



Friends Newsletter

The World Community for Christian Meditation

Advent 2017

Dear Friends

The WCCM Friends' Program hopes to ensure our way of prayer is shared widely, a gift for our world so in need. Your generosity continues to delight and encourage us, and allows the teaching to spread regardless of financial considerations, truly a community of love whose abundance lies in sharing resources "as each has need".

In a similar spirit, the Bonnevaux scholarship fund will allow people throughout the world, no matter what their circumstance, to come and serve the Community and deepen their meditation practice. With Fr. Laurence, we have discerned that for now part of Friends' donations will go to the scholarship fund, to add to what has already been raised by groups in over 30 countries.

As Anne Singley from the USA so beautifully says, both Friends and Bonnevaux are each truly worthy of our loving support.

The messages that come with your donations sustain our commitment. Monica recently emailed: "The groups feel privileged to be involved and are keen to donate. I never have to ask." This is the naturally arising generosity that comes as we meditate, that

wants the gift to keep giving, and that in time allows a new generation to rise up who will steward the Community into the future.

Leo writes on page two about the recent Contemplative Exchange, at Snowmass in Colorado USA, a gathering in friendship of younger contemplative leaders, leading we know not where: a work of the Spirit for our world.

All that you give will go towards our vision and mission worldwide to change lives, as ours have been changed: from those challenged by physical poverty, living in the most disadvantaged parts of the world, to the materially affluent who may be suffering poverty in other ways.

With love,
Judi and Paul

Giving to Friends And Bonnevaux

The Friends Program and Bonnevaux both need financial assistance. Donations to each serve different, but equally important purposes. The Friends Program supports the ongoing operations of The WCCM, while Bonnevaux donations support making the dream of this beautiful place a

reality. What should you give to?

For each person, it is, of course, an individual decision. I am choosing to give to both because both efforts are important to me personally. I personally need the ongoing support provided by The WCCM to help me deepen my commitment to twice daily meditation. It's also important to me that all The WCCM resources are available to others as well. So, I will continue giving to Friends.

Bonnevaux will be a peaceful place for meditators, a place to come to deepen our faith and our commitment to community, as well as a place where all can come and see how the Benedictine way of life benefits the world. So, I will also give to Bonnevaux, a place that will be a beacon for peace in a troubled world.



Anne Singley

WHAT IS A FRIEND? A Friend provides vital personal and financial support to the Community towards sharing the gift of meditation worldwide. Friends support is critical to all our activities and especially helps us develop, nurture, and assist new and emerging communities with limited resources.

WHAT DOES A FRIEND SUPPORT? Some activities that your contributions go toward include: retreats, talks and presentations by Fr. Laurence and others across the world, The School of Meditation, our Meditation Outreach (including meditation and education, health, science, the environment), translations of key texts, and the distribution of resource materials.

CONTACT Judi and Paul Taylor, International Friends Coordinators, for more information: friends@wccm.org or PO Box 127 North Sydney NSW Australia, 2059.

Contemplative Exchange 2017 in Snowmass, Colorado

In August I had the opportunity to join a WCCM group of younger leaders for the Contemplative Exchange gathering conducted at St. Benedict's Monastery, Colorado, USA. The main idea of this gathering was to make stronger the bonds between The WCCM, Contemplative Outreach, the Center for Action and Contemplation, and the Shalem Institute. The other meditators with me representing The WCCM were: Karen Pedigo (USA), Sarah Bachelard (Australia), Vladimir Volrab (Czech Republic), and Sicco Claus (The Netherlands).

The gathering was an idea of the four "founding fathers" of each group: Thomas Keating, Laurence Freeman, Richard Rohr and Tilden Edwards. They were also present at Snowmass, meeting every day, and also taking part in meetings with the younger leaders.

For me, most of all, this was an opportunity to come to know each other, to listen, and to appreciate differences and similarities

Each group had a specific identity and particular ideas about contemplation. But all saw contemplation as a key

element in making the world a better place. We had days of discussion, sharing, and practice.

For me, most of all, this was an opportunity to come to know each other, to listen, and to appreciate differences and similarities. It is my hope that relations and friendships were created that will deepen in the coming years.

Leonardo Corrêa

Go to <http://bit.ly/2yUfnRd> for a wonderful video presentation of this time of contemplative exchange.



Snowmass, Colorado



Tilden Edwards (second from left) and Richard Rohr (with microphone) at the Contemplative Exchange

Laurence on the Contemplative Exchange

It was a most fruitful time of prayer and discernment, with a self-evidently deep and diverse group of twenty younger people committed strongly to the contemplative path and serving the Lord through it. It showed the vitality of the monastic path as a way of trans-mission but also the quite new ways in which it is already being transformed – so that tradition can be regenerated and we who are 'students in the Kingdom' can 'bring forth things new and old' from our inner rooms as a contemplative way of serving the global needs of our time.

With love

Laurence



Laurence listens to Thomas Keating at the Contemplative Exchange



The 2017 Snowmass Contemplative Exchange gathering. Leonardo is in the back row, fifth from the left.

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