



Letter to COSEW Community 2022 in Review

Dear Contemplatives of Southeast Wisconsin and Beyond,

The Year of 2022 presented itself with uncertainty and change, not only on the world stage but also in our contemplative community. We are grateful that we were not left alone and helpless, for we have Centering Prayer. 2022 reminds us that we cannot separate the small detail nor the jolting and triumphant events of daily life from our relationship with God... our participation in the Ultimate Reality.

As recalled from a previous Mystic Series class, Celtic Spirituality:

Spirituality is an innate quality of human life and existence - we are born with it - we continuously seek to articulate it and live by it. It is one of life's greatest gifts to us and we have been entrusted with its care and development.
Dairmuir O'Murchu

It is innate in us to blossom our spirituality into the love of the God of our understanding. Our uncertain times are the fertile ground that fuels the seeds of contemplation into surrender and the chance to discover the power of the surrender that leads to peace and the near-effortless action of the Ultimate Reality.

It is toward this disposition of trust and engagement that buoyed us through 2022. Let's review!

- We found ourselves continually challenged and blessed by Zoom. Our classes and Intros were able to include those who couldn't get transportation from their homes, from as close as 57th Street in Milwaukee, and as far away as England, Washington D.C., and Juneau, AK.
- First and Third Silent Saturdays are now consistently meeting in person. Both required new locations. We have a permanent home for Third Saturday at First Fruits in Elm Grove, wonderfully close to where our Center was located. Soon First Saturday will resume the rectory basement location at St. Romans upon completion of repairs. In the meantime the previous convent house on church grounds serves us comfortably.
- We sponsored both a 7-day summer Advanced/Post Intensive Retreat and a December weekend retreat. The topic for December's retreat was "Entering the Mystical Mandala: Centering Oneself in the Sacred Circle" led by Shawn Kafader.
- We give thanks to our local spiritual teachers who presented enriching offerings: Jim Gill, Debbie Harmon, Christine Bender
 - Praying with Icons
 - A Kalidescope of Wisdom: Hildegard of Bingen
 - A Creation Spirituality Primer
 - The Gift of Tears: Mystical Experiences Continued
 - A Look at the Gospel of Matthew
 - The foundational Spiritual Journey Series
- The spiritual faculty of creativity, Patricia Rass, SSND, guided us in finding solutions and rediscovering the joy and wonder in life, actually becoming the will of God through us. In order to hone that creativity muscle we hosted Art and Contemplation classes:
 - Embracing Hope
 - Marti Gras Masks: Who We Are and Who We Can Be for Others
 - Prayer Seeds Booklets
 - All this Juice and All this Joy!
 - Becoming Presence in Meditative Drawing
 - Heart Collage
 - Inner Landscapes
- A member of our contemplative community, Jolie Zimmer, became commissioned as a Presenter for the Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop and helped with one of the two workshops sponsored by COSEW in 2022. Madison Contemplative Outreach presented Introduction to Centering Prayer for 12-Steppers, as always, attending to the great interest and need.
- Newly Commissioned Jack Dierks presented a workshop about a useful companion practice to Centering Prayer, that is, the Welcoming Prayer.
- Discernment and projections for the future confirmed that it was time to "let go" of the office space that was the home of our Center for Contemplative Living for four years. Cooperation and interest from within and outside the contemplative community enabled us to find fitting new homes for furnishings and equipment before our last day of occupancy!
- The "Leadership" Team became The "Coordinating" Team of COSEW. Whether experimental or interim, we are "coordinating" COSEW's programs and the business side of the organism without a designated Coordinator. The Spirit's guidance is a felt presence at our meetings. **We are honored to serve and support you, just as your presence is a source of love and support. And we also are deeply grateful for your generous donations and your participation in our programs and retreats.** Every dollar helps. Donations can be designated to the Scholarship Fund, for general operating expenses, or where most needed.

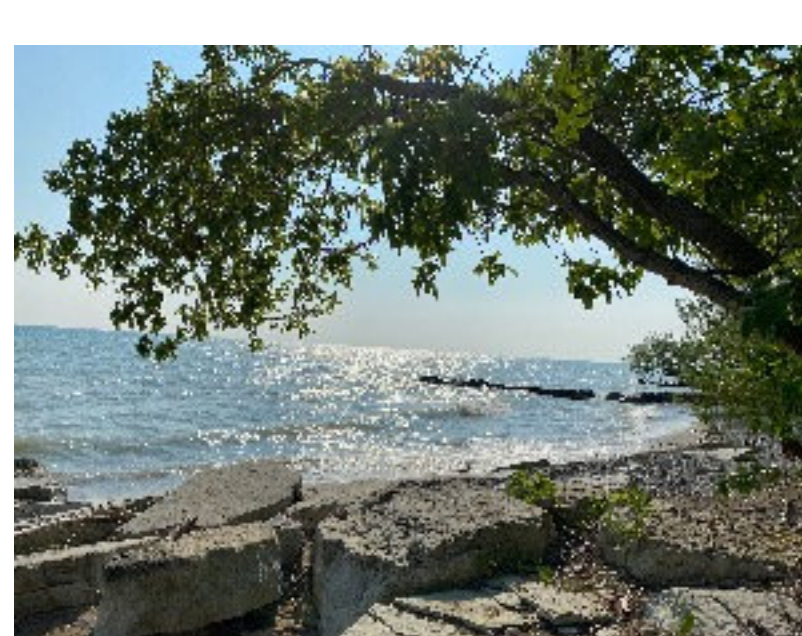
Peace Be With You,

Your Coordinating Team –
Ann, Carol Ann, Christine, Jack, Kathryn Ann, Kenny

- **PS:** Beginning Monday, January 30, 2023, Christine Bender is offering a class on the [Human Condition](#).

At the end of February 2023, Jack Dierks is presenting the [Welcoming Prayer workshop, Mondays](#).
[Welcoming Prayer workshop, Saturday](#).

Also in 2023 and the first time for COSEW, we are sponsoring an intensive [12 Step Retreat on May 4-7](#). Registration is now open. [Register early](#)...space is limited. Kenny Kohberger is the presenter of this unique experience.
<https://www.contemplativewisconsin.org/retreat>



Contemplative Art
to help open your mind and heart

2023 Re-Imagined

**Saturday January 29
9-11 am
Trinity Woods
Presenter Patty Rass**

Book Now

890 Elm Grove Rd. The Village Court, Building 1, Suite 105, Elm Grove, WI 53122
(262) 282-8622

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