

Hinsley Zoom - Saturday June 5, 2021

The Contemplative Life

Handout

Opening Reflection

Contemplation is the response to a call: a call from Him Who has no voice, and yet Who speaks in everything that is, and Who, most of all, speaks in the depths of our own being: for we ourselves are words of His. But we are words that are meant to respond to Him, to answer to Him, to echo Him, and even in some way to contain Him and signify Him. Contemplation is this echo."

— A Book of Hours by

Thomas Merton

Chant: Slowly blooms the rose within. Slowly blooms the rose within.

Closing Reflection

So, thank you for practicing Centering Prayer because, whether you feel it or not, you're contributing at a very deep level to the transformation of the human family. And perhaps, each of us has the mission of bearing some of the difficulties of living in this world for the sake of others. So, looking for happiness of an unmitigated character in this life is really not the project, but rather, finding through trust and gratitude, the inner courage to bear the burdens of the whole human family as Jesus did in proportion to the strength that God may give us to do so. So, I'll leave you with that thought and invite you to rest in God, in the womb of God in the arms of God, in the presence of God.

Thomas Keating - *The Contemplative Life*
Contemplative Outreach Annual Conference August 2005

Prayer for Unity

May God heal all divisions -- those within my own mind, heart, soul and body, and those between all people and groups -- that

we may be one Body in Christ, unified in every way and on every level, and thus manifest the Living Christ by our very lives. Amen.

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