

Contemplative Outreach

Spiritual Journey with Thomas Keating

Part 5 Tape 28 (b)



Four Goals of Contemplative Outreach

1. To renew the Roman Catholic and the Christian contemplative tradition.
2. To make the Christian contemplative heritage as available as possible to all Christian denominations, sects and divisions as their common property for Centering is not the time to think and it is not the time for doctrinal and theological differences.
3. To enable people to talk with one another about what helped them most in their own tradition to advance in the Spiritual Journey and so share some of the hidden depths of the Christian contemplative tradition and gain insight from that conversation. If, as Rahner suggests, nature is graced then all of us, even through sources other than religion can taste the presence of God – for example, through service, art, music, conjugal love, nature, etc.
4. To make Centering Prayer available to everyone as a method, even those beyond the reach of religion, whatever their circumstances. All that is required is belief in a higher power and that higher power can be anything higher than we experience ourselves to be.



Vision

Contemplative Outreach is a spiritual network of individuals and small faith communities committed to living the contemplative dimension of the Gospel in everyday life through the practice of Centering Prayer, The contemplative dimension of the Gospel manifest itself in an ever-deepening union with the living Christ and the practical caring for others that flows from that relationship.

Our purpose is to share the method of Centering Prayer and its immediate conceptual background. We also encourage the practice of Lectio Divina, particularly its movement into contemplative prayer, which a regular and established practice of Centering Prayer facilitates.

We identify with the Christian contemplative heritage while we are formed by our respective denominations, we are united in our common search for God and the experience of the living Christ through Centering Prayer. We affirm our solidarity with the contemplative dimensions of other religions and sacred traditions, with the needs and rights of the whole human family, and with all creation.