

## 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.

**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** is a counselor, educator, former Tibetan Buddhist monk, and current mindfulness teacher. Raised in a low-income environment where he was surrounded by drugs, alcohol, and violence, John was able to find recovery and change the course of his life at the early age of 22. Having transformed his own life, John devoted his life to helping others transform theirs, first as a substance abuse counselor and then as a teacher at a low-income, minority school in Long Beach, California. Having met his spiritual mentor, Venerable Geshe Tsultim Gyeltsen, John was ordained and trained as a Buddhist monk in the Tibetan tradition. After more than six years of monastic life, John returned to life as a layperson and became an engaging, inspirational and authentic teacher. John is able to draw from his education and training, as well as his compelling life story and personal experiences to illustrate with clarity the skillful application of the wisdom teachings found in all traditions. Currently, John is the co-founder of the Mindful Life Program and director of the Way of Compassion Foundation.

**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. Trained in history and spirituality, she has ministered in education, faith formation and retreat ministries. She has served as US Institute Novitiate Minister for the Sisters of Mercy, Director of Faith Formation for the Sacramento Diocese, Director of Mercy Center, and Pastoral Associate at Holy Spirit Parish, Sacramento. She is currently engaged in the ministries of spiritual direction, retreat facilitation and writing.

**JOHN ENSIGN, PHD**, is a clinical psychologist and Jungian Analyst. He is also a spiritual director with extensive background in Christian Spirituality and the Contemplative Tradition.

**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](http://www.hermitfish.org).*

**VERONICA GALAS** is a Public Health Nurse Manager, Spiritual Director and Episcopal Deacon. She is the middle child of seven, born to blue collar parents and immigrant grandparents. Growing up Roman Catholic in a post-Vatican II world and attending a Jesuit college shaped her faith towards social justice. As a young adult, she shared in community life with the Sisters of Mercy. The death of her parents upended certainty and Veronica drifted in and out of religion. A mid-life illness awakened and reunited her with Mercy through Mercy Center Auburn as well as renewed a call to spiritual leadership expressed in ordination as an Episcopal Deacon and certification as a Spiritual Director. In her role as Deacon, she preaches regularly and engages community organizing efforts in Northern Nevada. The Mystery of God has integrated and reconciled the spiritual journey of her early adulthood. Her encounters with Mercy have been a labyrinth of Grace that she now gifts to others.

**KATHERINE GETCHELL** is a Holistic Practitioner and Coach in the Sacramento Region and Bay Area. She specializes in Dreamwork 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.

**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.

**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, Associate of the Sisters of Mercy, and author of "Retreat, Reflect, Renew: A Sacred Journal for a More Peaceful You", and foundress of Retreat, Reflect, Renew, a retreat ministry offering day and online retreats. Christine has been in pastoral ministry locally and nationally, for the past ten years, is a staff member for the Sacred Discernment program at Mercy Burlingame, and in formation to be a spiritual director.

**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.

**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.

**JOHN PHILIP NEWELL** is an internationally acclaimed Celtic teacher from Edinburgh, is the celebrated author of *Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality* and founder of the School of Celtic Consciousness. He is one of the most prominent Christian teachers of spirituality in the Western world and has authored over 15 books, including *Christ of the Celts*, *Praying with the Earth*, *A New Harmony*, and his most recent visionary title, *The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings*.

**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.

**JOAN STOCKBRIDGE**, is a spiritual director and educator who regularly leads 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.

**DARCY WHARTON** is a frequent retreat presenter currently serving as coordinator of adult faith formation at SS. Peter & Paul Parish. She enjoys helping others discover their connection to the Divine through Spiritual Direction, mentoring in Dynamic Dialogue, and teaching.