

International Thomas Merton Society

NEWSLETTER

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Art: Jim Cantrell

Merton Retreats Scheduled

Seven ITMS-sponsored retreats will be held at various sites throughout the US and in Spain in the coming months. This is the third time that the Merton Society has sponsored regional retreats during the years when a General Meeting is not held. This year the retreats were organized by local ITMS chapters with the assistance of the ITMS Retreats Committee: Walt Chura, Judith Hardcastle, and ITMS Resident Secretary Jonathan Montaldo. All interested persons, both ITMS members and non-members, are invited and encouraged to participate. As with previous retreats, the theme is taken from the preceding year's General Meeting: this year's theme is "Magnetic North / True North: Geography Beyond Boundaries."

This year's retreats, in chronological order, include:

- **June 24-25, 2000.** This retreat will take place at the Maria Center, 336 East Ripa Ave., St. Louis, MO 63125 and is sponsored by the St. Louis Chapter; the retreat director will be **Dorothy LeBeau**, Associate Academic Dean and Dean of Lay Students, St. Meinrad School of Theology, and co-editor of *The Merton Annual* 14. Cost is \$45 for registration and five meals (additional fee for overnight guests). For further information contact Pauline Pearson – phone 314-831-8032; email: paulinewp@hotmail.com.
- **September 8-10, 2000.** This retreat will take place in the Adirondack Mountain region of New York State, at the Pyramid Life Center, Paradox, NY 12858 and is sponsored by the Capital Region (NY) Chapter; the retreat director will be **Walt Chura**, who teaches Religious Studies at the College of St. Rose and regularly speaks and writes on the Catholic Worker, the Shakers and Merton. Cost is \$110. For further information – phone: 518-426-4284 (until June 24); 518-585-7545 (after June 24); e-mail: monphy@juno.com.
- **September 8-10, 2000.** This retreat will take place at the Monastery of the Holy Cross, 31st and Aberdeen, Chicago, and is sponsored by the Chicago Chapter; the retreat director will be **Jonathan Montaldo**, Director of the Thomas Merton Center and co-editor of *The Intimate Merton*. Cost is \$35 registration (limited overnight accommodations extra). For further information contact Gail Wallace – phone: 815-937-0556; fax: 815-937-4072.
- **September 14-17, 2000.** This retreat will take place at the Cistercian Abbey of Nuestra Señora de Viaceli, Cóbrecas, Cantabria, Spain. The retreat director is **Fernando Beltrán Llavador**, ITMS International Advisor and Spanish translator of Merton. For further information contact Father Francisco Rafael de Pascual, OCSO – phone: 34-942-725017; fax: 34-942-725086; email: revcistercium@planalta.es.
- **October 6-8, 2000.** This retreat will take place at the Franciscan Center, 459 River Road, Andover, MA 01810 and is sponsored by the Massachusetts Chapter; the retreat director will be **Walt Chura**. Cost is \$150.

For further information – phone: 978-851-3391.

- **October 6-8, 2000.** This retreat will take place at the Jesuit Spiritual Center at Milford, Ohio and is co-sponsored by the Cincinnati Chapter and the Jesuit Spiritual Center; the retreat director will be **Rev. George Kilcourse**, ITMS Board member and author of *Ace of Freedoms: Thomas Merton's Christ*. Cost is \$125 [\$50 needed to reserve a spot with final payment due four weeks before the retreat; checks can be made out to: Cincinnati Chapter, ITMS]. For further information contact Tony Russo – phone: 513-941-5219; e-mail: trusso@fuse.net 8087.
- **January 5-7, 2001.** This retreat will take place at Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside, CA and is sponsored by the San Diego Chapter; the retreat directors will be **Fr. Max Oliva**, SJ, author of five books, including *Free to Pray, Free to Love* (Ave Maria Press, 1994), and **Dorothy Hulbert**, speaker at LA Religious Education Congress, Whispering Winds retreat for women, US Bishops' Conference, etc. Cost is \$150. For further information contact Pat Hulbert – phone: 858-490-0507; email: pathulbert@webtv.net.

Merton's Merton

The Thomas Merton Center and the Thomas Merton Center Foundation now have a website in operation. It can be accessed at [www. Merton.org](http://www.Merton.org). The opening web page features Merton's prayer from *Thoughts in Solitude*, "My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going, . . ." and alternating John Howard Griffin photographs of Merton. The site includes a brief biographical sketch of Merton; a section entitled "Why Merton?" on Merton's lasting significance; a summary of "Merton's Message and Its Value for Individuals and Society"; and a bibliography of Merton works. A section on the Thomas Merton Center includes a history of the Center; a history of the Merton

collection at the Center, including Merton's November 1963 statement "Concerning the Collection in the Bellarmine Library"; programs and retreats directed by Merton Center Director Jonathan Montaldo; information on visiting the Merton Center; and information on joining the International Thomas Merton Society. A section on the Thomas Merton Center Foundation includes information on the history of the Foundation; the TMCF Mission Statement; information on ways to support the Foundation; information on videotapes and other items available from the Foundation; and information on current programs sponsored by the Foundation. The website, which includes numerous graphics and photos, was constructed by Suzanne M. Harker.

Other important Merton-related websites include:

- The Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain and Ireland webpage, which can be accessed at www.ucl.ac.uk/~ucylpmp/home.htm. In addition to information on the British/Irish Merton Society, its aims, membership, and activities, this site, maintained by Paul Pearson since 1996, includes information on the ITMS, an extensive list of recent publications by and about Merton, a bibliography of theses and dissertations on Merton, a number of electronic publications on Merton, information on Owen Merton including full-color reproductions of fourteen of his paintings, and an extensive list of links to other Merton-related websites.
- The St. Bonaventure University Thomas Merton Archives, which can be accessed at web.sbu.edu/friedsam/mertonweb/index.html. This site includes a description of Thomas Merton's time as a faculty member at St. Bonaventure (1940-1941), a photograph and description of the St. Bonaventure campus at the time of Merton's stay there, short biographical sketches of Franciscan Fathers Philotheus Boehner, Irenaeus Herscher and Thomas Plassman, important influences on

Merton, and a detailed description of the holdings of the St. Bonaventure Merton Archives, including major original texts, manuscript notebooks, letters and other texts, as well as a list of the books owned by Thomas Merton and left to the St. Bonaventure Library when Merton went to Gethsemani in 1941.

- The Columbia Rare Book and Manuscript Library Merton archive, which can be accessed at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/libraries/indiv/rare/guides/Merton>. This contains a short biography of Merton and a detailed list of manuscripts and other original or rare materials in the library collection, much of it coming from the extensive Sr. Thérèse Lentfoehr Collection of Merton materials, with other materials included in the Mark Van Doren collection.
- The "Thomas Merton – Monk and Poet" website is maintained by Rev. Dan K. Philips and can be accessed at <http://go.to/merton>. It includes a brief Merton biography, a number of quotations, lists of Merton retreats by Dan Phillips and others, personal reflections including "The Abbey of Gethsemani – A Pilgrimage" and "A Visit to Merton's Grave."
- The Abbey of Gethsemani site, which can be accessed at <http://www.monks.org/default.htm> has a page devoted to Thomas Merton that is mainly links to other sites, but also has material on history of the order and of the abbey, on a typical monastic day, and on making retreats at the abbey, as well as numerous homilies of Fr. Matthew Kelly.
- The Firewatch site, which can be accessed at <http://140.190.128.190/merton/merton.html> is dedicated to distributing information on the works of Thomas Merton and on religious contemplation in general. This group is affiliated with the Merton Research Consortium, a loosely coupled association of groups, centers, institutes, and organizations with an interest in the contemplative life. Questions, comments, or suggestions about

this server can be addressed to Wes Miller, ObJN at wmillers@smumn.edu.

- The Merton-I discussion list, located at Marshall University, Huntington, WV, and sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies at Marshall, can be accessed at <http://webpages.marshall.edu/~altany/merton-i.htm>. The purpose of Merton-I is to foster, encourage, advance, and communicate research on the spiritual and contemplative life. Merton-I is a forum for substantive discourse on research and scholarly inquiry to create and develop knowledge about contemplative and spiritual life within and across multiple traditions, disciplines, and professions. Merton-I was founded in 1995 by Dr. Ermel Stepp. This list continues in the spirit of Dr. Stepp, who died in 1997, and is now maintained by Prof. Alan Altany. In order to foster, encourage, advance, and communicate research on contemplative life Merton-I has three topic channels, two of which all subscribers are initially subscribed by default. Subscribers may change their subscriptions to receive only those topic channels they choose. The three Merton-I channels are: T1: Merton and Monasticism (facilitator: Gary Horn: ghorn@uswest.com) – T1 is the channel that is dedicated solely to study, review, discussion, and reflection on the writings and life of Thomas Merton and the monastic life. Questions and inquiries about the life and writings of Thomas Merton, individual comments on Merton, are to be addressed to the T1 channel. T3: Living Spirituality (facilitator: Andre B. Heuer: hear@mr.net) – the intent of this channel is to create opportunities for reflection, investigation, and research of the spiritual and contemplative life; the focus of T3 is on the practice and theories found in traditional and contemporary spiritualities. T4: Learning Forum (leader: sponsored by topic channel facilitator) – the purpose of the learning

forum is to present topics of an intensive and focused nature in the format of essays to promote in-depth discussion while allowing the normal flow of discussions on the other topic channels; members must request permission of a facilitator to conduct such a series; special guests may be invited to participate on T4; T4 must be subscribed to and is not a default channel. To subscribe to merton-l send email to: listserv@WVNM.WVNET.EDU containing the sole line of text: `subscribe merton-l Your_first_name Your_last_name` (substituting your own real first and last names, of course).

Mahanambrata Bramachari (1904-1999)

Dr. Mahanambrata Bramachari, an important influence on Thomas Merton's early religious development, died in Calcutta, India on October 18, 1999 at the age of 94. He was born on December 25, 1904 in a village in East Bengal, now part of Bangladesh. He became a Hindu monk, received master's degrees in Sanskrit and in Western philosophy from the University of Calcutta, then was sent by his monastery to a conference of the World Fellowship of Faiths in Chicago in 1933. He became the Fellowship's international secretary and remained in the West until 1939, earning a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Chicago in 1937. He gave frequent lectures on college campuses during this period on aspects of Hindu thought, on Indian society and culture, and on the work of Gandhi and the struggle for Indian independence. He met Thomas Merton and his friends from Columbia University in 1938, and is credited by Merton in his autobiography, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, with playing an important part in his road to conversion by encouraging him to read St. Augustine's *Confessions* and *The Imitation of Christ*. Dr. Bramachari returned to India early in 1939 and resumed his monastic life, which included frequent writing and lecturing. He

belonged to the neo-Vaishnavist tradition, which focuses on the worship of God in the form of Vishnu and his various incarnations. After Indian independence in 1948 and the division of the subcontinent into predominantly Hindu India and largely Muslim Pakistan, Dr. Bramachari remained in what was then East Pakistan, working for peace and reconciliation and providing support to the Hindu minority in the area, which in 1971 became Bangladesh. Much of his later life was spent in Calcutta, in the Indian section of Bengal. In a tribute to Brahmachari, Merton wrote that he was living evidence "that one can and must entrust himself to a higher and unseen Wisdom, and that if one can relax his frantic hold on the illusory securities of everyday material existence and abandon himself peacefully to a Supreme Will, he will himself find freedom and peace in that Will."

Merton Retreat 2000

The Thomas Merton Center Foundation is sponsoring Merton Retreat 2000 from May 29 through June 1, a gathering of internationally prominent political and spiritual leaders at the Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani for four days of interaction and personal reflection. Among more than a dozen leaders invited are Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; James Lawson, noted civil rights activist; Sr. Helen Prejean, death penalty opponent and author of *Dead Man Walking*; John Dear, SJ, Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and most recently author of *The Sound of Listening*; Barbara Mikulski, US Senator from Maryland; and Letitia Shanini, President of the Philippine Senate. On June 2, the Merton Retreat 2000 Public Forum will be held at St. Stephen's Baptist Church, Louisville, KY, where many of the leaders will be available to discuss the results of the retreat and answer questions and respond to comments. Further information is available from Director Robert Toth by phone at 502-452-8187 or by email at rtoth@bellarmine.edu.

Sophia on CD

ITMS member Sr. Kathleen Deignan's new CD, entitled *Bride Spirit: Songs of the Beloved*, which includes her song "Sophia Is Gift," based on Thomas Merton's *Hagia Sophia*, is now available from Credence Communications, PO Box 22582, Kansas City, MO 64113; phone: 888-595-8273; fax: 816-333-0900; three other of Sr. Kathleen's CDs/cassettes and a CD sampler are also available from the same publisher. "Sophia Is Gift" was a featured part of the opening Prayer Service at the "Conversions of Thomas Merton" Conference in November 1998 at Corpus Christi Church.

Merton in South Africa

ITMS Board member Fr. George Kilcourse and Merton Center Director Jonathan Montaldo attended the World Parliament of Religions in Capetown, South Africa December 1-8, 1999. Each spoke at concurrent sessions on the life and work of Thomas Merton. Their trip was sponsored by the Thomas Merton Center Foundation.

Jonathan Montaldo's presentation was entitled "The 'Work of the Cell' and the World's 'Heart Work' in Thomas Merton's Confessional Writing." Fr. Kilcourse's presentation was entitled "When the Heart is Right: Thomas Merton on the Contemplative's Contribution to Interreligious Dialogue." The full text of both presentations is available on the Merton Center Foundation website, www.merton.org.

Poetry Contest Winners

The winning poems for the Second Annual Merton Prize for Poetry of the Sacred, sponsored by the Thomas Merton Center Foundation, have been announced by Foundation Director Robert Toth. The Best Poem prize of \$500 was awarded to Misha Feigin of Louisville, KY. Honorable

Mention prizes of \$50 were awarded to Michael Henson of Cincinnati, OH, Thomas Vallie of Hendersonville, NC, and Kim Lockwood Johnson of Louisville, KY. This year's contest was judged by poet and essayist Kathleen Norris. The poems will be published in the Summer issue of *The Merton Seasonal*, and have also been posted on the Foundation's website, www.merton.org. Deadline for submissions to the Third Annual Merton Prize for Poetry of the Sacred is December 31, 2000.

Prayers for Peace

The Thomas Merton Center Foundation sponsored a program entitled "A Million Prayers for Peace for the New Millennium" as a concrete way of celebrating Thomas Merton's legacy. The program was begun with students of schools throughout the Louisville area and other people from many states and countries also contributed. As of mid-January, 1,531,891 prayers had been said for peace in the new millennium. Prayers can continue to be registered on the Merton Center Foundation website, www.merton.org.

Merton Hymnwriter

A Merton Study Day, jointly sponsored by Zion Episcopal Church and the Center for Teaching and Learning at St. John's University, was held October 16, 1999 at the church, located in Douglaston, Queens, NY and mentioned in Merton's autobiography; leaders were Professor Julia Upton of St. John's and Fr. Patrick Holtkamp of Zion.

On January 29, Abbot John Eudes Bamberger, OCSO spoke to an audience of close to four hundred people at Corpus Christi Church in New York City on "Thomas Merton and Henri Nouwen: Living with God in America." Fr. Bamberger, abbot of the Cistercian Abbey of the Genesee in Pifford, NY, was a student and colleague of

Thomas Merton and friend and spiritual director of Henri Nouwen. Respondents to the talk were Dr. Michael J. Christensen, director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Drew University, and Dr. Julia Upton, professor of theology and associate provost at St. John's University. The gathering, which commemorated the birth dates of the two noted spiritual writers, both born in late January, was co-sponsored by Corpus Christ Church, the Center for Spiritual Development, and the Henri Nouwen Society.

Rev. Dan K. Phillips led a Merton Retreat entitled "Thomas Merton – Speaking to Us in Today's World," at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in New Orleans, LA on March 18, 2000.

At the American Academy of Religion conference in Chicago, March 17-19, David Belcastro presented a revised version of his paper on Merton as trickster, first presented at the Sixth ITMS General Meeting in 1999.

Upcoming Events

On April 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville, KY, the Thomas Merton Center Foundation is sponsoring an organ meditation entitled "Le Chemin de la Croix" ("The Stations of the Cross") with music by Marcel Dupré and words by Paul Claudel. The organist is Abbot Francis Kline, OCSO of Mepkin Abbey, SC, and the reader is Jonathan Montaldo, director of the Thomas Merton Center, Bellarmine College. The event is free and open to the public.

Jonathan Montaldo will present a retreat on Thomas Merton May 19-21 based on the journal materials from *The Intimate Merton*, at the Santa Sabina Center, San Rafael, CA. For further information contact Harriet Hope: santasabina@aol.com

A one-day conference entitled "Growing into God: Thomas Merton's Pilgrim Path" will be held at St. Matthew's Church, Carver Street, Sheffield, UK on June 3. Canon A. M. Allchin will speak on "Thomas Merton and the Generosity of God" and Danny Sullivan on "Silent Action: Thomas Merton as Social Critic." For further information contact Fr. James Wheatley, 132 Hangingwater Road, Nether Green, Sheffield S11-7ES, UK; phone: 0114 230 2720.

On June 23-25, at the Dominican Conference Center, Chicago, IL, Jonathan Montaldo will direct a retreat based on the journal volume *The Intimate Merton*. For further information contact Ruth Mullins: rmullins@theramp.com

Fr. Patrick Collins will present a retreat on "The Spirituality of Thomas Merton" June 23-30 at the Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse, Cincinnati, OH. For further information contact the Sisters of Charity Spirituality Center, 5900 Delhi Road, Mount St. Joseph, OH 45051; phone: 513-347-5449; fax: 513-347-5467; email: scspsirctr@aol.com.

On July 21-23 Jonathan Montaldo will present a retreat entitled "Hiding in the Secret of God's Face: Witnessing Thomas Merton's Inner Work" at the Caraway Conference Center, Asheboro, NC. Registration fee – \$120; one-day fee for 7/22 – \$50. For further information call or e-mail Dorothy Gagnier: 919-477-4327; gagni001@mc.duke.edu.

Lawrence Cunningham will present a two-week focus course on "Thomas Merton: Spiritual Master" July 17-27 at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. For further information contact Linda Schultz, Department of Theological Studies, Loyola Marymount University, 7900 Loyola Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90045-8400; phone: 310-338-7772; fax: 310-338-1947; email lschultz@lmu.edu.

A forty-day Desert Experience following the principles of St. John of the Cross and Thomas Merton will take place at Lebh Shomea House of Prayer, Sarita, TX, June 21-July 31, led by Fr. Francis Kelly Nemeck, OMI, and Sr. Marie Theresa Coombs. For information contact Lebh Shomea, Box 9, Sarita, TX 78385; phone: 361-294-5369; fax: 361-294-5791; email: lebsho2rivnte.com.

Cistercian Weekend

The Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine College sponsored its second weekend conference on Cistercian Spirituality March 31-April 2. The conference offered a directed seminar in the reading and discussion of the writings of the Cistercian Fathers and Mothers, regular sharing in the liturgy of the daily office, and a visit to the Abbey of Gethsemani for Vespers and Compline. This year's director was John Sommerfeldt, distinguished Cistercian historian and Professor of History at the University of Dallas.

Chapter News

The San Diego Chapter meets monthly for dinner, a program and discussion of a common reading of a Merton work, and meets for centering prayer each of the other Thursdays of the month. For further information contact Patricia Hulbert, 2727 De Huza Road, K-36, San Diego, CA 92109.

The newly formed Boca Raton, Florida Chapter has been meeting monthly to discuss Merton's *Mystics and Zen Masters* and *Zen and the Birds of Appetite*. For further information contact Fr. Martin Devereaux, 3601 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton, FL 33431-5598; email: mdevereaux@lynn.edu.

The South West Florida Chapter meets every other month for reading and discussion of

Merton's writings. At the January meeting, Anne Coyle discussed the six-week summer course on Merton she attended at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. For further information contact Anne Coyle, 436 Harbor Drive South, Venice, FL 34285.

The Thomas Merton Society of Michiana sponsored a discussion of *The Intimate Merton* on February 24 by Rev. Paul Philibert, OP, director of the University of Notre Dame's Institute for Church Life. On April 14, the chapter will cosponsor a lecture by Mary Margaret Funk, OSB on her recent book, *Thoughts Matter*, a commentary on the *Institutes* of John Cassian; Sr. Mary Margaret will also give a day-long retreat on monastic practices on the following day. The Merton Book Group recently completed its discussion of *No Man Is An Island*, while the Peace and Justice Group continues to gather monthly for prayer on the site of a murder; two Contemplative Prayer groups meet weekly. A presentation by Tom Peterson, Ph.D. and Suzanne Zuercher, OSB on "Change of Heart - Merton's Encounter with M" is planned for the fall. For further information contact Jan Jenkins, 3621 Sullivan Court, South Bend, IN 46614.

The Lexington, KY Chapter used the Canadian Broadcasting Company audiobiography "Heretic Blood" and the recently published book *Thomas Merton and Sufism: The Untold Story* at their bimonthly meetings focused on "Thomas Merton: New Millennium Prophet." For further information contact Tom Mullaney: phone 606-266-2725; email tpmull1@uky.campuscwix.net.

The newly formed Mississippi Chapter of the Merton Society is sponsoring a retreat April 28-29 at Wood College in Mathiston, MS, led by Merton Center Director Jonathan Montaldo. The group also plans a visit to the Abbey of Gethsemani May 22-26, and will make a donation of books to the Gethsemani Retreat House Library at that time.

The group will meet four times a year to discuss Merton readings and/or listen to tapes by and about Merton; it will also sponsor a mission project of "Amazon Relief" by arranging for distribution to food, clothing, medical supplies and Portuguese New Testaments to Brazilian lepers. For further information contact John Staggs, 203 West Fox Ave., PO Box 556, Eupora, MS 39744; phone: 662-258-2611; email: wesley @ telapex.com

The St. Louis Chapter sponsored an informal evening on October 13 entitled "Memories of Merton" with Fr. James Conner, OCSO, who shared stories of his life with Thomas Merton at Gethsemani. The Merton Reading Group has been discussing *Thomas Merton: Spiritual Master*, edited by Lawrence Cunningham. For further information contact Pauline Pearson, 2220 Oriole Drive, Florissant, MO 63033; phone: 314-831-8032.

The Thomas Merton Society of the Capital Region (NY) commemorated the anniversary of Thomas Merton's simple (1944) and solemn (1947) profession of vows as a Trappist with a gathering at Abba House of Prayer in Albany on March 18. The group viewed the video *A Taste of Gethsemani*, a panel discussion with monks who were Merton's students in the monastery, followed by discussion and pot luck refreshments. The gathering also was a celebration of the fifth anniversary of the first TMSCR gathering at Abba House. For further information contact Walt Chura, 65 New Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12205.

The Cincinnati Chapter meets on the first Wednesday of every month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the First United Church of Christ, 5808 Glenview Avenue, Cincinnati 45224 (College Hill). (The group has been in existence for about ten years, and so did not recently celebrate its first anniversary as reported in the last *Newsletter*!) Recent meetings focused on "Merton and Asia Afar," led by Tony Russo; "Merton: His Journey to

the East in Light of his Enneagram Number" presented by Joyce Quinlan; "Healing and Spirituality," led by Steve (Br. Anthony) Distefano; and "Is Man A Gorilla With A Gun?" – a videotape of Rev. George Kilcourse's Merton Birthday Lecture of January 31, 2000. The topic of the April meeting is "Merton and Hinduism"; the discussion will be led by Tom Moser. For further information, contact Tony Russo, 8087 Bridgetown Road, Cleves, OH 45002; phone: 513-941-5219; fax: 513-941-5219; e-mail: trusso@fuse.net.

The Capitol University Chapter (Columbus, OH) completed its discussion of Merton's *Opening the Bible* at its February 20 meeting and will be discussing *Bread in the Wilderness* at its meetings through May. For further information contact Nancy Moore, 5915 Headley Road, Gahanna, OH 43230; email: nancymoore@landam.com.

The British Columbia Chapter continues to sponsor its series of public talks on various aspects of Merton and his work. On January 18, Lynn Szabo spoke on "Merton the Poet/Mystic"; on February 15, Jonathan Montaldo spoke on "The Witness of Thomas Merton's Inner Work"; on March 15, a one-act play entitled "Holding a Mirror to the Mountain" was performed by its author, Fr. Ed. Heidt, CSB; on March 21, Cynthia Bourgeault spoke on "Merton, Sufism, and the Point Vierge: Praying from the Innermost Centre"; on April 18, Gray Henry will speak on "Merton and Sufism: The Untold Story," and on June 20, Sheila Fodchuk will speak on "True Self, False Self: Mystical Aspects of Merton's Contemplative Prayer." For further information, contact Judith Hardcastle, 705-700 Chiles Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6G 2R1; phone: 604-683-4574, local 110.

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