

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 6, No. 2

Fall 1999



Art: Jim Cantrell

## Sixth General Meeting a Success

More than two hundred people from thirty three states, three Canadian provinces and three other nations attended the ITMS Sixth General Meeting, held June 10-13, 1999 at St. Jerome's University, Waterloo, Ontario. The theme of the conference, the first to be held outside the United States, was "Magnetic North / True North: Geography Beyond Boundaries."

Major presentations included: "Thomas Merton and the Mystic North," the keynote address by Mary Jo Leddy; "Thomas Merton and the Joy of Being Catholic," by Mitch Finley; "The Geography of Nowhere: Living Beyond Boundaries," the presidential address by Thomas Del Prete; "A Country whose Center is Everywhere: Merton at the Mim Tea Estate," the springboard address by Erlinda Paguio, with responses by Rose Annette Liddell, SL, J. S. Porter and Msgr. William Shannon (read in his absence by Virginia Ratigan); "Journal Editors' Roundtable" with Christine Bochen, Patrick Hart, Victor Kramer and Jonathan Montaldo; "Catherine De Hueck Doherty Roundtable" with Lorene Hanley Duquin, Bonnie Staib and Fr. Pat McNulty; and "Henri Nouwen & Thomas Merton: Kindred Spirits," with Carolyn and Geoffrey Whitney-Brown.

The meeting also featured "Beyond the Shadow & the Disguise: A Geographical Anthology of the Writings of Thomas Merton," compiled and directed by Kevin Burns; "John Howard Yoder & Thomas Merton: An Imaginative Reconstruction," with Michael Higgins, Tom Yoder Neufeld, and choir from Conrad Grebel College, University of Waterloo; "North of Gethsemani," an illustrated history of the Abbey of the Genesee with Br.

Augustine Jackson, OCSO; a musical program conducted by Alfred Kunz including his original setting of Merton's "Song: Contemplation"; meditation and prayer sessions led by Harriet Hope and Susannah Malarkey, OP; Bernie Carroll, SJ, Philip Shano, SJ and Taricia Gerwing of the Guelph Centre for Spirituality; and Bradford Stull; liturgies celebrated by Fr. Jim Link, CR; a poetry session coordinated by Mary Murray; six opening sessions and fifteen concurrent sessions and workshops, with close to forty different presentations.

The site coordinator for the general meeting was Michael Higgins, assisted by Darren Becks and staff from St. Jerome's University. The Program Committee was chaired by Patrick O'Connell, and included ITMS President Tom Del Prete, Robert Grip, Michael Higgins, Donna Kristoff, OSU, Mary Murray, and Monica Weis, SSJ.

The conference generated many enthusiastic responses from participants. One wrote: "Outstanding! I'm glad you utilized local talent as much as you did." Another wrote: "Superb. Michael Higgins is a wonder and a joy. Most 'creative' ITMS meeting I've been to." Other comments included: "This conference seemed to be exceptionally well planned!"; "I so appreciated the balance and rhythm of this meeting; somehow, one could absorb more since all was not just words"; "Best one yet - I appreciated the continual ties with the affective and our experience"; "Thank you for all of the hard work and detailed planning that has gone into this conference; it has renewed my interest in reading Merton again."

At the ITMS Town Meeting on Saturday afternoon at the conference, ITMS President Tom Del Prete announced that the ITMS Seventh General Meeting would take place June 7-10,

2001 at Bellarmine College, Louisville, KY, and that the Eighth and Ninth General Meetings, in 2003 and 2005, would be held at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, respectively.

#### New Officers and Board

The officers and Board of Directors of the ITMS for 1999-2001 were announced by outgoing president Thomas Del Prete at the Town Meeting on Saturday, June 12 during the ITMS Sixth General Meeting at St. Jerome's University, Waterloo, Ontario. Officers are Christine M. Bochen, president; Dewey Weiss Kramer, vice president; Sidney Griffith, treasurer; and Barbara Cliff Stoodley, secretary. Members of the Board are Patrick Eastman, Robert Grip, George Kilcourse, Victor A. Kramer, Bonnie Thurston and Monica Weis, SSJ; as past president, Thomas Del Prete will also continue to serve as a voting member of the Board.

The new president, **Christine Bochen**, is Professor of Religious Studies at Nazareth College, Rochester, NY, where she has taught since 1968. She is a founding member of the ITMS, and has served the society as a two-term board member and as its first secretary. She edited both the fourth volume of Merton's letters, *The Courage for Truth*, and the sixth volume of the complete Merton journals, *Learning to Love*.

**Dewey Kramer** will be serving her second term as ITMS vice president. A founding member of the ITMS and a founding editor of *The Merton Annual*, she is professor of German and Humanities at Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston, GA.

**Sidney H. Griffith, ST**, the new treasurer, is professor of Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literatures at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He serves as secretary general of the Institute of Christian Oriental Research at CU, and has written extensively on Merton and Islam.

**Barbara Cliff Stoodley**, the new secretary, lives in Wilmington, DE, and has served as facilitator for the "What Merton Means to Me" session at the ITMS Third General Meeting, as a member of the Program Committee for the ITMS Fourth General

Meeting and as mentor for the Daggy Youth Scholars at the ITMS Fifth General Meeting.

**Patrick Eastman** is a married Catholic priest of the Diocese of Tulsa, OK, where he was diocesan Director of Spirituality for twelve years. He has been the editor of *Monos Journal* since its inception eleven years ago.

**Robert Grip**, anchor for WALA-TV in Mobile, AL, served as Program Chair for the ITMS Fifth General Meeting at Spring Hill College in Mobile, and as a member of the Program Committee for the ITMS Sixth General Meeting, where he presented the "First Timers' Session."

**George A. Kilcourse**, a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY and Professor of Theology at Bellarmine College, is serving his second term as a member of the Board, of which he is the former treasurer. He is co-editor of *The Merton Annual*, and author of *Ace of Freedoms: Thomas Merton's Christ*.

**Victor A. Kramer**, director of the Aquinas Center for Catholic Studies at Emory University, Atlanta, GA, is a founding member of the ITMS and a former Board member. He is author of *Thomas Merton, Monk and Artist* and editor of the fourth volume of the complete Merton journals, *Turning Toward the World*, and also serves as co-editor of *The Merton Annual*.

**Bonnie B. Thurston** is professor of New Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She is a founding member of the ITMS and previously served as ITMS secretary, vice president and president.

**Monica Weis, SSJ**, Professor of English at Nazareth College, Rochester, NY, has served as vice president of the ITMS, as Program Chair for the ITMS Fourth General Meeting, and as coordinator of both the Shannon Fellowship and the Daggy Youth Scholarship programs.

#### International Advisors

ITMS President Christine M. Bochen has announced that ITMS members from six nations on five continents will serve the Society as International Advisors for 1999-2001. They are

Fernando Beltrán Llavador, Salamanca, Spain; Waldecy Gonçalves, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Beth Goodwin-O'Neal, Mascot, New South Wales, Australia; Michael W. Higgins, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada; Paul M. Pearson, London, England; and John Wu, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC.

Fernando Beltrán teaches at the University of Salamanca, and is the author of *La Contemplación en la Acción: Thomas Merton*, as well as the translator of Thomas Merton's *Honorable Reader* into Spanish. He previously served as an International Advisor in 1993-95 and 1997-99.

Waldecy Gonçalves is the primary organizer of the Brazilian Chapter of the ITMS. He is serving his second term as International Advisor.

Beth Goodwin-O'Neal is a social activist and teacher who works with aboriginal Australians. She was a featured speaker at the ITMS Fifth General Meeting, and is serving her second term as an ITMS International Advisor.

Michael W. Higgins is President of St. Jerome's University, Waterloo, Ontario, and served as site coordinator for the ITMS Sixth General Meeting. He is author of *Heretic Blood: The Spiritual Geography of Thomas Merton*.

Paul Pearson, librarian at the University of London, is the secretary of the Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain and Ireland. He has served as an International Advisor since 1993.

John Wu lives and teaches in Taipei, Taiwan. He speaks and writes extensively on Thomas Merton and eastern thought. He previously served as International Advisor in 1991-1993.

#### "Louies" Awarded

The 1999 Thomas Merton Awards, informally known as "Louies," were presented by ITMS President Thomas Del Prete during the banquet on June 10 at the ITMS Sixth General Meeting at St. Jerome's University, Waterloo, Ontario. The award, a bronze bust of Thomas Merton created by sculptor David Kocka, is given at each ITMS General Meeting in three categories. The International Award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution on an international level to the promotion of Merton's

writings and to the presentation of his ideas: this year's winner is Paul M. Pearson. The Thomas Merton Award is given to an individual who has written and published in the period between the General Meetings a work on Merton and his concerns that has brought provocative insight and fresh direction to Merton Studies: this year's winner is Brother Patrick Hart, OCSO. The Society Award is given to a member of the International Thomas Merton Society whose distinguished service has contributed to the aims of the Society and to the furthering of its goals: this year's co-winners are Patrick O'Connell and Erlinda Paguio.

Paul Pearson, librarian at the University of London, is the secretary of the Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain and Ireland and an International Advisor of the ITMS. He has been the coordinator of the two previous General Meetings of the TMS and will also coordinate the upcoming third TMS General Meeting at Oakham School in March, 2000. He also oversees the TMS website.

Brother Patrick Hart has served as General Editor of the Thomas Merton Journals, and received the award to mark the completion of the project and for his editing of the seventh and final volume, *The Other Side of the Mountain*. He served as Thomas Merton's last secretary, as the long-time liaison for the Abbey of Gethsemani on Merton matters, and as editor for a large number of volumes by and about Merton, including *The Asian Journal*, *Contemplation in a World of Action*, *The Monastic Journey*, *The School of Charity* (Letters, vol. 3), *Run to the Mountain*, *Thomas Merton, Monk: A Monastic Tribute*, *The Legacy of Thomas Merton*, and *The Message of Thomas Merton*.

Patrick O'Connell, Associate Professor of English and of Theology at Gannon University, Erie, PA is a founding member of the ITMS. He has been a Board member, vice president, and fifth president of the Society. He served as site coordinator for the ITMS Fourth General Meeting at St. Bonaventure University, Olean, NY, and as program chair for the ITMS Sixth General Meeting. He is currently editor of *The Merton Seasonal*.

Erlinda Paguio, Research Coordinator of the University of Louisville Office of Development, served three terms as ITMS Treasurer (1993-1999), and has also been the ITMS representative on the Board of the Thomas Merton Center Foundation, on which she served as secretary. She gave the Springboard address at the ITMS Sixth General Meeting.

#### **Shannon Fellows Announced**

At the June 10 meeting of the ITMS Board of Directors, Monica Weis, SSJ, chair of the Shannon Fellowship committee, announced the names of the three winners of the 1999 fellowships. They are Sheila Hempstead Milton, Andrei Kirilenkov, and Sister Colleen O'Sullivan. The Shannon Fellowship program was established in 1997 in honor of 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 College or other archival collections. This year's selection committee included Sidney Griffith, Ross Labrie and Monica Weis.

This year's fellowship winners and their projects include:

- Sheila Hempstead Milton, of Saunderson, RI, who will use her award to research the correspondence of Merton's parents, Owen Merton and Ruth Jenkins Merton;
- Andrei Kirilenkov, of the Moscow chapter of the Merton Society, who will use his award to continue his long-term translation and publishing project of Merton primary and secondary materials;
- Sr. Colleen O'Sullivan, RSJ, of the Australian Catholic University, who will use her award to pursue research in the US on her doctoral dissertation on the poetry of Merton, entitled "A Significant Solitude."

**The deadline for applications for Shannon Fellowships for 2000-2001 is March 15, 2000.** 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 \$20, 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.

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;
- 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 the selection committee chair, Dr. Monica Weis, SSJ, Department of English, Nazareth College, 4245 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618-3790. The committee's decisions will be announced to the ITMS Board of Directors at their June, 2000 meeting and will be communicated to applicants shortly thereafter.

#### **Daggy Scholarships Awarded**

Ten young people were able to attend the ITMS Sixth General Meeting at St. Jerome's University, Waterloo, Ontario as recipients of Daggy Youth Scholarships. These awards, in honor of the late

Robert E. Daggy, long-time director of the Bellarmine College 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.

This year's recipients included: Jeff Giraldo, a recent college graduate from Tsailie, AZ; Stephen R. McEvoy, a college student from Waterloo, Ontario; Bradley Mattingly, a recent college graduate from Lebanon, KY; Daniel Mattingly, a recent college graduate from Raywick, KY (who was also a presenter at the conference along with his cousin Brad); Thomas N. Murphy, a college student from Spencer, MA; Leah Szabo, a graduate student from White Rock, British Columbia; Ed Schmidt, a high school senior from Kitchener, Ontario; Cristobal Serran-Pagán, a graduate student from Quincy, MA, who served as coordinator of the group; Brenda Tighe, a college student from Waterloo, Ontario; Kathleen Whittle, a college student from Boca Raton, FL.

A special gathering of Daggy recipients along with conference speakers and ITMS leaders on Saturday evening of the conference provided an opportunity for the students to interact with one another and with Merton scholars in an informal setting.

Responses from scholarship winners indicated their appreciation and enthusiasm for the opportunity to participate in the General Meeting. One wrote, "Meeting so many people from such varied backgrounds, all with an interest in Thomas Merton, is a memory that I'll never forget. I'm honored and privileged to have been a 1999 Daggy Scholarship participant." Another wrote, "The Daggy Youth Scholarship allowed me to be part of a wonderful group of young people who were as eager as I was to learn more about Thomas Merton." Another expressed his appreciation for "the flood of new friendships that have started here," and added, "I've had a spark of interest in Merton for many years, and the ITMS conference has turned that spark into a forest fire."

### Reading Notebooks Project

The working notebooks of Thomas Merton, a collection of about fifty handwritten volumes containing Merton's excerpts from and summaries of his reading from his earliest days in the monastery through the final year of his life, have now been scanned into electronic form. The project has been undertaken by the Pitts Theology Library at Emory University, Atlanta, GA, in collaboration with the Thomas Merton Center of Bellarmine College and the Merton Legacy Trust.

The next stage of the project will be to produce transcriptions of all the material so that it will be more readily available to Merton scholars on CD-ROM. According to M. Patrick Graham, director of the Pitts Library, "The goal of the project is to produce page images of the notebooks and link each of those pages with a fully searchable transcription. In this way we can make the notebooks, complete with searchable texts, fully accessible to Merton scholars and students throughout the world."

A sample of the project, facsimile images accompanied by a digitized, annotated and fully searchable version of Merton's "Red Diary" dating from ca. 1964-65, transcribed by Jonathan Montaldo and Erasmo Leiva-Merikakis, is currently viewable on the Internet through the Pitts Library at [http://chaucer.library.emory.edu/merton/Red\\_Diary\\_Home.html](http://chaucer.library.emory.edu/merton/Red_Diary_Home.html).

### TMS General Meeting at Oakham

The Third General Meeting of the Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain and Ireland will take place at Oakham School, Rutland, England, April 7-9, 2000. The theme of the conference is "A Mind Awake in the Dark," taken from Merton's description of himself in his essay, "Day of a Stranger."

Featured presenters include Lawrence Cunningham, Bonnie Thurston, and Bishop Dominic Walker. In addition to concurrent sessions and workshops, the program includes readings of Merton's poetry and performance of a selection of songs from the Niles-Merton song cycle.

Like the successful 1998 conference, this Third General Meeting will take place at Oakham School, Merton's *alma mater*. Conference fees, including registration, room, board and conference dinner, are £105 for TMS/ITMS members, £110 for non-members, with a £5 reduction on all bookings received by 1 March 2000. Single day registration (including lunch) is £25. For further information contact Paul M. Pearson, The Thomas Merton Society, 18 Colby Road, Upper Norwood, London. SE19-1HA, UK; e-mail: [p.pearson@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:p.pearson@ucl.ac.uk).

#### Awards and Rewards

ITMS President Christine M. Bochen has been appointed to the Kilian and Caroline F. Schmitt Endowed Chair at Nazareth College for the period 1999-2001. This award will permit Dr. Bochen to pursue her research on Thomas Merton with a reduced teaching load.

\*\*\*\*\*

Michael Higgins' book *Heretic Blood: The Spiritual Geography of Thomas Merton* was awarded first place in the non-fiction (historical/biographical) category in June 1999 at the Canadian Christian Writing Awards ceremony.

\*\*\*\*\*

On May 25, Tom Fogarty, former director of the Auburn, NY ITMS Chapter, donated over 100 books by and about Thomas Merton to Tyburn Academy, the local Catholic high school, to increase knowledge about Thomas Merton among young people.

#### Merton Happenings

On March 22, Bellarmine College sponsored "An Evening with Czeslaw Milosz," Merton friend and correspondent and Nobel laureate poet. Milosz began his presentation before a gathering of four hundred by saying, "I visited the Thomas Merton Center today. Looking at the photographs and the journals I felt as if I was in Merton's presence again. I am honored to share my poetry at the home of the Thomas Merton Center." On the following day Milosz also visited the Abbey of Gethsemani.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Thomas Merton Center of Bellarmine College sponsored a Weekend of Insight Meditation April 9-11 with the Venerable Henepola Gunaratana, a native of Sri Lanka who has been a Buddhist monk in the Theravadan tradition for over fifty years. Author of *Mindfulness in Plain English*, he has served as a chaplain at American University in Washington, DC, from which he received his Ph.D., since 1973.

\*\*\*\*\*

On April 14, the Thomas Merton Center Foundation sponsored a day-long conference on "Merton and Sufism: The Untold Story," in conjunction with the publication by Fons Vitae Press of the book of the same title, edited by Rob Baker and Gray Henry. Speakers included Sidney Griffith, Nicole Abadie, Shems Friedlander, and Seyyed Hossein Nasr,

\*\*\*\*\*

As part of the "World Mystics Lecture Series" at the Center for Spirituality and the Arts, San Antonio, TX, Sylvia Maddox spoke on April 27 about the life and work of Thomas Merton; the Center is sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.

\*\*\*\*\*

The life and work of Thomas Merton was a major focus of the 1999 Midwest Meeting of the Conference of Christianity and Literature, held April 16-17 at Campbellsville University, Campbellsville, KY. The concluding general session was devoted to Merton, and featured two presentations, "Keeping Pace with his Companion: Thomas Merton and Henry Thoreau" by Patrick O'Connell, and "The Many Lives of Thomas Merton" by Rev. Dan K. Phillips. After lunch, the participants traveled to the Abbey of Gethsemani, where they participated in the afternoon office (nones), viewed the video "Merton: A Film Biography," and heard an informal talk about Merton and Gethsemani by Fr. Matthew Kelty, OCSO.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Thomas Merton Center Foundation sponsored a lecture at Bellarmine College on June

18 on "Thomas Merton and Interreligious Dialogue" by Dr. Ewert Cousins, general editor of the multi-volume *World Spirituality: An Encyclopedic History of the Religious Quest*.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Smithsonian Associates "Campus on the Mall" educational program for Summer 1999 included a six-week course (July 7-August 11) on "Thomas Merton: Life and Spirituality" taught by John Farrelly, OSB of St. Anselm's Abbey, Washington, DC.

\*\*\*\*\*

Esther de Waal, author of *A Seven-Day Journey with Thomas Merton*, led a retreat on "Thomas Merton - Prophetic Contemplative" at Ampleforth Abbey, Yorkshire, England, from August 31 to September 3.

\*\*\*\*\*

Fr. Paul Ruttle, CP led a retreat on Merton's spiritual teaching at the Bishop Malloy Passionist Retreat Center, Jamaica, NY, September 17-19.

#### **Henri Nouwen Society Formed**

A September 1998 retreat in Toronto, attended by some fifty people, marked the formation of the new "Henri Nouwen Society," which is dedicated to preserving and promoting the legacy of the Dutch-born priest, psychologist and spiritual writer who has been called, with C. S. Lewis and Thomas Merton, one of the most influential Christian writers of the century.

Nouwen taught at Notre Dame, Harvard and Yale, spent extensive periods of time at the Trappist Monastery of the Genesee and in Latin America, and worked for the final decade of his life at Daybreak, a L'Arche community for the mentally disabled near Toronto. He published more than forty books on various aspects of the life of faith before his death in September 1996.

Nouwen was deeply influenced by Thomas Merton and quotes him frequently in his books. His book *Pray to Live: Thomas Merton, Contemplative Critic* (1972), originally written for a Dutch audience and later translated into English, was one of the earliest secondary works on Merton and introduced many to the thought of the Trappist

contemplative.

Based in New York, the Nouwen Society plans to publish a newsletter and to establish a board of directors that will encourage regional, national and international gatherings to explore and celebrate Nouwen's life and work. Society president Wendy Greer emphasizes that the core group of people who knew Nouwen personally is committed to sharing and developing his legacy among a wider group of readers and seekers. For further information contact the Henri Nouwen Society, P.O. Box 523, Ansonia Station, New York, N.Y. 10023.

In a related effort, the Henri Nouwen Literary Centre, based at Daybreak in Richmond Hill, Ontario, the repository of much of Nouwen's later correspondence and other materials, is publishing a newsletter edited by Sue Mosteller, CSJ, Nouwen's long-time coworker and literary executrix, entitled *Sprouting Seeds*. The first issue of the newsletter, and other material about the Centre, can be accessed on the Internet at [www.hnlc.org](http://www.hnlc.org). The Centre has been working closely with Merton Legacy Trustee Tommie O'Callaghan and with the Merton Center at Bellarmine College in its organization and planning process.

#### **Prades Trip Planned**

A pilgrimage to Prades, France, the birthplace of Thomas Merton, will take place May 16-25, 2000, sponsored by the Humanities Department at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia. The trip will also include trips of other significant Merton sites in the south of France, including the Abbey of St. Michel de Cuxa, and the towns of St. Antonin and Montauban (which will include a brief stop at the Lycée Ingres, Merton's boarding school). The trip will include lectures, discussions, art sessions, ample free time, and a chance to meet local members of the International Thomas Merton Society.

Leaders of the pilgrimage will be Donald Grayston, author of *Thomas Merton: The Making of a Spiritual Theologian*; Donna Kristoff, OSU, artist and art teacher and former member of the ITMS Board of Directors; and Fr. George Kilcourse, author of *Ace of Freedoms: Thomas*

Merton's Christ and a current member of the ITMS Board.

For further information contact Donald Grayston at 604-291-5516; he may also be reached by email at <donald\_grayston@sfu.ca>.

### Chapter News

The Cincinnati Chapter celebrates its first anniversary in September. Recent programs at its monthly meetings have included a presentation by Rev. Henry Marksberry on his personal journey with Merton, a discussion on Merton led by Don Sheehan, and a discussion of Merton's journal entries at the Mim Tea Estate. For further information contact **Tony Russo**, 8087 Bridgetown Road, Cleves, OH 45002.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Louisville Chapter recently hosted a talk by John Dorsey, formerly Brother Clement, the cellarer of the Abbey of Gethsemani during Merton's last years there. For further information contact **Erlinda Pagnio**, 7317 Honiasant Road, Louisville, KY 40214.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Orlando Chapter has been meeting six times yearly since its beginnings in 1990 to discuss ideas related to the writing of Merton. For the past seven years, the chapter has sponsored a Thomas Merton scholarship for a needy student at the University of Central Florida, who has received a check for \$300 or more, along with information on Merton. For further information contact **Adele Ruquoi**, 200 Greenwood Road, Maitland, FL 32751.

\*\*\*\*\*

To celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pittsburgh's Thomas Merton Center, an official ITMS chapter, and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ploughshares 8 resistance action, silk screen (serigraph) reproductions of Corita Kent's "Hope" are being made available with a special dedication by the artist: "for our world and for our children, the Plowshares Eight, Daniel Berrigan, Philip Berrigan, Dean Hammer, Father Carl Kabat, Elmer Maas, Anne Montgomery, Molly Rush, John Schuchardt." The print features a green foliage foreground, and a spring lilac background, creating the impression of

white crocus in bloom, with the statement "we are filled with hope." For further information contact Polito Productions, c/o The Thomas Merton Center, 5125 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15224.

\*\*\*\*\*

The San Rafael, CA Chapter continues to hold its monthly Thomas Merton Reflection Evenings at the Santa Sabina Center; the focus of this year's meetings will be the fifth volume of Merton's Journals, *Dancing in the Waters of Life*. A retreat with Jonathan Montaldo entitled "The Intimate Merton: His Life from His Journals" is scheduled for May 19-21, 2000. For further information contact **Harriet Hope**, Santa Sabina Center, 25 Magnolia Avenue, San Rafael, CA 94901.

\*\*\*\*\*

On April 10, the Washington Chapter sponsored a presentation by Br. Patrick Hart at St. Anselm's Abbey School Auditorium. For further information contact **Mary K. Stanford**, 5953 Searl Terrace, Bethesda, MD 20816.

\*\*\*\*\*

The fifteenth annual retreat weekend of the Thomas Merton Friends in Flanders, the Netherlands will take place October 8-10 at the Cistercian Abbey of Our Lady in Orval (south Belgium). Fr. Lode Vanhecke will speak on Thomas Merton and St. Bernard. For further information contact **Constant Broos**, Rue St.-Hubert, B-5100, Dave, Belgium.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain and Ireland is sponsoring a one-day conference on October 9 at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies entitled "Thomas Merton's Vision of the East and West in Christianity." Speakers will be Canon A. M. Allchin and Jim Forest. For further information contact **Paul M. Pearson**, The Thomas Merton Society, 18 Colby Road, Upper Norwood, London. SE19-1HA, UK; e-mail: p.pearson@ucl.ac.uk.

**Send all Merton related news to:**

**Pat O'Connell**

**Box 3219**

**Gannon University, Erie, PA 16541**

**email: oconnell001@gannon.edu.**