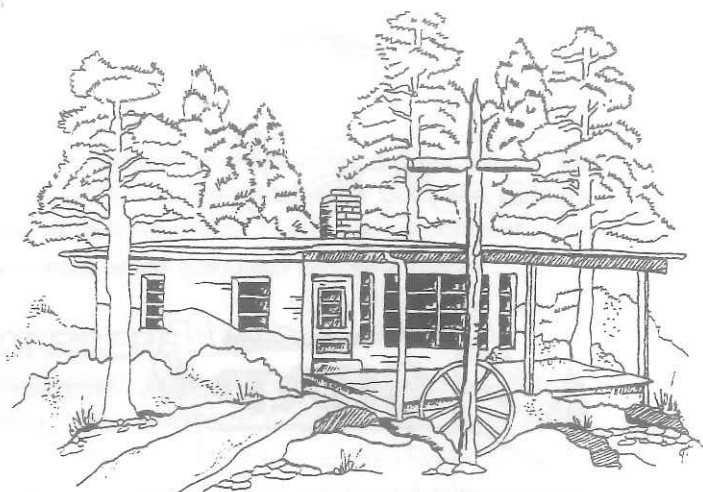


hermitage

The Newsletter of The International Thomas Merton Society
Vol 1, No. 1 Fall 1994



PROGRAM SET FOR ST. BONAVENTURE

As this first newsletter goes to press, the fourth ITMS General Meeting, is a mere nine months away, June 15-18, 1995, at St. Bonaventure in Olean, New York. The program and schedule was finalized and approved by your ITMS Program Committee this past

June at the Thomas Merton Center in Louisville.

A rich and diverse program schedule it is! Under the unifying theme 'SUMMONED TO EXPLORE THE HEART - MERTON'S PROPHETIC CHALLENGE'. Highlights include the springboard address of Lawrence S. Cunningham, chair of the Theology Department of Notre Dame, a presentation entitled "A Message to Poets Reconsidered-Reflections on a Merton Manifesto" A Merton scholar, Prof. Cunningham is a frequent contributor to the Cistercian Studies Quarterly, and well known to Merton audiences from his book "Thomas Merton: Spiritual Master" (Paulist Press 1992).

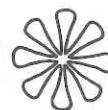
Keynote addresses will be offered by Michael Mott, Esther deWaal, and Fr. James Conner, who will also tender the Presidential Address at Thursday's sumptuous banquet dinner.

The program will include such general subject headings as EDITING THE MERTON LETTERS; MERTON & INNER TRUTH; MERTON AND THE ENVIRONMENT; MERTON & YOUNG PEOPLE; MERTON AND EAST-WEST CONVERSATION; MERTON & LITERATURE; MERTON & THE SCRIPTURES; MERTON IN OUR DREAMS AND POETRY; MERTON AND THEOLOGIAN; MERTON AND INNER TRANSFORMATION; TEACHING MERTON; MERTON'S SECULAR JOURNAL; MERTON AT ST. BONAVENTURE; MERTON AND ART; EROS AND AGAPE.

An Open Session entitled WHAT MERTON'S PROPHETIC CHALLENGE MEANS TO ME will invite general audience participation. On Thursday a shuttle will take us to Merton's "Writing Cottage" - plus a walking tour to "Merton's Heart". Meditation/Prayer periods have also been worked into the schedule. There will be entertainment Thursday evening and a reception and entertainment Saturday evening.



SUFI DANCING AT THE THIRD ITMS MEETING



HAIKU - MERTON'S GRAVE
Coffee cup in hand
I sat down on Merton's grave.
Happy time, not grave.
- Frank Tuoti



EDITOR'S SOAP BOX

Remember way back in Colorado Springs when you were promised an ITMS Newsletter 'very soon'? Well, for reasons not important, 'very soon' is fifteen months later! Whether or not HERMITAGE comes out on a regular basis depends entirely on the contributions and information provided by the membership. The primary function of HERMITAGE is to keep members apprized of chapter news, activities of ITMS members, Merton-related events of general interest. Poetry submissions, BRIEF articles, etc. are invited. Send your tid-bits and larger-bits to:

Frank X. Tuoti

4940 N. Tamarind Place, Tucson AZ 85749



BOOKS BY ITMS MEMBERS

IN PRINT

Bonnie H. Thurston

SPIRITUAL LIFE IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Fortress Press

HOLY WEEK (Proclamation 5, Series C)

Fortress Press

TO BE PUBLISHED

Frank X. Tuoti

WHY NOT BE A MYSTIC?

"An irresistible invitation to know the presence of God - here and now."

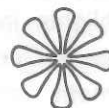
Introduction by George A. Maloney, S.J.

Crossroad Publications (January 1995)

(See other book news notices on this page)

FIFTH VOLUME OF MERTON LETTERS READY THIS SEPT.

The compilation and editing of the fifth volume of the Merton letters has been completed by Msgr. Bill Shannon and is scheduled to reach the book shelves this September, published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux. The volume is entitled "WITNESS TO FREEDOM; LETTERS IN TIMES OF CRISES". This latest collection of Merton letters contains many of the unpublished "cold war" letters and letters dealing with the issue of war. Letters to Naomi Burton Stone, Louis Massignon are included, as well as an exchange of letters between Merton and Fr. Raymond (best known for "The Man Who Got Even With God"). Merton signed his letters "Louisy" (pronounced 'lousy') while Fr. Raymond signed his letters 'Rasputin'. Your editor vividly remembers Fr. Raymond as something of a human dynamo who gave the impression that, when his time came, he would barge into heaven with a battering ram, sweeping St. Peter aside in the process!



NEW MERTON JOURNALS

As some of us are aware, Bro. Patrick Hart is general editor of the Merton Journals, estimated at seven volumes. The first volume being edited by Brother Pat contains material from two little known journals (including the Cuban Journal) that have been housed at St. Bonaventure these many years. This first volume is expected to appear sometime in 1995, hopefully before the June 1995 General Meeting. Brother Pat informs us that all seven of the Merton Journals are now in some stage of processing, with the first three near completion. The plan is to publish these journals a year apart, one journal a year. As of this writing, no publisher has yet been selected. (See Brother Pat's article "The Journals of Thomas Merton" in The Merton Seasonal, Vol 18, Nos 3 & 4, 1993). Based on a conversation with Brother Pat while I was at Gethsemani following the June Board meeting, it is my understanding that, with the publication of the seven journals, no chronological gap will exist in Merton's journal writings.

1996 SUMMER RETREATS

At the June Board meeting, Pat O'Connell put forth the suggestion for ITMS members to organize regional retreats during the off-year between the general meetings, employing the theme of the previous year's meeting. The idea was unanimously accepted. At this writing, eight regional sites have been selected along with facilitators who can be contacted for further information. The 1996 summer retreats will carry over the theme: "Summoned to Explore the Heart: Thomas Merton's Prophetic Challenge". More complete information on the retreats, including additional regional sites, will appear in the next issue of HERMITAGE.

SANTA BARBARA CENTER, SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA,
June 21-23 or 28-30. Presenter TBA. Contact Harriet hope.

NEW CAMOLDI HERMITAGE, BIG SUR, CALIFORNIA
June 28-30. Presenter and contact: Robert Hale

EPIPHANY MONASTERY, NEW HAMPSHIRE
July 12-14. Presenter and contact: Robert Hale

TUCSON ARIZONA, PICTURE ROCKS RETREAT HOUSE
Dates TBA. Presenter John Kane CSsR. Contact: Frank Tuoti

ABBAY OF GETHSEMANI, TRAPPIST, KY
Dates and presenter TBA. Contact Robert Hale

KORDES ENRICHMENT CENTER, FERDINAND, IN.
Dates, presenter TBA. Contact: Harriet Hope

THE MOUNT COMMUNITY CENTER, ATCHISON, KS.
Dates, presenter TBA. Contact: Harriet Hope

CANADA City/site TBA (probably Ontario)
Dates, presenter TBA. Contact Harrietr Hope-Michael Higgins

Those who would like to organize a summer 1996 retreat in their area should contact Harriet Hope, Santa Sabina Center, 25 Magnolia Avenue, San Rafael, CA 94901.

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LAWRENCE S. CUNNINGHAM TO ADDRESS ITMS TUCSON CHAPTER

The Tucson Chapter of ITMS will be honored with the presence of Lawrence S. Cunningham at 3PM Sunday, October 23 at the Benedictine Sanctuary. Dr. Cunningham will offer his insights and commentary on Merton's poem "Hagia Sophia" which speaks to us of silence, listening, the awakening of the true inner self and the feminine principle, the source of creativity and the spiritual faculty by which contemplation is accessed.

ITMS OFFICERS & BOARD

For the benefit of those who did not attend the Third ITMS General Meeting in Colorado Springs, the following were elected as officers and advisory board members for 1993-1995:

OFFICERS

President: JAMES CONNER OCSO, Ava, MO
Vice-Pres: PATRICK F. O'CONNELL, Erie, PA
Secretary: HARRIET HOPE, San Rafael, CA
Treasurer: ERLINDA G. PAGUIO, Louisville, KY

ADVISORY BOARD

THOMAS DEL PRETE, Worcester, MA
ROBERT HALE OSM Cam., Big Sur, CA
PAUL QUENON OCSO, Trappist, KY
JANE MARIE RICHARDSON S.L., Louisville, KY
FRANK X. TUOTI, Tucson, AZ
MONICA WEIS SSJ, Rochester, NY

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORS

CONSTANT BROOS, Dave, Belgium
FINBAR DONOVAN, Dublin, Ireland
MICHAEL HIGGINS, Ontario, Canada
FERNANDO BELTRAN, Salamanca, Spain
PAUL M. PEARSON, London, England
CATHERINA STENGVIST, Lund, Sweden

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Chapter Coordinator

ED FARLEY, Lowell, MA

HONORED WITH 'LOUIES'

Four ITMS charter members were honored with 'Louies' at the 1993 Colorado Springs gathering:

INTERNATIONAL AWARD

CANON A.M. ALCHIN, in recognition of his contribution on an international level in the promotion of Merton's writings and ideas.

THOMAS MERTON AWARD

LAWRENCE S. CUNNINGHAM, in recognition of a major published work - "Thomas Merton: Spiritual Master" - between ITMS meetings.

SOCIETY AWARD

CHRISTINE M. BOCHEN and ROBERT E. DAGGY in recognition of distinguished service in contributing to the aims and goals of the Society.

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NAZARETH COLLEGE EVENT

A special Merton Day will be held at Nazareth College on Oct 22 with Msgr. Shannon, Christine Bochen & Bob Daggy: "Editing the Merton Letters"

ITMS CHAPTER NEWS

It is our plan to publish news of Chapter events and conferences which will take place subsequent to each issue of HERMITAGE so that members interested in attending may have the opportunity to do so. This means receiving news of chapter events that will take place "down the road", so to speak. The second issue of HERMITAGE will not be issued until about February 1, 1995, so chapters which have events/activities planned *subsequent* to Feb. 1 should send this information to us by January 1, 1995 at the latest.

Chapter coordinator Ed Farley reports there are now some 32 ITMS local chapters, up from 24 chapters as of the June 1993 Colorado Springs gathering. Chapter cities and facilitators are, alphabetized by state:

TUCSON, AZ. Frank X. Tuoti
SAN RAFAEL, CA. Harriet Hope
SAN DIEGO, CA. Patricia A. Hurlburt
DENVER, CO. Sr. Rose Annette Liddell, S.L.
WASHINGTON D.C. Mary K. Sanford
ORLANDO, FL. Jim and Adele Rucquoi
CHICAGO, IL. Gail Wallace
TRAPPIST, KY. Paul Quenon OCSO

**THOMAS MERTON STUDIES CENTER
BELLARMINE COLLEGE
NEWBURG ROAD
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40205-0671**

LEXINGTON, KY. Thomas Mullaney
LOWELL, MA. Edward J. Farley
DULUTH, MN. Sr. Laura Daigle
ST. LOUIS, MO. Fr. Tom Nelson
LINCOLN, NE. Arline Newton
RIVERTON, NJ. C. Stephen Reichenbach, O.G.L.
SANTA FE, NM. Peggy Jones
AUBURN, NY. Thomas M. Fogarty
ROCHESTER, NY. Katherine Heininger
WEBSTER, NY. Margaret M. Ostromecki
HENDERSONVILLE, NC. Peake Dana
DURHAM, NC. Andy Stewart
CINCINNATI, OH. Marcia Tondow
CLEVELAND, OH. (TBA)
COLUMBUS, OH. Sr. Margaret Betz
PITTSBURG, PA. Molly Rush & Gail Britanik
NASHVILLE, TN. Jim hartz
RICHMOND, VA. Glenn Hinson & Sr. Marie Goldtsien
SEATTLE, WA. Richard Kortsep
LOGAN, WY. Dean Lucas
SINSINAWA, WI. Sr. Margaret Lorenz, O.P.
BELGIUM - Constant Broos
ENGLAND - Paul Pearson
NEW GUINEA - Sr. Henrilenia

Those interested in contacting any of the above listed chapters should get in touch with Ed Farley 262 Wentworth Ave., Lowell MA 01852.

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