

# Opening to God's Presence and Action in our Lives

## A Weekend on Contemplative Spirituality with Fr. William Meninger, OCSO

Contemplative Outreach Northeast Ohio (CONEO) is sponsoring a Centering Prayer Workshop over the Thanksgiving weekend, November 27-29, at St. Rita Parish in Solon. Trappist Father William Meninger will present two presentations and one workshop.

On Friday, November 27 from 6 pm – 8 pm, the presentation topic will be *Prayer and the Spiritual Journey*.

The Saturday workshop on November 28 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, will focus on the *Theology and Practice of Contemplative Meditation*. The workshop cost of \$50.00 includes lunch. Register at [www.coneo.org](http://www.coneo.org).

On Sunday, November 29 from 2 pm – 4 pm, the presentation topic is *Forgiveness*. All three events are open to the public. Both Friday and Sunday presentations are free will offering events.

Fr. Meninger is the author of several books. In, *The Loving Search for God: Contemplative Prayer and the Cloud of Unknowing*, Fr. Meninger explores contemplative prayer as presented in *The Cloud of Unknowing*. In *The Process of Forgiveness*, Fr. Meninger shows "how we can learn to make this most difficult act part of our spiritual practice". Other books include: *1012 Monastery Road; The Temple of the Lord and Other Stories; Bringing the Imitation of Christ into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*; and *The Committed Life*.

Centering Prayer is based upon the prayer practices of our Christian contemplative heritage. The monastic practice of praying the scriptures, practices described in the anonymous fourteenth century classic *The Cloud of Unknowing*, as well as the writings of such Christian mystics as John of the Cross, Meister Eckhart, Teresa of Avila and more recently, Thomas Merton all contribute to the rich background of the method of Centering Prayer.

In the 1970's three Trappist monks, Father William Meninger, Father Basil Pennington, and Abbot Thomas Keating at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts, distilled this contemplative practice into a simple method of prayer that could fit into a modern, non-cloistered lifestyle.

This method of prayer came to be known as Centering Prayer in reference to Thomas Merton's description of contemplative prayer as a prayer that is "centered entirely on the presence of God". The monks offered Centering Prayer workshops and retreats to both clergy members and laypeople. Interest in the prayer spread, and shortly after the first intensive Centering Prayer retreat in 1983, the organization Contemplative Outreach was formed to support the growing network of Centering Prayer practitioners.

Today Centering Prayer is practiced by people all around the world, creating local and global networks that are contributing to the renewal of the contemplative dimension of Christianity and crosses denominational boundaries. The Northeast Ohio Chapter (CONEO) is comprised of eighteen prayer groups sponsored by sixteen parishes, representing several different denominations.

## **Saturday Workshop Registration**

Mail \$50 check payable to CONEO with registration form to

Andrea Kneier: 6162 Chagrin Highlands Dr. Solon, Ohio 44139.

Deadline for registration is Nov. 20th. Questions call: 440-248-2244 or visit [www.coneo.org](http://www.coneo.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**St. Rita Parish-32820 Baldwin Rd.Solon, Ohio 44139**