

Conference Schedule:

8.30 Registration -
Hilary's, Horrigan Hall

9.00 Monica Weis:
"Turning Toward the Planet:
Thomas Merton's Ecological Conversion."

10.15 Break

10.45 Kathleen Deignan:
"A Prophecy of Paradise:
Thomas Merton's Lection of Genesis."

12.00 Lunch

1.30 Dennis Patrick O'Hara:
"Recruiting Merton:
Conjectures on Ecological Ethics."

2.45 Break

3.15 Andrea Cohen-Kiener:
"Working Beyond Class and Race."

4.30 Concluding Discussion

The Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University is the official archive of Thomas Merton's manuscripts and repository of the most complete collection of Merton materials in the world. Included in the collection are his original manuscripts, over 20,000 pieces of correspondence to more than 2,100 correspondents, along with drawings, photographs and recordings.

Local Hotel Information:

Best Western (Airport East) - 502-456-4411
Brown Hotel (Downtown) - 1-800-555-8000
Motel 6 (Airport East) - 502-473-0000
Red Roof Inn (Airport East) - 502-456-2993
Seelbach Hilton (Downtown) - 502-585-3200

(Special rates may be available for those attending events at Bellarmine University. Please ask when booking.)

Further information about accommodation is available at:

<http://www.louisville.com>



The Thomas Merton Center

Bellarmino University
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Tel. (502) 272-8177 or 8187
Fax (502) 272-8452
www.merton.org

Letters to a Green Liberal: Thomas Merton's Call to Ecological Responsibility

16th October, 2010



Keynote Speakers

Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kiener
Dr. Kathleen Deignan, CND
Dr. Dennis Patrick O'Hara
Dr. Monica Weis, SSJ

Thomas Merton Center

Bellarmino University

Keynote Speakers:

Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kiener

is the director of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network and the spiritual leader of Congregation Pnai Or of Central Connecticut. As a teacher, rabbi and community organizer, Andrea has practiced the art of bringing a spiritual perspective to problem solving for three decades. She has practical skills in communication and dialogue, environmental activism and personal growth. Andrea has worked in coalition and singly to address environment and life style issues. Andrea was ordained as a rabbi and spiritual guide in 1999 by the Alliance for Jewish Renewal. She is the author of *Claiming Earth as Common Ground: The Ecological Crisis through the Lens of Faith* (SkyLight Paths, 2009).



Dennis Patrick O'Hara is assistant professor of ethics and ecotheology in the Faculty of Theology and Director of the Elliott Allen Institute for Theology and Ecology at the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto. He is also an associate member of the graduate faculty of the Centre

for Environment at the University of Toronto. Dr. O'Hara has spoken widely to professional and academic gatherings on ecotheology, health care ethics, and the spiritual dimension of human health. He has been actively involved in exploring and resolving integrative healthcare issues having worked with the Natural Health Products Directorate in Health Canada, and the World Health Organization. He was a co-investigator in the CIHR-funded Canadian Interdisciplinary Network for Complementary and Alternative Medicine Research.

Dr. Monica Weis, SSJ

is Professor of English at Nazareth College, Rochester, NY where she teaches American literature and rhetoric and director of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program. She is a frequent speaker on Thomas Merton and nature. Currently on the Board of Directors of the International Thomas Merton Society, she has been Vice-President of the ITMS, and serves on the Program Committee for the 12th General Meeting of the ITMS in June 2011. She is the author of *Thomas Merton's Gethsemani: Landscapes of Paradise* (University Press of Kentucky, 2005).



Kathleen Deignan, CND is Professor of Religious Studies and founder of the Iona Spirituality Institute, which she directs at Iona College, in New Rochelle, NY. Kathleen is the author of two books on the spiritual legacy of Thomas Merton: *When the Trees Say Nothing: Thomas*

Merton's Writings on Nature (Sorin 2003), and *Thomas Merton: A Book of Hours* (Sorin 2007). Her engagement with Merton Studies, personally and professionally, has drawn her down paths in Christian and Buddhist spirituality and social and ecological justice concerns, which likewise fascinated Thomas Merton. She is engaged in formal inter-religious dialogue with Buddhists, Jews and Muslims, was a participant in the "Nuns in the West" encounter in May 2003, and is in the first class of Green Faith Fellows, a training program for religious environmental leaders.

Conference Registration:

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Fees

(Including registration for the conference, refreshments, and lunch)

- \$50**
- \$40** (Reduced Student Rate - please include photocopy of student ID)
- \$60** for registrations after 10/11/10.
- Check** (payable to **Merton Conference**)
- Visa/MasterCard/American Express**

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

3-4 Digit Card Verification Code: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

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Please detach and return this form to:

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www.merton.org/events.htm