

AWAKENING CONFERENCE  
 THOMAS MERTON CENTER/BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY  
 2001 NEWBURG ROAD  
 LOUISVILLE, KY 40205

### Other opportunities for movement, prayer and contemplation during the Conference:

- Live Jazz music
- Labyrinth--meditation, prayerful walk and opportunity for reflection/journaling
- Tai Chi--Lloyd Kelly, [www.lloydkellytaichi.com](http://www.lloydkellytaichi.com)
- Eucharist celebrated at Our Lady of the Woods chapel by Father Michael Casagram, OSCO

### As you make plans to attend the conference, allow time to enjoy...

- **KyCAD exhibition "Merton Among Us"**  
The 849 Gallery is located at 849 S Third Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40203
  - Conference attendees are invited to a reception and to visit the exhibition during special hours, **Sunday October 21st** (or before the conference on Friday October 19th, during regular hours 8 am to 5 pm).
  - The exhibit will feature interpretations of Merton by seven visual artists and seven guest writers.
  - Merton had an exhibit on Spalding University's campus in November of 1964—a series of 26 ink drawings, mostly calligraphic in nature.
  - A 40-page catalog about the exhibitions is being produced.
- **Extended hours for The Merton Center at Bellarmine:**  
Friday October 19th: 8 am–6:45 pm  
Saturday October 20th: 8 am–4 pm  
*Special displays relevant to Merton's death will be exhibited.*
- **Merton Square, 4th Street and Muhammad Ali Blvd.**  
Site of Merton's Epiphany on March 18, 1958 in downtown Louisville. Merton's mystical experience led him to become more involved in social justice issues like war, nuclear escalation and racism.

*In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers ... There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.*

*—Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*

## Conference Schedule

### Friday, October 19

**Extended hours for the Merton Center at Bellarmine**  
8 am–6:45 pm  
Special displays will be on view relevant to Merton's death.

**7:00 pm**  
"The Many Storeys and Last Days of Thomas Merton" film screening plus Q and A with filmmaker Morgan Atkinson

### Saturday, October 20

The Merton Center will be open 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

**7:30 am**  
Mass at Our Lady of The Woods Chapel on the Bellarmine campus celebrated by Fr. Michael Casagram, OSCO

**8:00 am**  
Registration and coffee in the Cralle Theater Lobby

**9:00 am**  
Monks, Merton, and Music  
Father Michael Casagram OSCO, Brother Paul Quenon, OSCO and Dick Sisto

**10:00 am**  
Coffee Break

**10:30 am Keynote Address**  
Preamble: Frederick Smock, Poet Laureate of Kentucky  
Address: Robert Ellsberg, "Merton, Nouwen and Day"

**Noon Lunch**

**Track One**  
1:00 pm – 4:30 pm  
Meditative Calligraphy Workshop  
Laurie Doctor, Fireplace Room

**Track Two**  
1:00 pm  
Mercy for People and the Planet  
Joseph of Arimathea Society

The Green Burial Initiative, Susan Classen, co-member, SL

**2:00 pm**  
Sacred Sites and Sacred Images  
Pilgrimage -Will Peterson

Icons – Sister Jeana Visel, OSB

**3:00 Afternoon Break**

**3:30 pm**  
Merton in the Gallery and in the Classroom  
Merton as Paradigm,  
Melanie Prejean-Sullivan

Shelby Thomas, Thomas Merton Study Project for 5th/6th grades

Kevin Wilson and Hunter Kissel, "Merton Among Us" exhibition at the 849 Gallery, KyCAD

**4:30 pm Closing Liturgy**

**5-6 pm**  
Wine and Cheese Farewell Reception

### Questions? Need more information?

Ellyn Crutcher: [ellyncrutcher@aol.com](mailto:ellyncrutcher@aol.com)  
OR: c/o Thomas Merton Center, Bellarmine University, 2001 Newburg Road, Louisville Ky. 40205

# AWAKENING THE creative spirit

INSPIRED BY THOMAS MERTON

**FRIDAY**  
19 OCT 2018

**SATURDAY**  
20 OCT 2018

**Keynote**  
**ROBERT ELLSBERG**

**Gethsemani Monks who knew Merton**

**BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY**



- ART
- FILM
- MUSIC
- POETRY

[WWW.MERTON.ORG/AWAKENING](http://WWW.MERTON.ORG/AWAKENING)

## Friday evening, October 19th

Screening of "The Many Storeys and Last Days of Thomas Merton" with Morgan Atkinson with new segments and interacting with the audience afterwards in a Q & A session.

**Morgan Atkinson** is a documentary producer based in Louisville, KY. In a career spanning 30 + years he has focused on people or groups seeking meaning through a spiritual search. His earlier work on Thomas Merton entitled "Soul Searching: The Journey of Thomas Merton" was aired nationally on PBS. Over his career he has written and produced more than 15 long-form documentaries that have been broadcast on PBS stations across the country.

## Saturday, October 20th

### Keynote speaker:

**Robert Ellsberg—Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen and Dorothy Day**

Managing editor of The Catholic Worker for two years (1976–8), a job that would introduce him to Dorothy Day and consequently would allow him to work with Day for the last five years of her life. This life-changing experience prompted him to convert to Catholicism. Robert returned to Harvard, and earned a degree in religion and literature, and later a Master's in Theology from Harvard Divinity School. In 1987 he began work as editor-in-chief of Orbis Books.

Robert is the author of several books, many of which have received awards; his Blessed Among All Women tied a Catholic Press Association record by winning awards for Gender, Spirituality, and Popular Presentation of the Catholic Faith. He is the editor of the published diaries and letters of Dorothy Day. Recently, he presented a talk at the Merton-Nouwen Conference held at Yale Divinity School.

### **Brother Paul Quenon, OSCO—performing music from Final Office for Father Louis and reading poems**

Brother Paul is a poet, artist and photographer and was a novice under Thomas Merton at the Abbey of Gethsemani, where he remains a member of the monastic community. Thomas Merton was his spiritual director. His book *Monkswear* includes simple yet profound images of monastic life portrayed through poetry and photography. His work incorporates humor, reflective passages and personal accounts that inspire readers to step out of the modern world and into one of gentle beauty. *In Praise of the Useless Life, A Monk's Memoir* was published in April 2017.

### **Father Michael Casagram, OSCO—Merton's prophetic role in the Church & today's society today followed by Q & A with Brother Paul**

Currently, Prior of the Abbey of Gethsemani and 54-year member of that community, where he has also served as its Vocation Director and Novice Director. He is a founder of the Lay Cistercians of Gethsemani. He has worked as a beekeeper the whole time he has resided at the Abbey.

### **Dick Sisto—jazz vibraphonist whose original music is the sound track for "Soul Searching", a film about Thomas Merton that aired on PBS.**

As music director at Louisville's Seelbach Hotel, Sisto's Trio worked with numerous notable players. Dick is a frequent performer at jazz festivals and clubs. He's recorded 4 "charted" CDs and toured Great Britain five times. Lucky students have taken his master classes.

### **Laurie Doctor—experiential workshop--calligraphy/sumi ink • www.lauriedoctor.com**

Laurie Doctor is a painter, teacher and calligrapher whose work is in collections in the United States and Europe, including recent works in the permanent collection of Akademie der Künste in Berlin. Her work is based on language, image and contemplative practice. She offers workshops and lectures internationally, as well as practicing traditional performance art, native to Asian calligraphy, for Naropa University, where she taught for twenty years.

*Due to the meditative and structural nature of Laurie's workshops, this session is reserved for those able to attend the entire workshop. Cell phones, smart watches, etc. are turned off for the duration of the workshop.*

### **Sister Jeana Visel, OSB—Dean, School of Theology Programs and Director, Graduate Theology Programs at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology**

Sr. Jeana paints icons and has taught a graduate course on icons. She has given presentations on the process and spirituality of painting icons. Her book, *Icons in the Western Church: Toward a More Sacramental Encounter*, was published by Liturgical Press in 2016. She co-chaired the national "Women of the Church" conference.

**Joseph of Arimathea Society**—ministry by Louisville area high school youth to bury & bear witness to those without family or the means for a funeral.

**Will Peterson**—A graduate of Notre Dame University and 2017 Daggy scholar, Will served as Peace and Justice intern, Newman Center at University of Kentucky after two years teaching at an under-resourced Catholic high school in Memphis, TN. Inspired by Merton's "From Pilgrimage to Crusade" and his beliefs on Christian hospitality, he walked 75 miles as a member of "Modern Millennial Pilgrimage" from Lexington to the Abbey of Gethsemani.  
www.moderncatholicpilgrim.com

### **Susan Classen—Green Burial initiative at Loretto community & care of creation**

Susan Classen is the director of Cedars of Peace, a retreat center on the grounds of the Sisters of Loretto Motherhouse. A Mennonite, she did international development work in Latin America from 1981-2003. Her passion for the earth grew out of experiences in Latin America where tremendous suffering caused by droughts, landslides, and hurricanes was met with resilience and creativity by her rural neighbors.

**Frederick Smock—Kentucky's current Poet Laureate**, author of 5 collections of poetry including Pax Intransitus, a meditation on the poetry of Thomas Merton, Director of Creative Writing and Associate Professor of English, Bellarmine University.

### **Hunter Kissel—Project Coordinator, "Merton Among Us"**

A Louisville native with dual Master degrees in Public Administration and Critical and Curatorial Studies (CSS) from the Hite Art Institute, University of Louisville. He has curated exhibitions at the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, the Hite Art Institute at the University of Louisville, and the Huff Gallery at Spalding University. His MA thesis focused on the life and career of photographer Ralph Eugene Meatyard.

### **Dr. Melanie Prejean-Sullivan—developer, "Merton as Paradigm" curriculum for Cambridge University course**

Director of Campus Ministry at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky for 18 years. She holds master's degrees in history, in counseling/student affairs, and in theological studies. Dr. Prejean's doctoral research focused on ways in which undergraduate students learn to articulate their own theologies and observe the working of the Spirit in their lives.

### **Shelby Thomas—developer of Thomas Merton Study Project**

Shelby created and piloted a Thomas Merton curriculum Spring 2018 for 5th/6th graders at St. James Elementary. She is a 2016 graduate of Hanover College.

## Registration Form

"Awakening the Creative Spirit:  
Inspired by Thomas Merton"  
October 19-20, 2018

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration Fee

Registration fee includes registration for all conference events, refreshments, lunch, break refreshments and a wine and cheese reception on October 20th.

\_\_\_ **\$55** (early bird, registrations and payment received by September 10th)

\_\_\_ **\$75** (Sept 11th and thereafter)

\_\_\_ I have limited means and request registration at a reduced rate of \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Full scholarships are available for students until scholarship funds are exhausted.**

\_\_\_ I am applying for a **student scholarship** and submit a copy of my student identification

\_\_\_ I would like to attend **Laurie Doctor's experiential workshop\*** for the **entire afternoon of October 20th**  
**\*Only 24 places are available—first come, first served.**

**Please make checks payable to "ITMS"**

Mail to: Awakening Conference  
Thomas Merton Center  
Bellarmine University  
2001 Newburg Road  
Louisville Ky. 40205

**Pay by credit card online:**

www.merton.org/awakening

**Local Hotel Information:**

*Special Bellarmine rates are available at the following hotels:*

Holiday Inn Express, Louisville Airport/Expo Center:  
502.456.1411

Brown Hotel (Downtown): 1.800.555.8000