

OUR FACILITATORS

WILKIE AU, PH.D. is a Professor of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University, where he teaches in the area of spirituality and coordinates the graduate concentration in spiritual direction. His *By Way of the Heart: Toward a Holistic Christian Spirituality* won the 1990 Book Award of the College Theology Society and his *Enduring Heart: Spirituality for the Long Haul* won an award from the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada in 2001.

LAURA BARTELS regularly teaches mindfulness courses, facilitates mindfulness groups and gives public talks on living mindfully as one of the certified mindfulness teachers with the Mindful Life Program. She is also one of the instructors for the year-long MLP Mindfulness Teacher Training and Certification program. She serves as the Executive Director of the Mindful Life Program.

DON BISSON, FMS is a spiritual director, trainer and supervisor of directors. He is widely respected as a commentator and workshop leader on the interrelationship of spirituality and psychology. A Marist brother based in New York, he has graduate degrees in Liturgy, Spirituality, and Transpersonal Psychology. He has a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, in the areas of Spiritual Direction and Jungian Psychology.

THOMAS P. BONACCI, CP has ministered in the Diocese of Oakland since 1990 and serves as a member of the Interreligious and Ecumenical Commission. Tom is a graduate of St. John's University, New York City. After Ordination to the priesthood in 1972, he served as religious superior, Pastor, and Retreat Director in Pittsburgh, PA, New York City, and Atlanta, GA. He served as chaplain at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC and Carlow University, Pittsburgh, PA. He established the Interfaith Center at Carlow University (September 8, 2001) where he taught Sacred Scripture. Tom is the founder of the Interfaith Peace Project of Contra Costa County, CA, a home-based educational outreach providing introductions to the world religions. He is the Director of the Interfaith Center of Antioch, CA which opened in October 2007. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County and the Interfaith Observer, an on-line journal surveying topics related to the Interfaith world. Tom conducts Seminars in Interfaith spirituality for the School of Applied Theology, Oakland, CA and the Interfaith Chaplaincy School, Berkeley, CA. Tom also ministers at the Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center of Citrus Heights, CA.

JOHN BRUNA enjoys 28 years of recovery, is a counselor, educator, spiritual teacher, and former Buddhist monk. Currently he is the director of the Way of Compassion Foundation and leads workshops and retreats throughout the country. www.wayofcompassion.org

DEACON CHARLES "RED" CHEEVER has a Master of Arts degree from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. He served as Chair of Theology at Loretto High School for more than 32 years. In 1983, Red was ordained Deacon in the Catholic Church, and in 1993 joined the International Satsang Association. Red's focus is on exploring the interface of - - and dialogue between - - Christianity and other major religions.

FR. MICHAEL CROSBY, OFMCAP, belongs to the Midwest Province of the Capuchin Franciscans. The majority of Fr. Mike's ministry is spent writing and speaking about biblical spirituality geared for our "First World" society.

SR. KATHERINE DOYLE, RSM, is a member of the Sisters of Mercy, West Midwest Community. Trained in history and spirituality, she has ministered in education, faith formation and retreat ministries, formerly serving as the Director of Catholic Faith Formation in the Diocese of Sacramento, Principal of Bishop Manogue High School, and Director of Mercy Center Auburn.

JAMES FINLEY, PHD spent six years in the cloistered Trappist Monastery of the Abbey of Gethsemani where the world-renowned monk and author, Thomas Merton, was his spiritual director. Now a writer, practicing psychologist, and retreat leader, his latest book is *Christian Meditation: Experiencing the Presence of God*. He leads retreats and workshops throughout the United States and Canada, attracting men and women who seek to live a contemplative way of life in the midst of today's busy world.

MICHAEL FISH is a member of the New Camaldoli Hermitage in Big Sur California. Michael has been given permission by his community to explore solitude and the way of the hermit in greater depth. Although he returns to the Hermitage regularly, he currently lives as a hermit, in solitude and prayer. Solitude is only part of his calling and he offers retreats, talks and spiritual direction to his brothers and sisters in religious and lay communities. Michael, with the assistance of contemporary writing and teachers, especially Thomas Merton, continues to develop the notion of “the inner monk”, “the hermit in the world” and how to live a monastic rhythm in the world. *For more information, visit Michael’s website at www.hermitfish.org.*

BARBARA FREULER is a member of the “Ministry to the Bereaved” at St. Teresa Parish, Auburn.

KATHERINE GETCHELL is a Holistic Practitioner and Coach in the Sacramento Region and Bay Area. She specializes in Dream Work as a facilitator certified by Jeremy Taylor, and does consulting with groups and private clients

ANTHONY J. GITTINS, CSSP, taught at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago for 28 years, and is an Emeritus Professor of Theology and Culture and an Adjunct faculty member. Born in Manchester, England, he holds Masters degrees in Theoretical Linguistics and Social Anthropology and a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He has taught and worked in some thirty-five countries. His pastoral outreach includes ministry in cultures from Africa to the Pacific, and work with Chicago's disenfranchised, especially homeless women. He is the author of fifteen books and numerous articles. Father Gittins currently gives lectures and leads retreats nationally and internationally. He continues his anthropological work by spending periods of time in local churches, especially in Africa and the Central Pacific, working on inculturation by bringing learnings from cultural anthropology and theology together.

MICHELLE GORMAN, RSM is a Sister of Mercy and has ministered in education, vocation ministry, and administration within the congregation. Steeped in Ignatian Spirituality through the inspiration of Reverend William Peters, SJ, Sr. Michelle has recently returned to retreat work and spiritual direction as a staff member at Mercy Center Auburn (MCA). A graduate of California State University, Sacramento and Gonzaga University, she received her diploma in spiritual guidance from Shalem in 1997 under the direction of Gerald May. One of her current passions is the integration of the New Cosmic Story into the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Recently, she has facilitated “The Spiritual Exercises- for our Time” with other members of the MCA Ignatian Team, and in 2016 she and Colleen Gregg led a workshop on “The Spiritual Exercises- for our Time” at the Spiritual Directors International Conference in San Diego.

COLLEEN GREGG, MA is Director of Mercy Center Auburn, and serves as spiritual director, supervisor, retreat facilitator, and program coordinator. She has been involved in retreat ministry for over 20 years. Colleen holds a Master’s degree in Pastoral Theology and received her spiritual direction and supervision certifications from the Institute of Spiritual Direction at Mercy Center Burlingame.

GERRY HAIR has been a spiritual director, Enneagram teacher, facilitator of retreats, supervisor and trainer of intern spiritual directors for over 40 years. His principal work is as a gatherer of spiritual communities. He has explored spirituality in India and Japan and in various spiritual traditions in the USA.

CHARMAINE JAYAWARDENE, RSM is a Sister of Mercy. Her study and experience in the contemplative life dates back over 35 years with the Cistercians and the Carmelites (*living as a cloistered Carmelite nun*). She has conducted contemplative prayer workshops and prayer groups in parishes and religious communities. She is a certified Spiritual Director and a presenter for Contemplative Outreach Ltd.

CHRISTINE JURISICH is a retreat facilitator and author of, "Retreat, Reflect, Renew: A Sacred Journal for A More Peaceful You." As an active mother of a teen and pre-teen, she understands the importance and challenge of integrating faith and prayer into *present* moments and is dedicated to providing opportunities for busy persons to reflect on how to make meaningful *every day* of their lives. Christine has served in pastoral ministry for over 10 years in the Sacramento area and nationally as a regional coordinator for the Ministry of Mothers Sharing and active leader in her church community."

PETER KUHN enjoys 27 years of recovery, is active in 12 step service, and regularly facilitates meditation groups at Donovan State Prison. He also facilitates a monthly 12 Step Zen Group in San Diego and is ordained by Thich Nhat Hanh.

VICTORIA MACDONALD, MA., former Program Administrator of San Damiano Retreat Center, is a Bay Area retreat presenter, workshop and seminar facilitator, registered nurse and spiritual director. Receiving her Masters from the University of Creation Spirituality/Naropa, Victoria brings creative and lively insights to the issues confronting our world today and offers meaningful ways for people of faith to respond.

JOHN MCANDREW, MA, MDIV is a spiritual teacher, facilitator, counselor, musician and poet. For over two decades, he has directed retreats, workshops, and educational opportunities for people seeking spiritual growth. With a background in literature, music and theology, he has worked in numerous settings, including adult education classrooms, detention facilities, and hospice care. He currently serves as Director of Spiritual Care at the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage, CA.

BRIDGET MCCARTHY, RSM, RN has been active in the ministry of healing for over 30 years. As a Registered Nurse, she has developed a keen interest in self-healing and prevention through energy medicine, and has a passion about passing on simple techniques to those who wish to begin their own journey of self-healing.

DIANA FRANCIS METZLER, RSM, MASG is a spiritual guide/director. She has her Masters of Arts degree in Spiritual Guidance from Sofia University in Palo Alto. She is trained as a group facilitator and has worked with dream groups and monthly spiritual guidance groups. Her published thesis, *Will to Be: The Pilgrimage to Elderhood through Spiritual Group Work*, stems from her study of the connection and enhancement of spirituality's connection to optimal aging. Sr. Diana's dream work approach is modeled after the Jungian approach and theory used by dream work guru Jeremy Taylor, an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister who has himself blended the values of spirituality with a social consciousness and a Jungian perspective. Sr. Diana is currently a part of the retreat and spiritual direction staff at Mercy Center Auburn.

JOE MITCHELL, CP received his training in theology at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and earned a graduate degree in Philosophy, Cosmology and Consciousness from the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. His current work engages the relationship between the emerging scientific cosmology and Christian theology, the cultural implications for human institutions, and the role of humanity in the story of the Earth. He resides in Louisville, Kentucky where he is the director of the Passionist Earth and Spirit Center.

JIM NEAFSEY, D.MIN., has been a spiritual director, retreat leader and teacher of Christian spirituality for over forty years. He has also worked on the staff of formation programs for spiritual directors at Mercy Center in Burlingame and Bread of Life in Sacramento. He has loved the poetry and spirituality of John of the Cross since his twenties.

DONALD NESTI, CSSP. is a member of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost, is director of the Center for Faith and Culture at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, and a faculty member at the University's Graduate School of Theology. Father Nesti holds a doctoral degree in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He has lectured extensively, authored books and articles, and served as a retreat master for lay and religious groups.

KATHY POOLER is a spiritual director, retreat facilitator, artist and retired businesswoman, presently residing in Roseville, California. She has been trained and is experienced in individual and group spiritual direction, retreat direction, Ignatian spirituality, dream work, and the use of expressionist art in the spiritual direction process. In addition to maintaining a private practice locally, she is part of the retreat and spiritual direction staff at Mercy Center Auburn.

GERRY ROBINSON, SJ is serving currently as Associate Pastor of Most Holy Trinity Parish in San Jose, CA. He entered the Jesuits in 1965 and was ordained priest in 1977. He has served at Loyola High School in Los Angeles and on the Student Services Staff of Santa Clara University. Most recently, he was Pastor for twelve years (1995-2010) of Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish in Sacramento. He has an M.A. in Counseling Psychology and is licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist in California. In the Fall of 2010 he participated as an intern in the spiritual direction training program at Ignatius Centre in Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

SHARI ROESLER has over 25 years in recovery and has guided many people in recovery through the 12-step program.

WILLIAM SHEEHAN, OMI is a member of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. In addition to Fr. Sheehan's extensive

experience in religious formation, he has participated with Fr. Thomas Keating in Centering Prayer retreats and remains very involved with Fr. Keating's organization Contemplative Outreach.

MARGARET SILF is a lay Christian, a mother and a grandmother, and the author of a number of books exploring ways of living Christian spirituality in every day contemporary life. She is a regular columnist with 'America' magazine. Margaret travels extensively in Ireland, the UK and overseas facilitating retreats and workshops on the spiritual journey in our world today. This retreat is based on her latest book "The Other Side of Chaos" (*Loyola Press, Chicago and DLT, London, September 2011*)

JOAN STOCKBRIDGE is a spiritual director and educator who regularly leads women's groups from various and diverse backgrounds. As a poet and storyteller she facilitates workshops using sacred stories and texts for transformation and healing. Her own contemplative path has led to working in pastoral and outreach ministries.

NANCY SYMONS is a trained instructor in Mindful Self Compassion (MSC) as well as Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) which she teaches at Samuel Merritt University. Nancy is owner of the Mindfulness Center of the Foothills in El Dorado County.

SR. MARGARET ANN WALSH, RSM is a spiritual director and former chaplaincy director.