Global Celebration of Merton Centenary

Prayers, parties and presentations throughout the world on or about January 31, 2015 marked the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Thomas Merton. Centennial events included the following:

- **In Bronx, New York City**, Manhattan College hosted a screening on January 29 of Paul Wilkes’ film *Merton: A Film Biography* followed by a discussion.
- **In Chicago, Illinois**, the Chicago Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society sponsored a luncheon and day-long symposium on January 31 at the Cenacle Retreat Center, featuring talks by Vaughn Fayle, OFM, Judith Valente, Charles Renard, Pauline Viviano, Shawn Storer and a panel of Catholic Peace Fellowship members including Jessica Keating, Leah Coming, Maria Surat and Jonathan Schommer.
- **In Christchurch, New Zealand**, the Christchurch Chapter of the ITMS sponsored a day of prayer and pilgrimage on January 31, with visits to locations in Christchurch connected to the family of Thomas Merton.
- **In Cleveland, Ohio**, the Cleveland Catholic Worker House hosted an evening of reflection and celebration of Merton’s life and legacy on January 30; the following day the Cleveland ITMS Chapter sponsored James Nagle’s one-person play *Thomas Merton: Alive at Fourth & Walnut* at the Ursuline Educational Center.
- **In Des Moines, Iowa**, the Des Moines Intentional Eucharistic Community sponsored a morning-long panel presentation on January 31 entitled “Thomas Merton: A Voice for Our Times.”
- **In Glasgow, Scotland**, a Mass in commemoration of Thomas Merton was celebrated on January 31 by Fr. Willy Slavin at St. Simon’s Church, followed by food, fellowship and sharing of favorite Merton passages at a local hostelry.
- **In London, England**, a Day of Celebration on January 31 began with a morning service celebrating the life of Thomas Merton at Notre Dame de France, the French Church by Leicester Square, led by Father Derek Reeve, with a homily by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware; in the afternoon a talk entitled “Why Merton Matters” by John Moses was held at St. James Church, Piccadilly, followed by a panel discussion led by Rev. Lucy Winkett and featuring John Moses, Fiona Gardner and Elizabeth Holmes.
- **In Louisville, Kentucky**, the Festival of Faiths sponsored the Louisville premiere of Morgan Atkinson’s film *The Many Storeys & Last Days of Thomas Merton* at the Brown Theatre on January 31.
- **In Manhattan, New York City**, Corpus Christi Church and the Corpus Christi Chapter of the ITMS sponsored a symposium on January 31 entitled “Between Music and Silence: Merton and the Future of Faith” featuring a keynote address by Christopher Pramuk and presentations by panelists Lawrence Cunningham, David Golemboski and Angela O’Donnell, with Mass celebrated by Fr. Raymond Rafferty with Fr. Leo O’Donovan, SJ and Fr. Dan O’Reilly followed by a reception.
- **In Mount Angel, Oregon**, Jerry Braza led a weekend retreat January 30-February 1 entitled “Thomas Merton’s 100th Anniversary: His Message on Contemplation” at the Shalom Prayer Center.
- **In Münsterschwarzach, Germany**, a weekend Merton conference was held January 30-February 1 at the Benedictine Abbey, featuring presentations by Otto Betler, OSB, Detlev Cuntz, Jim Forest, Anselm Grün, OSB, Gary Hall, Iris Mandl-Schmidt, Michaela Pfeiffer, OCist, Martin Tamcke, Kosmas Lars Thielmann, OCist and Thomas Wagner.
• In **Oakham, England**, John Moses gave a lecture entitled “Thomas Merton: A Man for Our Times” at Thomas Merton’s Alma Mater, Oakham School, Rutland.

• In **Olean, New York**, St. Bonaventure University held a 24-hour marathon Merton birthday celebration on January 31 with events every hour.

• In **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**, four local churches held services throughout the day on January 31 to commemorate Merton’s centenary: at 7 a.m. Emmanuel Episcopal Church began the day with “Praying with Thomas Merton – A Book of Hours”; at noon St. James Roman Catholic Church in Wilkinsburg held a prayer service; at 4.30 p.m. a prayer service was held at the Mercy Motherhouse on the Carlow University campus; and the day concluded at 7 p.m. with a service at Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community.

• In **Portglenone, Ireland**, the Thomas Merton Fellowship and the Viktor Frankl Institute of Ireland sponsored a day-long workshop on January 31 entitled “Exploring Meaning with Thomas Merton and Viktor Frankl” at Bethlehem Abbey.

• In **Prades, France**, Thomas Merton’s birthplace, a Mass was celebrated on January 31 for the centenary of Merton’s birth at the parish church and a conference on Merton was presented later in the day by Gerard Milion, a Cisercian monk, at the Salle Jean Cocteau au Lido.

• In **Rochester, New York**, Nazareth College hosted a celebration of Thomas Merton’s birthday on January 31 with jazz, cake and brief presentations by young adults (including some ITMS Daggy Scholars) who have studied Merton.

• In **Sacramento, California**, the Northern California Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society held a Merton Centennial Birthday Potluck Supper.

• In **Sag Harbor, New York**, a “Merton Mosaic” featuring participant readings of favorite Merton passages was held on January 31 at Canino’s Books.

• In **São Paulo, Brazil**, a pontifical Mass commemorating the centenary of Thomas Merton’s birth was celebrated January 31 at the São Bento Monastery, followed by a lecture by Dom Bernardo Bonowitz, OCSO; the abbey is also hosting an exhibition on Merton’s life and work.

• In **Sydney, Australia**, a seminar sponsored by the Aquinas Academy and St. James Anglican Church on January 31 featured presentations by Michael Whelan, SM, Colleen O’Sullivan, RSJ and Fr. Martin Davies.

• In **Tilburg, the Netherlands**, an afternoon of commemoration on January 31 at the Abbey of Our Lady of Koningshoeven included the celebration of the liturgical hour of none, lectures, harp music, the presentation of a new Dutch translation of *New Seeds of Contemplation* and a reception with birthday cake and Trappist beer.

• In **Toronto, Ontario**, a dinner was held at St. Peter’s Church on January 31, followed by a talk by Michael Higgins entitled “The Unquiet Monk: Thomas Merton’s Questing Faith.”

• In **Vancouver, British Columbia**, the Thomas Merton Society of Canada sponsored “Thomas Merton’s 100th Birthday Party” on January 31 at Our Town Café, with readings by Donald Grayston, Judith Hardcastle, Angus Stuart and Ron Dart of their contributions to the 2015 testimonial volume, *We Are Already One: Reflections in Honor of Thomas Merton’s Centenary*.

• In **Washington, D.C.**, the local chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society hosted a celebration on January 31 at St. Anselm’s Abbey, which included a memorial tribute to chapter co-founder Mary K. Stanford by her son Paul.

### Merton Commemorative Issues

A number of journals and magazines celebrated the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Thomas Merton by dedicating part or all of an issue to Merton’s life and work:

• The January 19-26, 2015 issue of *America* features an article by Daniel P. Horan entitled “Merton (Still) Matters: How the Trappist Monk and Author Speaks to Millennials.”

• The January-February, 2015 issue of *The Catholic Worker* features an article on Merton and Catholic Worker founder Dorothy Day by Jim Forest entitled “On Holy Perseverance,” as well as excerpts from two articles by Merton originally published in *The*
Catholic Worker: “The Shelter Ethic” and “The Wild Places.”

• The January 15, 2015 issue of The Christian Century features an article by Carol Zaleski entitled “A Letter to Thomas Merton.”


• The Spring 2015 issue of Cistercian Studies Quarterly is devoted entirely to Merton, and features the first publication of Merton’s essay “Lectio Divina”; an article by Bernardo Bonowitz, OCSO entitled “Reaping Where Merton Has Sown: A Retreat for the Merton Centenary”; Monica Weis’ keynote address at the 2014 Festival of Faiths in Louisville, KY, entitled “Finding Oneself in the Cosmic Dance: Nature’s Grace for Thomas Merton”; Bonnie Thurston’s article “Waking from a Dream of Separateness: Thomas Merton’s Principles of Interreligious Dialogue”; a reprint of Armand Veilleux, OCSO’s “Monk on a Journey” from the volume Thomas Merton: Monk; and reviews by John Eudes Bamberger, OCSO of Merton’s The Rule of Saint Benedict and by Mark Scott, OCSO of Thomas Merton: Faithful Visionary by Michael Higgins.

• The Spring 2015 issue of Cithara will include “Thomas Izod Bennett, MD and Thomas Merton: A History and Examination of Their Interaction” by F. Douglas Scutchfield; “Awakening in the Garden: Thomas Merton’s Discovery of Paradise” by Monica Weis, SSJ; and “The Whale and the Ivy – Journey and Stability in the Life and Writings of Thomas Merton” by Paul M. Pearson; as well as a special review section of recent Merton-related books, including reviews by Patrick F. O’Connell of Divine Discontent: The Prophetic Voice of Thomas Merton by John Moses and The Rule of Saint Benedict; and by Mark Scott, OCSO of Thomas Merton: Faithful Visionary by Michael Higgins.

• St. Anthony Messenger’s January, 2015 features an article entitled “The Legacy of Thomas Merton” by Dan Morris-Young in conversation with Merton scholars Christine Bochen, Daniel Horan, OFM, Jonathan Montaldo and Patrick O’Connell, and an article by Richard Rohr, OFM entitled “Rediscovering Contemplation.”

• The January, 2015 issue of Sojourners features an article by Christopher Pramuk entitled “The Public Private Life of Thomas Merton” and Patrick O’Connell’s omnibus review of recent Merton-related publications entitled “Wisdom and Discontent.”

• The November-December, 2014–January, 2015 issue of Weavings, with the theme “Monastery without Walls,” includes the Merton prayer “My Lord God” and the articles “A Vocation in Fragments” by “An Invisible Monk”; “Stand on Your Own Feet!” by Nass Cannon; “Thich Nhat Hanh, Martin Luther
King, Jr. and Thomas Merton on Retreat” by Paul Dekar; “Oh Happy Chance!” by E. Glenn Hinson; “Thomas Merton’s Uncaged Mind” by Jonathan Montaldo; “Monastery of the Uncompassed” by Paul Quenon, OCSO; and “Merton and the Spirituality of Restlessness” by Johnny Sears.

- The Australian journal *Tui Motu InterIslands* featured Merton in their March, 2015 issue with “From Grieving Child to Spiritual Master” by Ken Bragan, “Man of Ever-Widening Vision” by Charles Shaw and “Union and Communion” by Colleen O’Sullivan.

Thomasine “Tommie” O’Callaghan (1931-2014)

Thomasine “Tommie” O’Callaghan, close friend of Thomas Merton and one of the three founding members of the Thomas Merton Legacy Trust, died December 26, 2014. She was born November 14, 1931 in Ashland, KY, daughter of Edna Yates Cadden and Dr. Edward R. Cadden. She graduated from Nazareth High School in 1949 and Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, Purchase, NY, where she was taught by Daniel Walsh, in 1953. In 1954 she married Frank O’Callaghan, who died in January, 2011 after a marriage of 56 years. Together they raised six daughters and a son. She served as a trustee for the Merton Legacy Trust from its inception in November, 1967 until she became trustee emeritus in September, 2009. She was instrumental in the development of the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University and frequently hosted visiting Merton friends and scholars at her home. She also co-founded the Thomas Merton Center Foundation and was a board member of the Merton Institute for Contemplative Living. She was director of advertising for *Louisville Today* Magazine and later she started O’Callaghan’s Catering and Restaurant. She was a member of the Louisville Rotary Club and worked with the Louisville Ballet, the Louisville Orchestra, Meals on Wheels, AIDS fundraising and Vietnamese and Kosovar refugees. In 2000, she was named as a Woman of Distinction by the Center for Women and Families. She was honored by a Merton Foundation “Tribute to Tommie O’Callaghan – Shining Like the Sun” in 2004. She is survived by her children, 24 grandchildren and one great-grandson. Her funeral mass at St. Frances of Rome Catholic Church was followed by burial at The Abbey of Gethsemani.

Patricia Hulburt (1924-2014)

Patricia Hulbert, longtime member of the International Thomas Merton Society and co-site coordinator with her daughter-in-law Dorothy for the ITMS Ninth General Meeting at the University of San Diego in 2005, died on October 5, 2014. Born April 22, 1924, she taught high school English in Georgia and English as a second language in China. She is survived by her four children, twelve children and twelve great-grandchildren. She first read Thomas Merton’s autobiography *The Seven Storey Mountain* as a newlywed living on her in-laws’ ranch in rural Colorado and continued to find him an inspiration throughout her life, praying Merton’s famous prayer “My Lord God” with her family at her bedside just before her death. A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at St. Brigid Parish in San Diego on October 15, followed by burial at Oakhill Cemetery in Escondido.

Mary K. Stanford (1930-2014)

Mary K. Stanford, cofounder and longtime coordinator of the Washington, DC Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society, died on December 5, 2014. A Rochester, NY native, she attended Nazareth College where she studied with Msgr. William H. Shannon, ITMS founding president, and graduated from Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY in 1951. The mother of seven children, she was preceded in death by her husband Robert J. Stanford, who died three months earlier on September 2, 2014. Along with Fr. John Farrelly, OSB, and Abbot James Wiseman, OSB, she organized a “birthday party” for Merton at St. Anselm’s Abbey in Washington on January 31, 1990, with Msgr. Shannon as the featured speaker, the first of many presentations that through her leadership have continued for the next quarter century. In addition to her children she is survived by twelve grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. A memorial Mass was celebrated on December 20, 2014 at Holy Trinity Church in Georgetown. Donations in her name may be made to Our Lady of the Holy Cross Abbey, 901 Cool Spring Lane, Berryville, VA 22611-2700.
James J. Harford (1924-2014)

James J. Harford, longtime ITMS member and author of *Merton & Friends: A Joint Biography of Thomas Merton, Robert Lax, and Edward Rice* (Crossroad, 2006) died December 8, 2014 at age 90. Born August 19, 1924 in Jersey City, NJ, he grew up in Cranford, NJ and graduated from Yale University and the Columbia University Midshipmen’s School, and served in the Navy as an engineering officer. For 37 years he was executive director of the American Rocket Society and its successor, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He testified before Congress on behalf of various space projects on numerous occasions. During his time in Europe in the 1950s, he became a friend of Robert Lax and subsequently served on the board of *Jubilee* magazine, founded and edited by Edward Rice who also became a close friend. He is survived by Mildred, his wife of 62 years, and by four children and two grandchildren. His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Paul Church in Princeton, NJ on December 20.

Beatrice Bruteau (1930-2014)

Beatrice Bruteau, noted contemplative author and editor of the volume *Merton & Judaism: Holiness in Words – Recognition, Repentance, and Renewal* (Fons Vitae, 2003) died November 16, 2014 in Winston-Salem, NC. She was born July 25, 1930 in Evanston, Illinois to the late Frederick and Ruth Folgerstrum Bruteau and grew up in Jefferson City, MO. She was a graduate of Fordham University, from which she received her doctorate in philosophy. She is survived by James Somerville, her husband of 43 years, and by four children and two grandchildren. Her collection of Thomas Merton books was donated to St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH.

J. William Harmless, SJ (1953-2014)

J. William Harmless, SJ, a theologian who taught at Spring Hill College, Mobile, AL and Creighton University, Omaha, NE, died October 14, 2014. He was a presenter at the ITMS Sixth General Meeting at Spring Hill in 1997 on the topic of Thomas Merton and the Desert Fathers, and included a chapter on Merton in his acclaimed book *Mystics* (Oxford University Press, 2008). He was born July 30, 1953 in Kansas City, MO, attended St. Peter’s Grade School and Rockhurst High School there, and graduated from Rice University, Houston, TX. Before entering the Society of Jesus in 1978, he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali and taught English in Houston. He studied philosophy at Loyola University New Orleans, theology at Weston Jesuit School of Theology, and earned his Ph.D. in religion and education from Boston College in 1990 after his ordination in 1987. He taught theology from 1990 to 2003 at Spring Hill College, where he was named Teacher of the Year in 1994 and held the Thomas E. Caestecker Endowed Chair in the Liberal Arts. He was the Walter and Mary Tuohy Professor of Interreligious Studies at John Carroll University in Cleveland in 2003, and was professor of historical theology and patristic studies at Creighton from 2005 until his sudden, unexpected death. In addition to *Mystics* he was the author of *Augustine and the Catechumenate* (2004; rev. ed. 2015), *Augustine in His Own Words* (2010) and *Desert Christians: An Introduction to the Literature of Early Monasticism* (2004).

Marie D. McFadden

Marie D. McFadden of Wellesley, MA, a longtime member of the International Thomas Merton Society and of the Massachusetts Chapter of the ITMS, died on July 16, 2014. She was the wife of the late E. Leo McFadden and mother of five children, grandmother of five and great-grandmother of one. She was a former Miss Massachusetts and served as campaign manager for Congressman Robert Drinan, SJ, as well as a former officer in the Women’s City Club of Boston. Her funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Paul Church in Wellesley on July 20, 2014. Her collection of Thomas Merton books was donated to St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH.
Call for Contributions

Donald Grayston is planning an annotated edition of Thomas Merton’s celebrated 1965 essay “Day of a Stranger,” to include its first draft (found in Dancing in the Water of Life), the final published version, annotations for the many names and subjects in the final version, cross-referenced with what Merton has to say about them in his journals, and both previously published and newly written essays on this work. A tentative deadline for contributions of 3000-3500 words is August 31, 2015. Inquiries about the project may be sent to the editor at: donald_grayston@sfu.ca.

Spiritual Directors Celebrate Merton

Spiritual Directors International will celebrate the life and teaching of Thomas Merton during its annual meeting April 14-17 at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY. Daniel Horan, OFM will be the opening plenary session presenter, speaking on “Emerging Wisdom for Today’s Spiritual Seekers: Learning from Saint Francis and Thomas Merton” on Tuesday evening, April 14. The following morning Kathleen Deignan, CND will give a plenary session presentation entitled “ Recovering Paradise: Thomas Merton’s Wisdom for Earth’s Dark Night.” Workshops on Wednesday April 15 will include: “The Dynamics of Discernment in the Life and Writings of Thomas Merton” with Susan Rakoczy, IHM, and “ Thomas Merton: Taoist and Poet” with Patricia Roberts. Thursday workshops will include: “ Thomas Merton and ‘Grace’s House’: Seeking Spiritual Direction Wisdom Perspectives through Poem and Image” with Marianne Hieb, RSM and Helen Owens, OSF; “The Spiritual Wisdom of Thomas Merton’s Photography” with Susan Moorefield; “Learning Wisdom in the School of Your Own Life: Thomas Merton’s Conference to His Novices on Contemplative Prayer” with Jonathan Montaldo; and “Spiritual Freedom and the Wisdom of Merton and the Mystics: Contemplating the Sacred Path of Multi-faith Spiritual Direction,” a walking tour of sacred sites in downtown Louisville with Carol A. Fournier. For further information or to register, see: http://www.sdiworld.org/educational-event/2015-emerging-wisdom-educational-events.

Assisi Pilgrimage Retreat Planned

A Thomas Merton Centenary Pilgrimage Retreat in Assisi, Italy is planned for October 28-November 4, 2015, to be led by Jonathan Montaldo, retreat and workshop leader, former director of the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University and past president of the International Thomas Merton Society; Marianne Heib, RSM, artist, art therapist, retreat and spiritual director, author of Inner Journeying through Art; and Helen Owens, OSF, nurse, missionary, former Vice President of Mission for Lourdes Health System and founder of Lourdes Wellness Center, sponsor of the pilgrimage. For more information, contact Beverly at 856-869-3127 or see: www.LourdesWellnessCenter.org.

Columbia Merton Exhibition

From February 2 through May 29, 2015, the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia University, Thomas Merton’s Alma Mater, is presenting an exhibition on Merton’s life and work entitled “Seasons of Celebration: Thomas Merton at 100” in the Kemper Exhibition Gallery, Sixth Floor East, Butler Library on the Columbia campus. The exhibition draws on the library’s extensive Merton holdings, including the collection of Sr. Thérèse Lentfoehr, as well as the papers of his teacher and friend Mark Van Doren, the papers of his friend and official biographer John Howard Griffin, and those of other friends including Robert Lax. On display are original letters, manuscripts, art work, photographs and inscribed editions of his publications; also on display are a copy of Merton’s Columbia Master’s Thesis, “Nature and Art in William Blake,” the typescript of his poem “On the Anniversary of My Baptism” and typescripts of The Seven Storey Mountain and John Howard Griffin’s Black Like Me. The exhibition and related events are all free and open to the public. In connection with the opening of the exhibition, novelist Mary Gordon of Barnard College gave a presentation on February 2 entitled “Merton and the Catholic Revival.” On April 14, Michael Higgins will speak on: “From Single Vision to Four-Fold Vision: The Ever-unfolding Merton” at 6:00 p.m. in Butler Library Room 523, followed by a reception in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library. For more information, contact: Jennifer B. Lee, Curator, Performing Arts Collections, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Butler Library, 535 West 114 St., New York, NY 10027; email: jbl100@columbia.edu.

Pittsburgh Merton Center Celebration

On April 16-26, the Thomas Merton Center of Pittsburgh, PA will host a Festival of Thomas Merton
Events commemorating the hundredth anniversary of his birth. The scheduled events include:

- **April 16**: a special showing of the documentary “We Are All Immigrants” produced by the PATH to Justice Committee of the Tri-Diocesan Sisters Leadership Conference; the film will be shown at the Kearns Spirituality Center, 9000 Babock Boulevard, Allison Park, PA 15101 at 7 p.m.

- **April 18**: a presentation entitled “Merton & Asia” with Thomas Merton Center co-founder Molly Rush, who will speak on CEASE, founded in 1970 to oppose the Vietnam War, and how it led to the Merton Center’s founding, at Jain Hindu Temple, Monroeville at 3 p.m.

- **April 19**: “Praying with Merton: Awakening to Action,” Adult Forum with Carol Gonzalez at Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Avenue at 10 a.m. “Thomas Merton and Rabbi Abraham Heschel” a panel discussion led by Rabbi Art Donsky, Sr. Georgine Scarpino and Karen Hochberg of the Greater Pittsburgh Interfaith Coalition at the Tree of Life Synagogue, 5898 Wilkins Avenue at 3 p.m.

- **April 20**: Jim Forest will speak on “Thomas Merton’s Advice to Peacemakers” at the Sheraton Inn, Station Square, with a reception and hors d’oeuvres ($40).

- **April 21**: “Sufis and Merton – Muslim Dialogue Conversation” hosted by the Turkish Cultural Center, 1459 Crane Ave.

- **April 22**: forum presentation on “Earth Day: Centennial Celebration of the Birth of Thomas Merton” led by Maureen Crossen, Jack Alverson and Linda Maydak, at A. J. Palumbo Hall, Carlow University, 3305 Fifth Avenue at 7 p.m.

- **April 23**: “Excerpts from a Biographical Film on Merton’s Life” with discussion by Molly Rush, Fr. Jack O’Malley, Fr. Jay Geisler and others at the Pump House located at 880 East Waterfront Drive, Munhall at 7:30 p.m.

- **April 24**: “Thomas Merton’s Interfaith Legacy for the Twenty-first Century” with Fr. Eugene Lauer, Rabbi Art Donsky, Dr. Kevin Mongrain and Fr. Sebastian Madathummuriyl at the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center, Gumberg Library, Duquesne University at 7 p.m.

- **April 25**: “Thomas Merton and Martin Luther King: Two Paths of Non-violent Solidarity for Peace and Justice,” a discussion led by Charlie McCollester with representatives from the African American Church, Catholic Social Teaching, Protestant Social Gospel and Jewish Prophetic traditions, at the Pump House, 880 East Waterfront Drive, Munhall, 1:30 p.m.: “Special Mass for Thomas Merton” at St. Mary’s of the Mount Church, 403 Grandview Ave at 7 p.m.

- **April 26**: “Waking from a Dream of Separateness: Thomas Merton on Interfaith Dialogue” with Bonnie Bowman Thurston and the Association of Pittsburgh Priests, 9000 Babcock Boulevard, Allison Park, at 2 p.m. ($10 registration); “Walking the Path to Peace With Thomas Merton,” forum and discussion led by Diane McMahon, First Unitarian Church, 605 Morewood Ave. at 9:30 p.m.

For further information, see: http://thomasmertoncenter.org/merton-100th.

### Merton Happenings

On October 10-12, 2014, Jonathan Montaldo, Marianne Hieb, RSM and Diane Guerin, RSM directed a retreat entitled “Entering the School of Your Own Experience: Thomas Merton’s Legacy for Contemplative Living” at Trocaire, the Sisters of Mercy Retreat House in Sea Isle City, NJ.

On November 7, 2014, the Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club of Columbus, OH featured a presentation by David Belcastro entitled “Merton: A Monk for Our Times.”

On November 10-14, Ramón Cao Martinez gave a series of five talks on Thomas Merton at the Cistercian Abbey of Armenteira, Spain.

On November 13, Fernando Beltrán Llavador gave the first in a series of lectures on spirituality, based on Thomas Merton’s “Initiation into the Monastic Tradition” series, sponsored by the Episcopal Commission of the Diocese of Salamanca, Spain.

On December 7-10, Fr. Patrick Collins directed a retreat entitled “The Coming of Christ according to Thomas Merton” at Bethany Spring Retreat Center.

On January 9, 2015 the Burchfield Penney Art Center in Buffalo, NY screened Morgan Atkinson’s film Soul Searching, followed by a panel discussion with Anthony Bannon, Christine Bochen and Dan Riley, OFM.

On January 10, Ron Dart led a program entitled “A Day with Merton” at SoulStream, Abbotsford, British Columbia.

From January 12 through February 21, the Morton J. May Foundation Gallery at Maryville University, St. Louis, MO hosted the exhibition “A Hidden Wholeness: The Zen Photography of Thomas Merton.”

On January 14, Michael Higgins gave a presentation entitled “Architects of Our Spiritual Wisdom: Thomas Merton and Henri Nouwen” at the University of Roehampton, London, UK.

On Wednesdays from January 14 through February 11, Angus Stuart presented a series entitled “Readings in Merton” at St. Francis-in-the-Wood Anglican Church, West Vancouver, British Columbia.

On January 16, Lawrence Cunningham gave a presentation entitled “Thomas Merton: The Writing Life and the Contemplative Life” at the Lumen Christi Institute, University of Chicago.

On January 17, Michael W. Higgins, Mary T. Malone and Abbot Richard Purcell, OCSO led a one-day conference entitled “Thomas Merton: The Re-making of a Monk” at All Hallows, Drumcondra, Dublin, Ireland.

On Mondays from January 19 through February 9, Ron Dart presented a four-week series entitled “C. S. Lewis and Thomas Merton: Soul Friends” at Saint Matthew’s Anglican Church, Abbotsford, British Columbia.

On January 21, a fifteen-week course entitled “Sacred Paths of the Spiritual Masters,” featuring four spiritual guides who have made pathways into sacred modes of human being – Thomas Merton, Teresa of Avila,Nicholas Black Elk and Martin Luther King, Jr. – began at the Iona Spirituality Institute, Iona College, New Rochelle, NY.

On January 21, Carl McColman led a day of reflection focused on the teaching of Thomas Merton at Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center, Atlanta, GA.

On January 22, the Brooklyn Public Library sponsored a discussion of the work of Thomas Merton with Christopher Beha of Harper’s Magazine, novelist Colm Tóibín and author Paul Elie, co-sponsored by the New Directions Publishing Corporation.

On January 25, Donald Grayston gave a presentation entitled “The Once and Future Monk: Thomas Merton at 100” at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver, British Columbia.

On January 28, the Merton Contemplative Initiative at Iona College screened the New York Premiere of Morgan Atkinson’s documentary film The Many Storeys and Last Days of Thomas Merton at the college’s Ryan Library.

On January 29, a symposium entitled “Thomas Merton: A Man for All Seasons” with presentations by Jens Zimmerman, Lynn Szabo and Ron Dart, was held at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia.

On February 2, Paul M. Pearson gave presentations on Thomas Merton’s art and photography at Daylesford Abbey, Paoli, PA.

On February 5, Donald Grayston gave a talk entitled “Thomas Merton at 100: Public Intellectual and Democratic Dissenter” at the Simon Fraser University Harbour Centre in Vancouver, British Columbia.

On February 6-7, Clare Ronzani coordinated a retreat entitled “Merton at 100: A Living Legacy” at San Damiano Retreat House, Danville, CA.

On February 10, John E. Allard, OP gave a presentation entitled: “‘What I do is live. How I pray is breathe’: The Cool Life and (Politically) Hot Prose of Thomas Merton” at the Center for Catholic and Dominican Studies, Providence College, Providence, RI.

On February 11, Monica Weis, SSJ gave a presentation entitled “Finding the Sky within You” at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Rochester, NY, to begin “A Centenary Series Celebrating Thomas Merton’s Birth,” sponsored by the congregation; on February 25, Christine Bochen gave the second presentation entitled “Envisioning the Church with Thomas Merton”; on March 21, the series was completed with a presentation by Meghan Robinson entitled “Coming Home and Going Forth: Kenosis in Jesus and Merton.”

On February 11, Christine Bochen gave a presenta-
tion entitled “Merton in the Pub: Readings from Merton’s Journals, Letters and Poems” at the University of Mary, Bismarck, ND; on the following day, she presented a lecture entitled “Awakening the Heart, Mending the World: Living Thomas Merton’s Legacy” at the University.

On February 11-12, Sr. Kathleen Deignan spoke on “Thomas Merton and Thomas Berry: Pathfinders to an Ecological Age” at Baldwin Wallace University, Berea, OH as part of the 2015 Faith & Life Lecture Series. Her three presentations were entitled “Meeting the Masters of Cosmos and of Soul: Thomas Berry and Thomas Merton,” “Finding Our Way to an Ecological Age: Berry and Merton as Guides” and “In Dialogue with Thomas Berry and Thomas Merton: A Roundtable Conversation,” a panel discussion with other participants.

On February 20-22, Michael Woodward led a “Retreat with Thomas Merton” at Douai Abbey, Reading, UK.

On February 21, Michael Plekon led a retreat entitled “Uncommon Prayer” at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland, OR, based largely on Thomas Merton’s “Day of a Stranger.”

On February 25, the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY sponsored the Ninth Annual Thomas Merton Black History Month Lecture, presented by Alex Mikulich, co-author with Laurie Cassidy and Margaret Pfeil of The Scandal of White Complicity in U.S. Hyper-incarceration: A Nonviolent Spirituality of White Resistance.

On February 28, Gray Matthews gave the main presentation, entitled “Merton, the Commotion and the Long Art of Contemplation,” at the annual Contemplative Outreach of Central Florida Conference on “Thomas Merton: A Man for His Time and Ours” at Divine Mercy Catholic Church, Merritt Island, FL.

On four Saturdays, February 28, March 21, May 9 and June 6, Sr. Joetta Huelsmann is facilitating a monthly retreat series entitled “Thomas Merton – Going Deeper into the Contemplative Tradition” at the John XXIII Retreat Center, Hartford City, IN; the fee for each session is $30, with lunch provided. To register or for further information contact the center at: john23rd@sbcglobal.net; phone: 765-348-4008 or 888-882-1391.

On March 7, Christopher Pramuk gave a presenta-
a program entitled “Thomas Merton: Exploring Glimpses of his Meditative Mark-making” at Cranaleith Spiritual Center, Philadelphia, PA.

On March 22, Jonathan Montaldo and Marianne Hieb, RSM led a day of recollection focused on “The Centenary of Thomas Merton: Monk, Mystic, Activist, Poet and Person” at the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, Merion, PA.

**Upcoming Events**

On March 26-28, the College English Association Annual Meeting, held in Indianapolis, IN, will include six presentations on Thomas Merton. On March 26, Paul Pearson will deliver a paper entitled “‘I Love Beer and by That Very Fact the World’ – Humor in Thomas Merton’s Fertile Imagination.” In a panel on March 27 entitled “Thomas Merton & Boris Pasternak: Kindred Spirits,” Paul Morris will speak on “The Zhivago Affair: Book, Cold War and CIA,” Christine Bochen on “Finding Oneself in Another: Correspondence of Merton & Pasternak” and Monica Weis, SSJ on “Merton Critiques Dr. Zhivago”; also on March 27, Alva Cellini will present a paper on “Thomas Merton and Victoria Ocampo” and Bernie Miller on “The Rhetoric of War: Symbols, Sacrifice & War Stories from the Abject”; on March 28, Joe Marren will speak on “Merton, Chesterton & the Imaginative Pulpit.”

On March 27 at 7:00 p.m., Matthew Fox will present a lecture entitled “Merton, Eckhart and Calling: The Blessings and Perils of Following Your Bliss in a Culture of Conformity,” at Frazier Hall, Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY, cosponsored by the Thomas Merton Center and Cultivating Connections. Ticket are priced from $15 to $50 dollars. For further information see: http://cultivatingconnections.org/Matthew_Fox_March_27.html.

On March 27-29, 2015, Christopher Pramuk will lead a retreat at the Mercy Center, Madison, CT entitled “At Play in Creation: Merton’s Awakening to the Feminine Divine.” For further information, see the center web site: www.mercybythesea.org.

From April 1 through June 1, the Slovanska Library of the Ljubljana City Library, Ljubljana, Slovenia, will present an exhibition entitled “Thomas Merton: His Life and Work.”

On April 9, a program entitled “Revisiting ‘Why Alienation Is for Everybody,’” focused on Thomas Merton’s September 1968 Introduction to a volume of poetry by West End Louisville Poets, featuring Kentucky Poet Laureate Frank X. Walker and jazz pianist Harry Pickens, will be held at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY; for further information contact George Kilcourse: gkilcourse@bellarmine.edu.

On April 16, Monica Weis, SSJ will deliver the keynote address entitled “Witness to Freedom” at the annual High School/College Poetry Competition awards night at Nazareth College, Rochester, NY.

Upcoming programs at Bethany Spring, the retreat house located in New Haven, KY, one mile from the Abbey of Gethsemani, include: “Ecology of the Spirit” with Vanessa Hurst on April 17-19 (fee: $225 – includes meals); Contemplative Wellness Retreat with Rev. Karen Barth on April 24-26; “Thomas Merton and Mary Oliver: Poets of the Sacred” with Rusty Moe on May 15-17 (fee $185 – includes meals). For further information, contact Rick Furman at 502-507-8576; email: rick3649@gmail.com or rick@bethanyspring.org; website: http://www.bethanyspring.org.

On April 23, Mary Lewis will lead a retreat on “Contemplative Photography with Thomas Merton” at Broughton Castle, Oxfordshire, UK; for further information see: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/contemplative-photography-with-the-revd-mary-lewis-tickets-15326147921.

On April 24-26, Jonathan Montaldo will direct a retreat entitled “Choosing to Love the World: The Contemplative Poetry of Mary Oliver and Thomas Merton” at the Shalom Spirituality Center, Dubuque, IA; for further information, call 563-582-3592; website: www.shalomretreats.org/longer.html.

On April 24-25, James Finley will lead the Tenth Gerald May Seminar, sponsored by the Shalem Institute, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville, MD, with an opening presentation on “Turning to Thomas Merton as Our Guide in Contemplative Living”; for further information see: http://www.shalem.org/index.php/shalem-programs/gerald-may-seminar.

On April 24-25, a study day entitled “Merton: Writer and Monk” will be held at Walpole Hall, Edinburgh, Scotland, with talks by Stephen Dunhill and John McLuckie, Eucharist, lunch and a birthday tea.
On May 1-3, a retreat entitled “Thomas Merton in Good Company: A Retreat with His Friends” will be held at The Well, Society of the Sacred Mission, Willen, UK; for further information see: http://www.merton.org/centenary/Thomas_Merton_in_Good_Company_-_retreat_details.pdf.

From May 11 through June 11, an exhibit of paintings by Charles MacCarthy entitled “Heaven in Ordinary – Contemplating Merton’s Photographs through Painting” will be displayed at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY.

On May 12-17, the Twentieth Annual Festival of Faiths in Louisville, KY will focus on the theme: “Sacred Journeys and the Legacy of Thomas Merton”; for further information see: www.centerforinterfaithrelations.org/festival-of-faiths.

On May 15-17, Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB will lead a retreat on the teaching of Thomas Merton entitled “A Monastic Witness to Nonviolence” at St. Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, IN. For further information see: http://www.saintmeinrad.org/retreats/?event=8512.

On May 22, Esther de Waal will lead a retreat day entitled “Thomas Merton – Contemplative Artist” at Llangasty Retreat House, Brecon, Wales; for further information email: enquiries@llangasty.com.

On June 20, Stephen Dunhill will direct a study day entitled “Thomas Merton – Contemplative Writer” at St. Peter’s Church, Warmsworth, UK.

On June 29-July 2, Marianne Hieb, RSM and Oonagh Campbell, RSM will facilitate a program entitled “Creative Exploration of Mercy Themes in Thomas Merton’s Journey and in Our Own” at the Mercy International Centre, Dublin, Ireland; for further information see: http://www.mercyworld.org/the_centre/programmes.cfm?loadref=133.

On September 1-10, an exhibition of paintings by Robert Wright entitled: “Thomas Merton – My Whole Life is a Search for the Truth” will be held at The Chapter House, Lincoln Cathedral, UK; admission is included within the Cathedral entry charge. For further information see: http://lincolncathedral.com/events/?pno=2.

On September 23 and 30 and October 7, Michael Whelan will teach a course entitled “Thomas Merton: Identity, Solitude and Contemplation” at the Aquinas Academy, Sydney, Australia; for further information, see: http://www.aquinas-academy.com/courses/275-thomas-merton-identity-solitude-and-contemplation.
On October 29-November 1, James Finley will lead a retreat entitled “Thomas Merton: A Trustworthy Guide on the Path to God” at Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center, Villa Maria, PA; for further information see: https://www.vmesc.org/Programs-Retreats.aspx?id=258.

Chapter and Affiliate News

On October 25, the Thomas Merton Society of Canada Consonantia program included workshops on crystal bowl meditation with Ken Jones and on listening to the divine with Sally McShane. For more information contact Susan Cowan, Community Relations Director, at tmsc@telus.net or 604-988-8835.

On October 21, Joanne Buckman, OSU spoke to the Cleveland Chapter of the ITMS on “Experience of the Holy: Teilhard de Chardin and Thomas Merton.” On November 18, the chapter viewed the award-winning documentary Hit and Stay, about the anti-war movement and draft board raids of the 1960s, focused on the activities of Merton’s friends Daniel and Philip Berrigan. On December 11, the chapter participated in a program entitled “With Roots in Eternity: Taizé Prayer in Advent,” with music by Jason R. Lewis. On March 17, Michael Fiala and Maria Smith presented a program entitled: “Reading Merton Transforms Lives.” On April 21, Paul Pearson will give a presentation entitled: “‘I Love Beer, and, by That Very Fact, the World’ — The Humor and Humanity of Thomas Merton.” For further information, contact Sister Donna Kristoff, OSU, Coordinator, 440-449-1200, ext. 314; email: dkristoff@ursulinesisters.org.

On November 12, the Wall, New Jersey Chapter of the ITMS discussed Part Two of Thomas Merton’s The Springs of Contemplation: A Retreat at the Abbey of Gethsemani. For further information, contact Greg Ryan: 732-681-6238; GJRyan@wccm.org.


The Northern California Chapter of the ITMS discussed Merton’s No Man Is an Island at its November 30 and January 25 meetings. On March 25, the chapter is planning a visit to the Cistercian monastery at Vina, CA, for Mass, a tour of the chapter house and winery, and spiritual discussion with Fr. Paul Jerome. For further information contact chapter coordinator John Berger: phone: 916-482-6976; email: bergerjh@rcip.clm.

At its March 16 meeting, the Columbus, OH chapter viewed the new Morgan Atkinson film The Many Storeys and Last Days of Thomas Merton, preceded by prayer at the Dominican Sisters of Peace chapel. For further information contact chapter coordinator Tom Corroto: tcorroto@columbus.rr.com.

On March 23, the Thomas Merton Society Interfaith Chapter of Southern Delaware commemorated the centenary of Thomas Merton’s birth with an evening program including clips from Morgan Atkinson’s new film The Many Storeys and Last Days of Thomas Merton, and guest speakers from four faith traditions: Beth Cohen on “Merton and Interfaith Dialogue”; Rev. Carlyle Gill on “Merton and the Discipline of Silent Contemplation”; Keith Goheen on “Merton and the Journey of Spiritual Development”; and Maryanne Zakreski, SSJ on “Merton and Social Justice.” For further information contact chapter coordinator George Beckerman: george.beckerman@gmail.com.

The Corpus Christi (NYC) Chapter of the ITMS will host Merton friend and biographer Jim Forest for an April 25 presentation entitled “Thomas Merton’s Advice to Apprentice Peacemakers” at Corpus Christi Parish, 529 W. 121 St. in Manhattan. For further information see the chapter website: www.corpus-christi-nyc.org/MertonSociety.htm, or contact chapter coordinator Brenda Fitch Fairaday: 212-865-7261; email: merton-nyc@yahoo.com.

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