

Journey into Silence

This series of quiet retreat days offers community and support for your contemplative journey in a beautiful, consecrated space. Together we will step aside from our inner and outer chaos and make a clearing for God. Though emphasis will be more on experience than acquiring information, you will be responsible for a modest amount of reading which will be discussed each month. Your response to the readings, prayer together, and time for silence will be significant aspects of the program's content.

Ongoing general themes will be contemplation, transformation, and 'true-self/false-self' issues woven around the seasons of the natural world and Christian liturgical year. Participants in any stage of the spiritual journey are welcome, though it should be understood that the desire to find God in silence and the willingness to be present to oneself are prerequisites. This program is geared for those seeking to grow through experience rather than through study and more informational sessions.

Participants will make use of a few basic reflection questions in responding to moderate, diverse reading each month, noticing places of "resonance, resistance, and realignment."* Each will be invited to share reflections and quotes from the readings that felt significant to them, and speak to how they are being drawn (or not) to apply what they are reading. Although the reading is an important component of the

program, keeping a mindful attitude between our monthly gatherings, and developing personal prayer practices will bring an even greater richness to our sessions in community. For some, the program will provide a sacred container for what we don't have time for at home.

Monthly sessions begin with a worship time in common, followed by brief presentations. We will place emphasis on time spent in contemplative group discussion of readings with ample time for silence, both as individuals and in community. Opportunities will be provided for contemplation with poetry and visual images related to specific monthly themes. Facilitators will plan a careful blend of content, community, and contemplation although the depth of the curriculum will be determined by the community of participants. As the months pass, we trust that graced spiritual friendships will nurture the participants in ways of deepened Love and prayer.

**Judy Cannato, Field of Compassion*

Dates

Meeting dates are the third Saturday of each month. (Locations vary by month.)

September 14-16, 2012 (Mariawald, Reading, PA)

October 20, 2012 (Still Waters, Carlisle, PA)

November 17, 2012 (Still Waters, Carlisle, PA)

December 15, 2012 (Stock's, Mechanicsburg, PA)

January 19, 2013 (Stock's, Mechanicsburg, PA)

February 16, 2013 (Stock's, Mechanicsburg, PA)

March 16, 2013 (Still Waters, Carlisle, PA)

April 20, 2013 (Still Waters, Carlisle, PA)

May 18, 2013 (Still Waters, Carlisle, PA)

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"The trees and stones will teach you what you never learn from the masters."
- Bernard of Clairvaux

**SEPTEMBER 2012
TO MAY 2013**



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Oasis

Ministries For Spiritual Development

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*A day of Silence
Can be a pilgrimage in itself.
-Rafiq*

Tentative Flow of a Day:

- 9:30 Gather
(Hot beverages available)
- 10:00 Opening worship
brief reflections
centering prayer
- 11:00 Retreat space *
- 12:30 Lunch
(December & March in
silence)
- 1:30 Sharing (short passages from
monthly readings chosen by
participants)
- 2:30 Retreat space *
- 4:00 Sharing (resonance,
resistance, application)
- 5:00 Benediction and departure

* Handouts are provided with suggestions for retreat space, but participants are always welcome to bring their own reading or other work.

*But there is greater comfort in the substance of
silence than in the answer to a question.*
- Thomas Merton

Program Locations (see dates)

Mariawald Renewal Center*
1094 Welsh Road
Reading PA 19607

*Opening retreat begins with arrival at 4pm on Friday and departures 11:30am on Sunday

Still Waters Retreat Center
501 W. Slate Hill Road
Carlisle, PA 17013

Stock's Home
701 Green Acres St.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Additional Notes:

- ◇ No prior experience required.
- ◇ The number of participants will be limited to 15.

Themes traveling the paths of transformation month by month:

- September: Eastern Orthodoxy, praying with images, approaches to contemplation
- October: Heartful work, craft as prayer, sacred gesture, body prayer
- November: Giving and receiving, gratitude, hospitality of heart, prayer for the world
- December: Darkness, light and shadow, suffering, holding the "Bright Sadness"
- January: Epiphany, ways of seeing, mystical hope, beauty
- February: Love and relationship, sacred wounds, fear, attachment

March: GUIDED SILENT RETREAT

April: Resurrection, birth, and the New Cosmology

May: The consecration of time, balance, Sabbath

*...But first one must become small,
Nothing but a presence,
Attentive as a nesting bird...*
- May Sarton

*Is there enough silence for the Word to be
heard?* - Nan Merrill

To Apply:

Please complete the attached registration form and send it along with your application fee to Betsy Keller (betsykeller@oasismin.org) at

Oasis Ministries
419 Deerfield Road, Camp Hill, PA 17019.

Feel free to contact us with questions at 717-737-8222.



Leadership: Roland and Melissa Stock

Melissa and Roland began leading various aspects of prayer ministry in the 1980's. They are trained spiritual directors and share a love of contemplative spirituality. Together they practice welcoming sunrises, journaling, and centering prayer. Roland has led retreats on Male Spirituality and is in his second year as a participant in the Men4Directions program offered by Oasis. Roland's work as a luthier, woodworker, and carpenter serves as a spiritual discipline for him. He has transformed their home into a retreat environment, making a dream of theirs into a reality. Melissa serves on staff with Spiritual Direction for Spiritual Guides. She facilitates Taize services in various locations and offers spiritual direction from her study at home. Roland and Melissa attend Community Mennonite Church in Lancaster, Pa. They find God in the outdoors, in the laughter of their grandchildren, and through the arts.

Tuition

TUITION: \$950

Plus an Application Fee of \$150 (non-refundable after September 1*) sent with attached form.

If registration received by May 30:

discount \$50 from application fee

If registration received after August 15:

add \$50 to application fee

Tuition may be paid in full at any time. However, suggested payment plan is \$150 due upon acceptance into the program (by August) and \$100 on class meeting days October—May.

Participants are asked to pay for and attend all sessions. Payments by Discover/MasterCard/Visa are welcome.

*Some scholarship assistance available.
Call to inquire.*

**If withdrawing prior to September 1, a full refund will be returned, less \$50 to cover administrative time and processing.*



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◆ REGISTRATION FORM ◆

NAME () PHONE(S) HOME () WORK () CELL () EMAIL ()
ADDRESS CITY/TOWN STATE ZIP

*APPLICATION FEE ENCLOSED \$ (check payable to "Oasis Ministries" OR VISA /MC/DISCOVER also welcomed) VISA/MC/DISCOVER # EXP. DATE / 3-digit CODE (on back of card)

***To apply, Complete this application & attach a short statement (approximately one page, single-spaced) answering:**

1. What draws you to participate in this program?
2. What experience have you had with contemplative retreats?
3. Who is God for you; what is your image of God right now?
4. What readings have been significant in your spiritual formation?