator of the Shrewsbury, MA ITMS chapter. In July 2013 he began a chapter of the Merton Society at the Massachusetts Correctional Institution in Shirley, MA, which he has continued to lead since that time. His work at the prison was featured in the special Merton Centenary section of the December 5 issue of *The National Catholic Reporter*.

Daggy Scholarships Awarded

A record number of young people were able to attend the ITMS Fourteenth General Meeting at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY as recipients of Daggy Youth Scholarships. These awards, named in honor of the late Robert E. Daggy, long-time director the Bellarmine University Merton Center and resident secretary and second president of the ITMS, cover all registration, room and board expenses for attendance at ITMS General Meetings, and include a year's free ITMS membership. Forty-one young people participated in the centenary conference thanks to the generosity of ITMS members and friends. The selection committee for this year's scholars included Virginia Ratigan and Jamie Fazio, co-chairs, Christine Bochen, Nass Cannon, Malcolm Cash, Kathleen Deignan, Joseph Madonna, Paul Quenon, OCSO and Cristóbal Serrán-Pagán.

This year's recipients of Daggy Scholarships included: Sandybell Anorga, Iona College; Rachel Baio, Iona College; Andrew M. Belfield, Saint Bonaventure University; Keegan Boisson-Yates, Iona College; Michael

Carhart, Seton Hall University and Sussex County Community College; Katelynn Carver, University of St. Andrews; Kevin Cilano, St. Bonaventure University; Jessica Coblentz, Boston College; Leah Coming, Catholic Peace Fellowship; Jordan Darling, Iona College; Erin Dempsey, Saint Bonaventure University; Nicole Drozd, Nazareth College; Seth Emmert, Johnson University; Phil Garrity, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry; Matthew Gesicki, Baldwin Wallace University; Chelsea Guenther Benham, Bellarmine University; Cassidy Hall, Liberty University; Rebecca Harpring, Bellarmine University; Troy A. Hillman, Saint Bonaventure University; Michael Jerge, Xavier University; Sarah Kothe, Boston College; Nicole Kowalczyk, Purdue University; Amanda Mateer, Iona College; Alexis Mazzeo, Nazareth College; Ryan Nation, Saint Bonaventure University; John Noble, Drake University; Patrick Nuanah, Iona College; Nicholas Ogle, University of Notre Dame; Brandon Pierce, Abilene Christian University; Stephanie Redekop, Trinity Western University; Anna Robertson, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry; Meleana Spera, Nazareth College; Maria Surat, University of Notre Dame; Christian Tate, Purdue University; Samantha Thomas, Nazareth College; Leia B. Tijou, Nazareth College; William Torres, University of Pennsylvania; Grace Wach, Nazareth College; Jamie White, Ashland Theological Seminary; Sophia Lilin Wu, Peking University; Lee Tzu Ying.

Shannon Fellowship Awarded

At its June meeting, the ITMS Board of Directors awarded a 2015-2016 Shannon Fellowship to Alex Mikulich to continue research on Thomas Merton's analysis of white innocence and racial superiority. 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 Quinn Raab.

The deadline for applications for Shannon Fellowships for 2016-2017 is March 15, 2016. Awards

must be used between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. 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, 2016 meeting of the ITMS Board of Directors, who will

make the final decisions on awards, and results will be communicated to applicants shortly thereafter.

New Bibliographical Resource Available

On June 4 at the “Creating a Community of Merton Scholars” session of the ITMS Fourteenth General Meeting at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY, Merton bibliographer Patricia Burton introduced the latest resource for Merton studies: *‘About Merton’: Secondary Sources 2000-2015*, a complete compendium of material written about Thomas Merton over the past fifteen years. This is a supplementary sequel to the previous volume *‘About Merton’: Secondary Sources 1945-2000*. It includes the categories of: Books about Thomas Merton, including critical studies, anthologies and conference papers, biographies, devotional works, poetry, works for young people, pamphlets, bibliographies, media presentations, periodicals devoted to Merton and a special section on volumes devoted to the Merton centennial year; Parts of Books, including famous connections, comparative assessments, chapters about Merton, mentions of Merton in other books, reference works and editorial contributions to books and articles by and about Merton; Reviews of Books and Media by Merton, followed by an alphabetical list of reviewers of works by and about Merton; Articles and Essays about Merton, arranged alphabetically by author, followed by special sections on homilies, bibliographic essays and *Merton Annual* bibliographic reviews; Theses and Dissertations; Newspaper Articles and Letters to the Editor; Interviews; Poetry; The Arts and Merton, including sections on calligraphies and abstract art, photography, exhibit catalogues, drama, fiction, music – articles and books, recordings and musical settings of Merton materials. The volume concludes with a comprehensive index of authors and titles.

The volume is available for personal use and free downloading on the Merton Center web site at: <http://merton.org/Research/bibresources.aspx>. Other bibliographical resources compiled by Patricia Burton are also available on this website, including: *Merton Vade Mecum*; *ITMS Conference Analysis: 1989-2013*; *ITMS Seasonal Index, vols. 1-25*; *Thomas Merton’s Visitors by Name*; *About Merton – Secondary Sources 1945-2000* (with Marquita E. Breit and Paul M. Pearson); as well as Paul M. Pearson’s

Checklist Bibliography. Those downloading any of this material are encouraged to make a donation to the Merton Center Restricted Fund (see <http://merton.org/funding.aspx>) to support the Merton’s Center’s care of its ever-expanding collection of primary and secondary Merton materials.

Edward J. Farley (1927-2015)

Dr. Edward J. Farley, longtime ITMS Chapters Coordinator and director of the Massachusetts Chapter of the ITMS, died on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015 at the age of 87. Born in Lowell, MA on July 6, 1927, the son of the late John and Emma (Vachon) Farley, he was educated at St. Patrick Boys School in Lowell and Miramar Seminary in Duxbury, MA. Following graduation, he entered the Divine Word novitiate in Techny, IL and attended St. Paul’s College in Iowa, returning to Lowell to complete his undergraduate degree in English at Merrimack College. After graduation he served in the United States Army 261st Signal Company, earned a Master’s Degree in Education from Boston College and a Doctorate of Education degree from Boston University. He began teaching in 1955 at Varnum Junior High School in Lowell, taught Latin and mathematics at Lowell High School, and in 1959 began his 31-year administrative career in the Tewksbury, MA school system, where he served as Principal of Tewksbury Junior High School, Principal of the Heath Brook School and Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Instruction from 1965 until his retirement in 1990. He received the 2001 “Louie” award from the ITMS for his long service to the Society. He was married for 56 years to Margaret “Peggy” (Griffin) Farley, who died in 2011. He is survived by his seven children, as well as sixteen grandchildren, and by his brothers Francis Farley of Yarmouth, MA and Fr. John Farley, SVD, of Techny, IL, and his sister, Sr. Joan Farley SND of Manchester, CT. His funeral Mass was celebrated on April 12 at Immaculate Conception Church in Lowell, and burial took place in St. Mary Cemetery in Tewksbury.

Sr. Anita of Jesus, OCD (1932-2015)

Sr. Anita of Jesus, OCD, formerly Ann Helene Wasserman, a member for 62 years of the Carmelite community of the Holy Family in Cleveland Heights, OH, died in April at the age of 82. She was the daughter

of the late Edmund and Margaret (Anderson) Wasserman, and sister of the late Edmund (Fr. John of the Cross) Wasserman, a former member of the Cistercian Order at the Abbey of Gethsemani and a close associate of Thomas Merton. She was a correspondent of Thomas Merton, who encouraged her to enter the Cleveland Carmel. Letters to her are published in *Witness to Freedom* (177-93), along with one letter (to “Sister A.”) in *The School of Charity* (60-62). A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 23, 2015 in the chapel of the Holy Family Carmel, followed by burial in Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland.

Albert “Al” Flogge (1934-2015)

Albert J. Flogge died May 19, 2015 at the age of 80 in North Muskegon, MI. He was born in Kent, OH on September 11, 1934, son of Joseph and Mary A. (Polite) Flogge. He was a 1952 graduate of Roosevelt High School in Kent and received a Business Administration degree from Kent State University in 1956. After serving two years in the US Army, where he became friends with Elvis Presley, he became a manager for Herpolsheimers and L. H. Fields Department Stores, eventually retiring as President and CEO of Allied Stores, now known as Macy’s. He assumed leadership positions in numerous charitable and community organizations. His extensive collection of primary and secondary materials on Thomas Merton, including letters, signed books, manuscripts, photos, journals and essays, was donated to the Abbey of Gethsemani and is on permanent loan to the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY. It has been appraised at over \$250,000. He is survived by a brother, Charles Flogge of Stow, OH, five nieces and six nephews. A graveside burial service was held on May 26 at Standing Rock Cemetery, Kent, OH, with Fr. Richard Pentello presiding.

ITMS Authors

John Collins has recently published *A Korean War Memoir* (Authorhouse, 2015) (\$15.95 paper), of which he writes: “In this memoir, I provide readers with insights into my life as a soldier from basic training and jump school to my experiences in the Korean War. For the first time, documents from the National Army Records Archives and the US Army Transportation Museum are used in recounting the Korean

War activities of my unit, the 513th Transportation Truck Company. These records are integrated with vignettes of my military life during the Korean War.”

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Larry Culliford has recently published *Much Ado about Something: A Vision of Christian Maturity* (SPCK, 2015). John Moses has written: “Larry Culliford writes about spirituality with the profound knowledge and insight of being one of the country’s leading psychiatrists. This book has much to teach Christians, those of other faiths, and those of no faith.”

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Lawrence S. Cunningham is the editor of the Christianity volume in the new *Norton Anthology of World Religions* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2015), a 700-page volume of almost 150 primary source selections from the apostolic era to the present, including an excerpt from Thomas Merton’s *No Man Is an Island*. Other volumes in the series focus on Buddhism, Daoism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism; the general editor is Jack Miles.

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Jim Forest is the author of a new children’s book, *Saint Nicholas and the Nine Gold Coins*, with illustrations by Vladislav Andrejev (St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2015) (\$20 paper). Jane Meer writes of this book: “Forest and Andrejev have created a tale that will enchant little ones with layers of goodness – wrapped in the cloak of iconography.”

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Paul Quenon, OCSO has recently published two new books of poetry, *Bells of the Hours* (Fons Vitae, 2014) (\$15.95 paper) and *Unquiet Vigil: New and Selected Poems* (Paraclete Press, 2014) (\$19.99 paper), which includes selections from his five volumes of verse (including *Bells of the Hours*) as well as sections of “What-not Poems” and “Uncollected Haiku.” Of the latter volume Pulitzer-prize finalist poet Maurice Manning writes: “It is a joy to have this book.”

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Bonnie Thurston has recently published *Practicing Silence: New and Selected Verses* (Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2014) (\$19.99 paper). The volume is organized according to a monastic pattern, with sections on “Monasteries”; “Vocation”; “*Horarium*”; “*Lectio Divina*”; “Interior Prayer”; “Anchorites, Her-

mits, Solitaries.” Sofia Starnes, Poet Laureate of Virginia, 2012-2014, writes: “Bonnie Thurston’s entire *Practicing Silence* allows that Light abides in the core, yet there is darkness always in the edges. The recognition of such encroachment gives this pure and intense collection an added sense of urgency. These holy verses will draw us inexorably in.”

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 in Denver CO, March 29-April 2, 2016. The conference is a gathering of 500-600 scholar-teachers committed to literature, writing, college teaching and related fields. This year’s theme is “Creation,” 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, the creative writer/artist/hermit; Merton: creating a new world; Merton creating the self; Creating a new genre: letters, prose-poems, anti-poems; Creating peace: Merton’s challenge to the twenty-first century; Creative dialogue between Merton and Proposals of 200-250 words for a 6-8 page paper (15-minute presentation time) are due by November 1, 2015. Participants must be members of the CEA (\$40/year) by January 2016. 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://www/cea-web/org>.

Merton & the Catechism Revisited

In *Jesus and the Church: One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic* (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2015), a catechetical resource for secondary level students, chapter 3 begins with a section entitled “Holiness is from God” (97-100), which is a brief introduction to the life and work of Thomas Merton, with numerous quotations from Merton’s work found on accompanying handouts. The corresponding power-point presentation includes a photo of the “Fourth and Walnut” plaque in downtown Louisville, KY, accompanied by

a quotation from the relevant passage from *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*, as well as a slide listing three ways to be holy (prayer, good works and living a Christian vocation) with boxes to provide examples of how Merton lived out each of these ways as well as how the student would do so. The volume has been approved by the Subcommittee on the Catechism of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which has found the text to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and to fulfill the requirements of Core Course IV of the “Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age.” The Bishops’ drafting committee had earlier removed a similar introductory section on Merton from a chapter of the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* (2006), on the grounds that young people were unfamiliar with Merton and that all the details of his “searching at the end of his life” were not known.

Lax Biography Book Tour

Michael McGregor, author of *Pure Act: The Uncommon Life of Robert Lax* (Fordham University Press, 2015), will be continuing an extensive book tour that began in August and September, including the September 16 New York book launch at Fordham University’s Lincoln Center campus. Subsequent events include: September 24: St. John’s University, Collegeville, MN; September 25: “Transformed by Passionate Intent: The Life and Poetry of Robert Lax,” University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; October 4: Elliott Bay Books, Seattle, WA; October 6: University of Portland, Portland, OR; October 19: Malaprop’s Bookstore, Asheville, NC; October 20: Regulator Bookshop, Durham, NC; October 28: in conversation with *Poetry* editor Don Share – Seminary Co-op Bookstore, Chicago, IL; October 31: “The Language of Spiritual Literature in a Post-Religious Age,” a panel presentation at the “Transcending Orthodoxies” conference, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN; November 3: Seattle University, Seattle, WA; November 7: Wordstock, Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR; November 19: Green Apple Books on the Park, San Francisco, CA. For further information on any of these events see: <http://fordhampress.com/index.php/pure-act-cloth.html>.

Merton on Cable

John Collins and Bruce Andrews have started a monthly cable television program about Thomas Merton, available at: www.shrewsbury-ma-gov/smc. The first program was entitled “Thomas Merton – The Man,” and was followed by “Thomas Merton – A Prophet for Peace: Part 1” and “Thomas Merton – A Prophet for Peace – Part 2.” Early responses to the series have been very favorable.

Award for Forest Book

Jim Forest’s new book *Loving Our Enemies: Reflections on the Hardest Commandment* was awarded the gold medal in the theology category at the 2015 Illumination Book Awards, given by the Jenkins Group to honor and bring increased recognition to the year’s best new titles written and published with a Christian worldview. For details, see: <http://www.independentpublisher.com/article.php?page=1904>.

Merton Happenings

On January 31, 2015 Contemplative Outreach of Atlanta sponsored a one-hundredth birthday celebration of Thomas Merton at St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church in Atlanta GA, attended by more than 115 people. The activities included a reflective talk by Fr. James Behrens, OCSO, of the Holy Spirit Monastery in Conyers, GA and a screening of Morgan Atkinson’s film *Soul Searching: The Journey of Thomas Merton*.

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On March 24, Cristóbal Serrán-Pagán gave a presentation entitled “Thomas Merton and His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama: Holistic Models of Education” at Palacky University’s Sts. Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology in Olomouc, Czech Republic.

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Fr. Paul A. Milanowski taught a four-week class for 45 adult students on the Thursdays of April on Thomas Merton at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, using Michael Higgins’ recent book *Thomas Merton: Faithful Visionary* as the primary text.

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On April 8, art historian Joseph Masheck gave a presentation entitled “A Lecture in Honor of Two Centenaries: Ad Reinhardt (1913-1967) & Thomas Merton (1915-1968)” at Corpus Christi Church in New York City.

On April 9, Phillip M. Thompson gave a presentation entitled “OMG, Thomas Merton’s Relevance for the Age of Google” at the Pitts Theology Library, Emory University, Atlanta, GA in conjunction with the library’s exhibit, “Journeys of Thomas Merton.”

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On April 9-10, Roger Lipsey gave a series of conferences on Thomas Merton’s thought, his identity as a writer and his activity as a visual artist to the monastic community at the Abbey of Gethsemani.

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On May 16, Jim Nagle performed his one-person play *Thomas Merton: Alive at Fourth and Walnut* at St. Peter Church in Cleveland.

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On May 27, Esther de Waal led a retreat day entitled “Thomas Merton – Contemplative Artist” at Llangasty Retreat House, Brecon, Wales.

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On June 11-14, a retreat entitled “The Watercourse Way – A Retreat on Mindfulness Practice, Tai Chi Chuan and the Writings of Thomas Merton” was held at the Cenacle in Chicago, led by Jon Magnuson and Lee Goodwin.

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On June 13, a Merton Fellowship Day Retreat entitled “Views from *The Seven Storey Mountain*,” led by Scott Peddie, was held at the Malin Presbyterian Church in County Donegal, Ireland.

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On June 19-21, Sharon Grant led a “Bridges to Contemplative Living” retreat based on the writings of Thomas Merton at Bethany Spring, the retreat center located one mile from the Abbey of Gethsemani.

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On June 20, Stephen Dunhill led a study day entitled “Thomas Merton – Contemplative Writer” at Warmsworth, UK.

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From June 22 through July 15, Kathleen Deignan, CND directed an online course on “Thomas Merton’s Abiding Legacy” for the Spirituality & Practice community.

On July 12-17, a Pastoral Institute for Preachers, Teachers, and Spiritual Directors was held at San Alfonso Retreat House, Long Branch, NJ on the topic “Transforming the Human in Christ: the Wisdom of Teilhard, Berry and Merton,” with presentations by Ilia Delio, OSF on “The Evolutionary Vision of Teilhard de Chardin,” by Kathleen Deignan, CND on “The Ecological Vision of Thomas Berry” and by Daniel Horan, OFM on “The Mystical Vision of Thomas Merton.”

On July 14-16, Gary Hall led a retreat entitled “Attention to Paradise – A guided Retreat with Thomas Merton” at Launde Abbey, East Norton, UK.

On July 20, Jim Nagle performed his one-person play *Thomas Merton: Alive at Fourth and Walnut* at Mount St. Benedict, Erie, PA.

On July 25, a discussion on “Merton and the Arts” with Esther de Waal and Michael Woodward was held at St. Michael’s Church, Discoed, Wales, in conjunction with an exhibition of artwork and photographs inspired by Merton, by Charles MacCarthy, Robert Wright and others.

On August 5-6, Rev. Tom Snyder gave a two-part presentation on “20th-Century Apostles of Peace: Thomas Merton and Pope St. John XXIII” at the Lakeside Chautauqua Peace Week, Lakeside, OH, as part of the center’s program, “Seeking Peace in a Multi-Faith World.”

On August 28, Fr. Francisco Rafael de Pascual, OCSO introduced the *Diccionario de Thomas Merton*, the Spanish edition of *The Thomas Merton Encyclopedia*, at the Thirty-fourth Monastic Study Week at the Casa de Espiritualidad San Vicente de Paúl in Madrid.

On August 28, Paul M. Pearson gave a presentation entitled “A Hidden Wholeness: The Zen Photography of Thomas Merton” at the Villanova University Connelly Center, in conjunction with the exhibit of Merton’s photographs in the campus art gallery at the Center.

On August 29, Gary Hall gave a presentation on “Thomas Merton Today” at Greenbelt, the annual

three-day English Christian music and culture festival in Kettering, UK.

On September 1-10, “My Whole Life Is a Search for Truth,” an exhibition of paintings by Robert Wright, inspired by Thomas Merton, was on display at the Chapter House of Lincoln Cathedral, Lincoln, UK.

On September 9, Virginia Ratigan gave a presentation entitled “Drinking Tea: Thomas Merton’s Legacy on Living, Learning and Loving” at the Connelly Center, Villanova University, Villanova, PA.

On September 11-12, Bonnie Thurston presented a public lecture and led a retreat day on “Thomas Merton: Christian Identity & Zen Buddhism’s Understanding of the Self” at Shadybrook Center in Mentor, OH, cosponsored by the Cleveland Chapter of the ITMS.

On September 11-13, Sharon Grant led a retreat on “Thomas Merton and Mary Oliver – Poets of the Sacred” at Bethany Spring, the retreat center located one mile from the Abbey of Gethsemani.

On September 19, Ron Dart gave a presentation entitled “Thomas Merton and Me: A Spiritual Friendship” at Stillpoint at Becksides Spirituality Center, Bellingham, WA.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming programs at Bethany Spring Retreat House, located one mile from the Abbey of Gethsemani, include “Women: Living from Our Souls” with Dr. Sharon Grant on October 16-18; “Walking the Path of Jesus and the Buddha” with Vanessa Hurst on November 6-8; and “Spiritual Direction” with Dr. Sharon Grant on December 4-6; for further information, call: 502-507-8576; or email: rick@bethanyspring.org.

On September 24, Fr. Francisco Rafael de Pascual, OCSO will give a presentation on St. Teresa of Avila and Thomas Merton at the 2015 World Conference on St. Teresa entitled “Teresa de Jesús, Patrimonio de la Humanidad” in Avila, Spain; the presentation will

also be made available online; for further information see: www.teresadeavila.net.

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On September 29, the first session of a four-week adult education class entitled “Thomas Merton: Fully Awake, Fully Aware, Fully Alive” led by Vanessa Hurst will be held at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY; for further details contact Linda Bailey – phone: 502-272-8161; e-mail: lbailey@bellarmine.edu.

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On October 10-11, a program celebrating the centenary of the birth of Thomas Merton and the 500th anniversary of the birth of St. Teresa of Avila will be held at the Casa de Espiritualitat Sant Filip Neri in Barcelona, Spain. The program includes presentations by Fernando Beltrán Llavador on the Merton centennial, featuring a report on the ITMS Fourteenth General Meeting and on new Spanish publications related to Merton, and a discussion of Merton’s poetry, photography and calligraphy. For further information see: <http://casaespiritualitatsfneri.com>.

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On October 15, Monica Weis, SSJ will give a presentation entitled “Monk, Mystic and Prophet: The Expanding Vision of Thomas Merton,” the Tenth annual endowed lecture in American Catholic Thought and Culture at Michigan State University, sponsored by the MSU College of Arts and Letters and St. John Church & Student Center of East Lansing.

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On October 16-18, the thirtieth Mertonweekend will be held at the Abbey of Orval and will consider how Merton was inspired by Dorothy Day and Catherine de Hueck Doherty. For further information contact: Secretariaat@thomasmerton.nl.

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On October 18-23, the Fall Road Scholar [elderhostel] “Week with Thomas Merton” Program will take place at the Thomas Merton Center, Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY; the Spring 2016 Merton Week will be held March 6-11. For further details contact Linda Bailey – phone: 502-272-8161; e-mail: lbailey@bellarmine.edu.

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On October 21, a panel discussion entitled “The Legacy of Thomas Merton: Villanova Faculty Perspectives” will be held in Driscoll Hall Auditorium

on the campus of Villanova University, Villanova, PA, with Kathleen Grimes speaking on “Merton’s Peacemaking Activism,” Kevin Hughes on “Merton on Contemplation” and Eugene McCarragher on “Merton in Historical Context.” For further details see: <http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/mission/thomasmerton100.html>.

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On October 24, Gary Hall will lead a retreat day entitled “Revolutionary Communion: Chasing Thomas Merton 100 Years On” at The Meditatio Centre, West London, UK. For further details see: <http://www.wccmeditatio.org/content/revolutionary-communion-chasing-thomas-merton-100-years>.

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On November 5-8, a retreat entitled “The Watercourse Way – A Retreat on Mindfulness Practice, Tai Chi Chuan and the Writings of Thomas Merton” will be held at the Pecos Benedictine Monastery, 23 miles east of Santa Fe, NM, led by Jon Magnuson and Lee Goodwin of the Cedar Tree Institute. The registration deadline is October 5, with the fee of \$250 due on that date. For further information see the Institute web site: <http://cedartreeinstitute.org/2015/08/watercourse-way-new-mexico>.

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On November 6-8, a conference entitled “Boundless Grandeur: The Christian Vision of Donald Allchin” will be held at Gladstone’s Library, Hawarden, Flintshire, UK, with presentations by Kallistos Ware, Fiona Gardner, Densil Morgan, Patrick Thomas and David Keller. For further information see: www.gladstoneslibrary.org; phone: 01244 532350; email: enquiries@gladlib.org.

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On November 7, John Dear will present two sessions on “Thomas Merton’s Lessons of Peace and Nonviolence” at the annual Call to Action conference in Milwaukee, WI; for further information on the conference, to be held November 6-8 at the Wisconsin Convention Center, see: <http://cta-usa.org/conference2015>.

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On November 9, Francis X. Clooney, SJ will give a presentation on “Thomas Merton and Hindu Wisdom: Knowing Self, Knowing Other” at Bellarmine

University, Louisville, KY; for further information see: <http://www.bellarmine.edu/merton-centennial/events>.

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On November 11 Darlene Weaver will give a presentation entitled “The Spiritual Legacy of Thomas Merton” at noon at the Connelly Center, Villanova University, Villanova, PA; for further details see: <http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/mission/thomasmerton100.html>.

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On November 12-15, Bonnie Thurston will lead a Merton Centenary Retreat entitled “Encountering the Other: A Contemplative Introduction to Thomas Merton’s Interfaith Experiences” at the Santa Sabina Center, San Rafael, CA. Fee for the retreat is \$375 if registered by October 8, \$425 thereafter. For further information call: 415-457-7727; email: info@santasabinacenter.org; or visit the center web site: www.santasabinacenter.org/retreats.html.

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On November 20-22, Fiona Gardner and Mark Scholefield will lead a study weekend entitled “Thomas Merton Centenary: Beyond the Shadow” at The Ammerdown Centre, Radstock, Bath, UK. Fees are: £245 (residential), £163 (non-residential). For further information see the center web site: www.ammerdown.org; or contact the center – phone: 01761 433709; email: centre@ammerdown.org.

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On November 23, the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion will include a joint session of the society’s Christian Spirituality Group and the Mysticism Group on “The Life and Times of a Modern Mystic: On the Centenary of the Birth of Thomas Merton” with presentations by Jack Downey on “‘We Drank Many Gin and Tonics’: Desire & Enchantment in Merton’s Buddhist Pilgrimage”; Daniel Horan, OFM on “The Lady, the Dunce and the Monk: How Julian of Norwich and John Duns Scotus Shaped Thomas Merton’s Incarnational Mysticism”; Daniel Rober on “Is Thomas Merton a Saint? Does It Matter? Mysticism, Postmodernity and the Limits of Sanctity”; Katelynn Carver on “The Many-Storied Mountains: A Mertonian Model for the Spiritual Significance of Narrativity.” Responding to the presentations will be Christine M. Bochen; Thomas Cattoi will preside.

On December 4-6, Bonnie Thurston will lead a retreat entitled “Preparing for Christ’s Coming: Thomas Merton on Advent and Prayer” at the Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center, Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, AL. The weekend will begin with a presentation entitled “The Sacrament of Advent: Lessons and Carols from Thomas Merton.” Cost of the weekend is \$245 (\$205 for shared room); participants may attend the Friday evening lecture only for \$15. For further information see: <http://www.shmon.org/retreat-center-upcoming-programs.html>.

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On December 4-6 Jonathan Montaldo will give four presentations on Thomas Merton’s life and work at a conference entitled “Vänd mot Gud, Vänd mot Världen – den Kontemplativa Livsvägen” (“Turned towards God, Turned towards the World – The Contemplative Way of Life) at the Tidskriften Pilgrim & Johannesakademien inbjuder till Anmälan in Bjärka-Säby, Sweden; for further information see: info@tidskriftenpilgrim.se.

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On December 5, a program entitled “Advent with Thomas Merton” will be held at the United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester.

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On February 26-27, Christopher Pramuk will lead a study day entitled “Mercy within Mercy within Mercy” at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY; for further information see <http://merton.org/Events>.

Chapter and Affiliate News

The Sea Cliff, NJ Chapter of the ITMS discussed Christopher Pramuk’s book *At Play in Creation: Merton’s Awakening to the Feminine Divine* at its May 13 meeting. For further information contact Greg Ryan: phone: 732-681-6238; email: gjryan@wccm.org.

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On August 21, the Chicago Chapter of the ITMS sponsored a presentation by Tony Russo entitled: “Thomas Merton’s Witness: How to Journey Daily on the Spiritual Path to the True Self/God in the Twenty-first Century.” On September 20, the chapter sponsored a jazz concert in honor of Thomas Merton featuring music composed by vibraphonist and Merton friend Dick Sisto for the Morgan Atkinson film *Soul Searching*, featuring Sisto and guitarist Fr. John Moulder, at St. Gregory the Great Church in Chicago. On October 18, the chapter will host Gordon Oyer and Rosalie Riegle. For further informa-

tion contact chapter coordinator Mike Brennan – phone: 773-447-3989; email: CC.ITMS@gmail.com.

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On May 19, the Cleveland Chapter of the ITMS viewed Morgan Atkinson’s new film *The Many Storeys and Last Days of Thomas Merton*. For further information contact chapter coordinator Sr. Donna Kristoff, OSU – phone: 440-449-1200, ext. 314; email: dkristoff@ursulinesisters.org.

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On September 19, the Corpus Christi, New York City, ITMS Chapter heard Robert Lax biographer Michael McGregor’s presentation entitled: “Pure Act – New Words for God: The Uncommon Lives of Thomas Merton and Robert Lax,” with responses by John Beer, Judith Emery and Marcia Kelly. On November 14, the chapter’s annual retreat/day of recollection will be led by Lawrence S. Cunningham on the topic: “Contemplation and Ordinary Life: Thomas Merton and the Carmelite Tradition – Teresa, Thérèse and John.” On January 30, Daniel P. Horan, OFM will give a presentation entitled: “The Godly Will and the Gospel of Love: The Christology of Julian of Norwich”; the program will also consider other women who helped to shape Merton’s thought and spirituality, including Catherine de Hueck Doherty and Sr. Thérèse Lentfoehr. For further information, contact mertonny@yahoo.com.

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On September 9, the Melbourne, Australia ITMS chapter began a Thomas Merton: Bridges to Contemplative Living group, to meet twice monthly, at the Janssen Spirituality Centre for Inter-religious and Cross-cultural Relations, Boronia, VIC; for further information contact Stewart Sharlow – phone: 04-9017-5645; email: australiantomasmertonsociety@gmail.com.

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On June 14, the Thomas Merton Society Interfaith Chapter of Southern Delaware hosted presentations by Edward Kaplan and David Golemboski, reprising their presentations at the ITMS Fourteenth General Meeting. On September 15, an ongoing program entitled “Becoming More Comfortable with Contemplation” will begin at St. Edmond’s Education Building in Rehoboth Beach, led by Toni Worsham. A monthly Peace and Non-Violence Prayer and Discussion Group

led by Sr. Maryanne Zakreski resumed on September 16 at the same location. On October 7, 14, 21 and 28, the chapter will sponsor its fourth Food ’n Faith series at the Epworth United Methodist Church in Rehoboth Beach, featuring screening and discussion of Morgan Atkinson’s films *Soul Searching*, *The Journey of Thomas Merton* and *The Many Storeys and Last Days of Thomas Merton*. On the first Sunday of each month, the regular interfaith gathering for conversation and contemplation facilitated by Rev. Keith Goheen will take place at the church. For further information, contact George Beckerman at george.beckerman@gmail.com.

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On August 24, the newly formed Los Angeles Area–San Gabriel Valley ITMS Chapter held its inaugural meeting with 24 people in attendance; the group viewed the Morgan Atkinson film *The Many Storeys and Last Days of Thomas Merton*. The next meeting is scheduled for September 22. For further information contact Margot Desannoy – phone: 818-642-5156; email: mdesannoy@gmail.com.

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On August 8, the Thomas Merton Society of Washington discussion group continued its monthly meetings at St Anselm’s Abbey with further conversation on chapter 8 of Merton’s *No Man Is an Island*. For further information contact: tmsociety@fastmail.fm.

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On October 6 the second meeting of the Merton study group of Copley, OH will discuss *Soul Searching*, *The Journey of Thomas Merton* edited by Morgan Atkinson, and consider whether to become an official chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society. For further information contact: Deacon Robin Adair, Guardian Angels Church, 1676 S. Cleve.-Mass. Rd., Copley, OH 44321; phone: 330-283-4983.

Send all Merton-related news to:

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The ITMS Newsletter is also available online at:

www.merton.org/ITMS