



CONTEMPLATIVE OUTREACH®

SILENCE
SOLITUDE
SOLIDARITY
SERVICE

of Phoenix



Spring 2022

Dear Centering Prayer Community of Arizona,

As spring approaches one can certainly feel that we are moving one step forward and sometimes four steps back! For those of us committed to a lifetime of spiritual growth this has a familiar ring, doesn't it? It echoes the pace of dismantling our self-reflective selves and allowing more room for our in-dwelling God. As we share our experiences with others on the journey this could be a time for reflecting on how our many frustrations and losses have brought hidden gifts. We don't run around to shop, entertain or see a movie as we once did, or book travel to far-away places. What has taken the place of those many activities? How is God seeking to transform us? How can we cooperate with gratitude and patience?

Some prayer groups have resumed meeting in person or in a hybrid way. On-line prayer groups and events world-wide still continue to be freely available. As never before we can be in a setting with others living in Ireland or Australia or other countries united in our common love of Centering Prayer. This year on Saturday, March 5, United in Prayer Day will once again consist of 24 hours of communal prayer all over the world on zoom. More details will be emailed to you once they are finalized at the national office.

The two eight-day fully-booked intensive retreats at Santa Rita Abbey were canceled due to caution around COVID-19. We pray that by next winter these can once again be offered. The day of enrichment with Fr. Vincent Pizzuto on November 6, 2021 was very well received. The link to the day's recording was emailed to you during Advent and is included in this newsletter on page 2. It is well worth viewing again. Some prayer groups have begun reading slowly aloud from his book

Contemplating Christ: The Gospels and the Interior Life. Like most of Fr. Thomas Keating's writings, this too deserves to be savored in small portions.

On Saturday, October 29, 2022, our Fall Speaker Series will feature Veronica Mary Rolf on the topic Suddenly There is God: Finding Christ in the Crisis. This will be on zoom, but perhaps by then many of us can gather to watch it together. There is more on this in this newsletter, plus a link to register on our website www.contemplativeoutreach-phoenix.org. Veronica Mary Rolf is very much in demand as an author, podcaster and meditation teacher. We are excited to have her on our calendar.

Opportunities to grow and deepen our prayer life abound on the internet. Where do we find ourselves growing? Where do we need more quiet and rest? What is God speaking in the Silence of our innermost beings? May we listen with ever-more sensitivity to the quiet stirrings of the Spirit and bravely follow them, trusting with Julian of Norwich that "all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be exceedingly well."

In Silence, Solitude, and Service,
Your Chapter Service Team

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Focus on Outreach

A few requests have come in to the Chapter Service Team for programs in parishes and congregations. This is a good sign that worship communities may be hungering for a greater interior life. There are Commissioned Presenters at the ready to present the **Introduction to Centering Prayer Program** (usually one Saturday followed by five follow-up sessions). There are Presenters of the **Welcome Prayer Workshop** available to present this method of consenting to God’s presence and action in our ordinary activities. For those in the recovery community, there are 12-step presenters available to offer Introduction to **Centering Prayer as a 11th-step Practice Workshop**. We invite you to explore these options where you worship and then contact one of the Contact People listed in this newsletter.

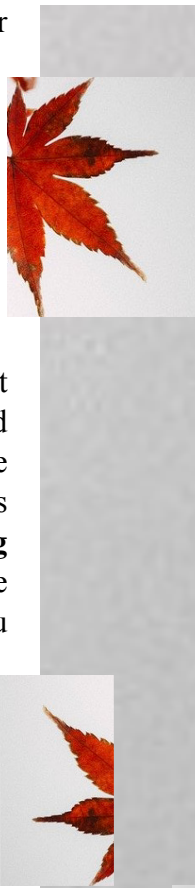
12 Step Outreach Update

Contemplative Outreach worldwide has a thriving 12 Step program. We invite you to check the website <https://www.cp12stepoutreach.org> for 11th step meetings, 12-step Centering Prayer groups, and retreats. Many of these are on zoom as well as in-person.

A Spring 2022 Spirituality Series will be held via zoom. The topic is ‘Centering Prayer and the 12-Steps’. The dates are March 24, March 31, April 7, April 14 (90 mins each night).

Registration is free and will be available on the 12-step website. (donations welcome).

Also visit our local website (<https://contemplativeoutreach-phoenix.org/12-steps>) for detailed information on local events and prayer groups.



Events Calendar

Saturday, March 5 — United in Prayer Day 24 hour world-wide event (details to follow)

Saturday, March 19 — Introduction to Centering Prayer at Saint Barnabas on the Desert from 9:30 am to 3 pm (five Wednesday evening sessions online to follow). Contact Liza Bell to register at lizabell@cox.net or 602-527-6161.

Saturday, October 29 — Suddenly There is God: Finding Christ in the Crisis with Veronica Mary Rolf from 9 am to 3 pm (online – details on our website and in this newsletter.)

“We awaken in Christ’s body as Christ awakens our bodies, and my poor hand is Christ. He enters my foot, and is infinitely me. I move my hand, and wonderfully my hand becomes Christ, becomes all of Him (because God is indivisibly whole, seamless in His Godhead).”

Symeon the New Theologian

Link and passcode to Fr. Vincent Pizzuto’s presentation on **Becoming Prayer**

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/RcTk39eeucyk_meKgBFYBjCavzGo-pKDJWzxp7D0VyDNQVdva1cyp0M4sIBrIW.eMppzIGwwxt91xJ6 Passcode: a7Y.74V^

OR go to contemplativeoutreach-phoenix.org and find the digital version of this newsletter. On page 2 choose the link above and it will take you to the video.

Fall Speaker Series
Sponsored by Contemplative Outreach of Phoenix

Suddenly There is God: Finding Christ in the Crisis

Presenter: Veronica Mary Rolf

Saturday, October 29, 2022 -
A Virtual Event 9 am to 3 pm

Workshop Description

Veronica Mary Rolf, award-winning author, popular podcaster, and meditation teacher, will present a series of reflections on men and women of sacred Scripture who experienced great crises and discovered the presence of God within these crises.

We will delve into the lives of Abraham and Moses; Mary and Joseph; Martha, Mary, and Lazarus of Bethany; Mary Magdalene and the Apostle Paul—people like us who hoped, feared, struggled, faced major crises, and endured great suffering. But because they listened to the divine voice within and responded to it generously, they each received abundant blessings on the mystical path.

These scriptural guides can be deeply relevant to us right now, in our own difficult life situations, amidst the ongoing pandemic. The stories of these men and women reveal how Christ may become truly present to us—suddenly and surprisingly—within the crises and the graces of our daily lives. Moreover, reflecting on the wisdom of biblical mystics is a powerful way to re-inspire our own contemplative practice.



Veronica Mary Rolf is an independent scholar, retreat leader, and the author of *Suddenly There is God: The Story of Our Lives in Sacred Scripture* (Cascade Books, 2019) and its companion volume, *Living Resurrected Lives* (Cascade Books, 2020), co-authored with Eva Natanya, PhD. Both books won Catholic Media Association Book Awards. Veronica is also the author of two best-selling books on

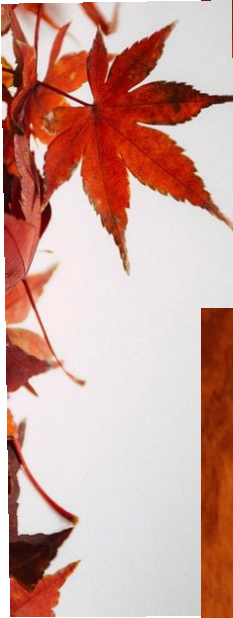
Julian of Norwich—*An Explorer's Guide to Julian of Norwich* (IVP Academic Press, 2018) and *Julian's Gospel: Illuminating the Life & Revelations of Julian of Norwich* (Orbis Books, 2013)—which have also won numerous awards.

Veronica's blogs and podcasts are available at:
<https://www.veronicamaryrolf.com/>



Contemplative
Outreach

Registration and information: www.contemplativeoutreach-phoenix.org
The link to join will be emailed to you the week before the gathering.
A voluntary contribution of \$20 to cover expenses is appreciated but not required.



The modern world lies under a pervasive sense of anguish, of being abandoned, or at least experiencing God as absent. Yet events that seem to turn our lives upside down and inside out are part of God's redemptive plan, not only for us, but for the world in which we live. God may be preparing a great awakening for the world, if God can find enough people to cooperate in this mysterious plan.

Thomas Keating



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