

BEARING WITNESS TO THE LIGHT: Merton's Challenge to a Fragmented World

The Eleventh General Meeting of the International Thomas Merton Society

Nazareth College – Rochester, NY – June 11-14, 2009

In June 2009 the International Thomas Merton Society will hold its Eleventh General Meeting in Rochester, NY, on the campus of Nazareth College. Founded in 1924, Nazareth College is a coeducational institution with undergraduate and graduate studies in the liberal arts and sciences and professional programs. The College is located on 150 scenic acres near Rochester.

Featured participants in the conference include:

- **Rachel Fell McDermott**, Associate Professor and Chair of the Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures Department at Barnard College where she specializes in South Asia, especially India.
- **Herbert Mason**, William Goodwin Aurelio Professor of History and Religious Thought at Boston University where he teaches in the field of Arabic and Islamic Studies. For a number of years he corresponded with Thomas Merton.
- **James Conner, OCSO**, a monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani. He was a student of Thomas Merton and was Merton's under-master for novices. He has served as chaplain to the Benedictine Community of Osage Monastery, Oklahoma, and, for five years in the late nineties, as Abbot of Assumption Abbey in Missouri. He was fourth President of the ITMS and has written on Thomas Merton in *Cistercian Studies*, *The Merton Annual*, and in the volume *Thomas Merton Monk: A Monastic Tribute*.
- **Judith Simmer-Brown**, a Professor at Naropa University and a prominent Buddhist scholar. She is on the Board of the Society of Buddhist-Christian Studies, and a member of the Lilly Buddhist-Christian Theological Encounter.
- **Kate Campbell**, originally from Sledge, Mississippi, the daughter of a Baptist preacher. Kate's formative years were forged by the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, and those indelible experiences continue to inform her music. Kate has performed at some of the most prestigious festivals at home and abroad including the Cambridge Folk Festival and the Philadelphia Folk Festival.
- **Donald Grayston**, now retired from teaching at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, will deliver the presidential address.

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

Other highlights will include:

- Opportunities for interreligious prayer and dialogue
- Exhibit of photographs by Thomas Merton

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Registration fee is \$200.00 for ITMS members (\$250.00 for non-members; for information on ITMS membership, see within). Campus dormitory 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/rochester

Art by Donna Kristoff

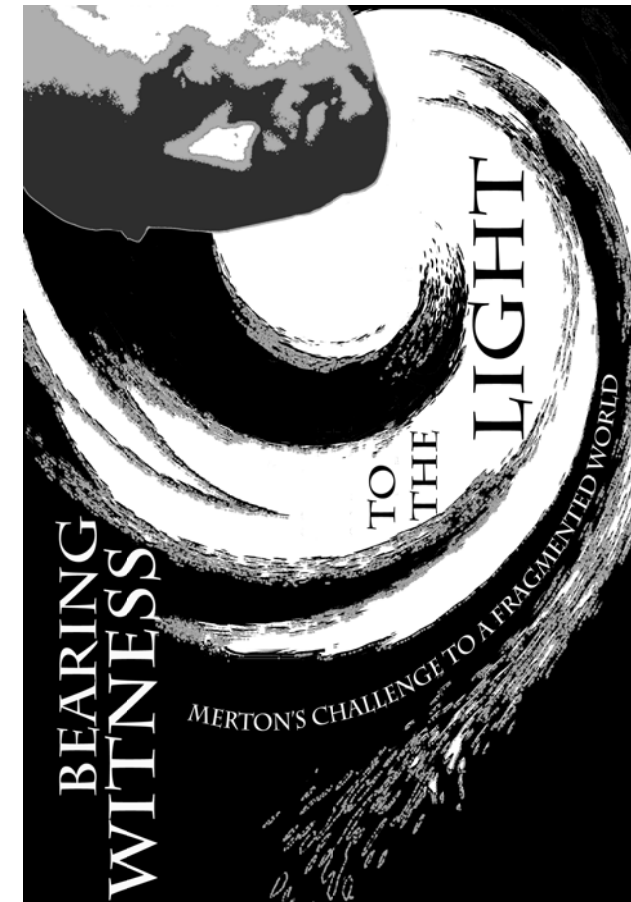
Thomas Merton Center
Bellarmine University
2001 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40205

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of the
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I speak to you from my heart of our obligation to study the truth in deep prayer and meditation, and bear witness to the light that comes from the All-Holy God into this world of darkness where He is not known and not remembered. The world we live in has become an awful void, a desecrated sanctuary, reflecting outwardly the emptiness and blindness of the hearts of men who have gone crazy with their love for money and power and with pride in their technology.

Thomas Merton to Abdul Aziz



REGISTRATION FORM

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

Christine M. Bochen, Site Coordinator
Nazareth College
4245 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618-3790

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- Handicapped/special needs (*attach explanation*)
- I prefer a vegetarian entrée at the banquet.
- I am willing to have my name, address and e-mail included in list of conference participants.

TRANSPORTATION

- I will be arriving by private transportation. Please send directions to campus. (Parking will be available for those arriving by car.)
- I will be flying to Rochester International Airport. Please send information on transportation from the airport to the college.

Cancellation Policy

For cancellations before April 1 a full refund (less a non-refundable deposit of \$25) will be given.
For cancellations between April 1--May 15, a refund of 50% of fees will be given.
For cancellations between May 15--31, a refund of 25% of fees will be given.
For cancellation after May 31, no fees are refundable.

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, 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 for \$25US made out to ITMS.

Name _____ Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

FEES

Registration Fees for the Conference and all meals:

- ITMS Member - \$200.00
- Non-Member - \$250.00

Late registration (between May 15 and June 1)

- ITMS Member - \$250.00
- Non-Member - \$300.00

Accommodation (Three Nights):

- \$150 **Note:** Private bedrooms with shared baths (dorm-suite arrangements).

Additional Lodging Fee:

Participants arriving on campus Wednesday, June 10, may stay for \$50.00 no meals included; participants may also stay on campus Sunday, June 14, for the same additional cost. Fee must be enclosed with registration.

- Please reserve additional on-campus lodging (fee enclosed).
 - Wednesday
 - Sunday
- I will not be staying on campus.
- Please send information on other accommodations in the Rochester area.
- I would like to make a donation to the **Daggy Youth Scholarship Fund?**

Amount: _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

I learned about this conference through:

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, June 11

- 10:00 a.m. Registration begins
- 12:00 noon Mass
- 1:30 p.m. Opening Sessions:
 - First Timers' Session
 - ITMS Chapters Workshop
 - Merton & Photography
 - Tribute to John Eudes Bamberger
 - Merton & Young People
 - Interreligious Dialogue: The Rochester Experience
- 3:00 p.m. Merton in Asia
- 5:00 p.m. Celebrating the Light:
 - Interfaith Prayer Sharing
- 6:30 p.m. Banquet
 - Presidential Address: Donald Grayston
 - Presentation of "Louie" Awards

Friday, June 12

- 7:30 a.m. Morning Meditation
- 9:00 a.m. Springboard Session:
 - Rachel Fell McDermott
- 10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions:
 - Merton & Hinduism
 - Merton & the Beat Poets
 - Merton, Wholeness & Healing
 - Emerging Merton Scholars Workshop: Merton & the Marketplace
 - Prayer: Desecrated Sanctuary
- 12:00 noon Mass
- 2:00 p.m. General Session:
 - Herbert Mason & Sidney Griffith
- 3:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions:
 - Merton & Sufi Wisdom
 - Merton & Spiritual Integration
 - Merton & Friends
 - Emerging Merton Scholars Workshop: Being Contemplative
 - Prayer: Studying the Truth
- 5:30 p.m. Meditation
- 8:00 p.m. Keynote Address:
 - James Conner, OCSO

Saturday, June 13

- 7:30 a.m. Morning Meditation
- 9:00 a.m. General Session:
 - Judith Simmer-Brown
- 10:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions:
 - Merton & Thich Nhat Hanh
 - Merton & the New Atheism
 - Merton's Rain & the Rhinoceros
 - Merton: Interfaith Dialogue
 - Workshop: Telling Our Stories
 - Prayer: Awaken Sacred Heart
- 12:00 noon Mass
- 1:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
 - Merton & Buddhism
 - Merton's Ecology
 - Merton & Social Justice
 - Merton & Monasticism
 - Workshop: I Am Spiritual
 - Prayer: A Zen Camera
- 3:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions:
 - Merton & Taoism
 - Merton & German Thinkers
 - Merton: Beyond Silence
 - Merton: Bearing the Light
 - Workshop: Architecture
 - Prayer: Exploring the Heart
- 5:00 p.m. ITMS Town Meeting
- 8:00 p.m. Kate Campbell

Sunday, June 14

- 7:30 a.m. Morning Meditation
- 9:00 a.m. General Session:
 - Merton & Heschel Panel
- 10:30 a.m. Closing Liturgy
 - William H. Shannon
- 12:00 noon Light Lunch & Departure

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

Christine M. Bochen
Nazareth College
4245 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618-3790
Email: cbochen4@naz.edu