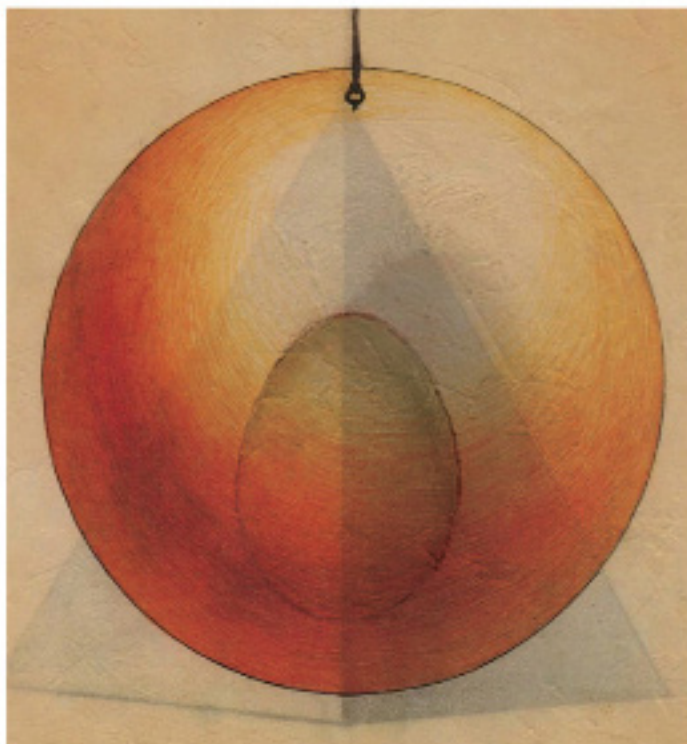


January 2019  
Volume 31  
Number 1



# THE MARK

A Publication of The Church of Conscious Harmony ❖ A Contemplative Christian Community



A NEW  
CREATION

*2019*



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# HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

BY PETER HAAS

In the short span of one year's journey around the sun, The Church of Conscious Harmony seemingly parted with four of our primary spiritual influencers, whom we can rightly call our spiritual fathers and mothers:

We said thank you and offered a robust retirement farewell of love and gratitude to our founders and co-ministers, and the certain spiritual father and mother of our community, Tim and Barbara Cook, on January 7, 2018.

We said thank you and goodbye to our spiritual mother and teacher Bernadette Roberts, who transitioned into eternal life in Christ on November 27, 2017.

We said thank you and goodbye to our spiritual father and teacher, Fr. Thomas Keating, who transitioned into eternal life in Christ on October 25, 2018.

At the beginning of this new year and new octave for The Church of Conscious Harmony, we can rejoice in the enduring and vast treasure-trove of our lineage. As such, we seek to honor our

spiritual fathers and mothers, and acknowledge the enduring fruitfulness their presence and teachings have made in our lives, and how knowing them has been an occasion for God's grace in our spiritual development.

That said, perhaps we honor our spiritual fathers and mothers most not by endlessly looking back to the past, enshrining them in a kind of a "what would so-and-so say" fundamentalism, but rather saying Yes to moving forward into the unknown, gifted with their words of wisdom within our hearts and also open to the emergence of new words birthed by the fusion of *their* past wisdom living with *our* present-moment inspiration from Spirit.

Any revelation or wisdom-teaching worthy of our attention, always links past with present, and does not restrain the movement of the Spirit's call from the future, but harmonizes with it, encourages new exploration and discovery, and cheers us on to keep consenting to the mystery of Divine Love,

which calls us deeper into the deep, even if it means letting go of some aspects of the past. Isn't that the nature of evolution: emergence and continuation from one to another, versus cutting off connection completely?

Similarly, isn't one of the essential aspects of all fathering and mothering the impulse to nurture others into their own future so to *also* become fathers and mothers? While it is tempting for spiritual fathers and mothers to control their "children," it seems to me that the heart of spiritual fathering and mothering of others isn't control, it is freedom grounded in love, a loving that lets go and lets be.

We have received what has been given by our spiritual fathers and mothers, now they get to watch and see what we make of it. This is how the spiritual journey unfolds: from fathers and mothers to sons and daughters, who become fathers and mothers, and so it goes.

Valentine Tomberg reminds us that, "God governs the world by authority, and not by force."

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And that is a good way to think of the essence of why we honor our spiritual fathers and mothers: they have been crowned with a kind of authority of love and understanding through suffering and experience, and their authority does not control, it guides. It does not demand, it invites and nurtures. It does not have the last word, it invites friendship and conversation.

At the same time that we honor our spiritual fathers and mothers, we also are open to receiving new influences – and cultivating new relationships with new spiritual fathers and mothers. I wonder who they will be? Certainly, in recent years, Ilia Delio has emerged to our community as a voice of guidance and inspiration and countless other writers as well, such as Valentine Tomberg, Maurice Nicoll, Byron Katie, and Emilie Cady, to name a few. And, in the years and decades to come, there will be others. The words of Christ through Jesus speak deeply to the promise that all will be provided for us: “*I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you*”

and that “*the Holy Spirit will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have taught.*” (John 14:18, 26)

To that end, in 2019 we begin a new experiment in listening together for the voice of wisdom and truth. The Spiritual Journey Program and its accompanying Journey Groups promise to be well-springs of renewal, inspiration, guidance, comfort and transformation. Built upon the long-standing practice and platform of second-line group wisdom in our community, the Journey Groups promise to be an opportunity for our community to re-discover itself and be knitted together in new ways into a shared fabric of silence, study, God-devotion, authentic conversation, human connection, Work on the side of being, and the unexpected touches of divine grace that inevitably arrive in just the right way when two or more gather in the Presence.

A year from now, come what may in historical time and horizontal culture, may our Spiritual Journey around the Son of God and Its wise,

loving influences, infuse each of our lives and our community more and more with an authority born of experience. So that we may speak as spiritual fathers and mothers to one another and to our fellow members of the human family on this sacred planet circling the sun; a planet and people confronting urgent needs and possibilities to evolve, develop and birth its and our future life not just in our self, but hidden with Christ in God, our Forever-Endlessly-Loving-Abba-Amba. ☸

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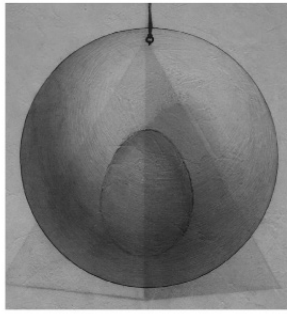
## SUNDAY SERMON SERIES THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

January 6 *Following God-Hints*  
Matthew 2:1-12

January 13 *Beloved of God*  
Luke 3:21-22

January 20 *Divine Union*  
John 2:1-11

January 27 *The Marketplace*  
Luke 4:14-21



## A NEW CREATION

2019

### AN INVITATION

You are invited to join  
in community  
... to renew your intention  
and will to God,  
... to participate fully  
in a year dedicated to  
*A New Creation*  
and The Spiritual Journey  
... to move ever deeper together  
as a community  
of intention, practice  
and devotion.  
All glory to God!

*Whoever is in Christ  
is a new creation ...  
behold, new things have come.  
And all this is from God,  
who has reconciled us  
to himself through Christ.  
2 Corinthians 5:17-18*

To fully participate in the annual aim of *A New Creation*, please prayerfully consider any or all of the offerings and contact the office for an acceptance card. While the *Spiritual Journey* program and Tenth Man School deadlines are January 26<sup>th</sup>, the other eight aim offerings (see 3-10 on p. 5) are ongoing and open to everyone. If you have questions, please contact us.

### A SPECIAL INVITATION FOR ALL...

## THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY PROGRAM FORMATION IN THE CHRISTIAN CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE

*Behold, the kingdom of God is within you.* Luke 17:21

You are invited to participate with your church community on a yearlong all-church Spiritual Journey program that integrates both legs of the church: contemplative Christianity and the Work of Inner Christianity. The aim of the program is to provide each of us with a foundation for deeper understanding and experience of the spiritual journey through the teaching of Thomas Keating, in concert with the teachings of the Work of Inner Christianity, Bernadette Roberts, Ilia Delio and other wisdom teachers.

We wish for this yearlong, program to support our community in its unfolding evolution and growth, as we make a conscious intention as a community to continue to deepen our consent to live a God-centered life and listen together for God's guidance.

#### Participants:

-will receive twice-weekly emails with video links, teachings by Fr. Keating, Maurice Nicoll, and other contemplative and Work of Inner Christianity voices, as well as practice suggestions. The program runs January 14-December 26, 2019 and pauses July-August.

-are encouraged to participate in a weekly Journey Group which will be offered as either in-person or Zoom-video formats.

-will be engaged in three lines of Work, bringing together contemplation and action, aiming to serve the transformation of ourselves and one another for the benefit of all creation.

-will be encouraged to listen deeply from silence and stillness, in and through the heart, and to ground ourselves in a life of intentional practice.

-will receive transcripts of videos and internet access to course materials.

All are welcome to participate in this yearlong Spiritual Journey program. You may sign-up directly on the church website or in the office by January 26, 2019.

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A SPECIAL INVITATION FOR FORMAL CCH MEMBERS...

## THE TENTH MAN SCHOOL

A member of the School is a formal\* member of The Church of Conscious Harmony who chooses to deepen his or her commitment to transformation as Christ by becoming a member of the School. The term of this commitment is for 2019, renewable annually thereafter.

A member of the Tenth Man School commits to a *Rule of Life* and *actively participates* in an intentional community that includes three lines of Work, including:

1. Weekly participation in the *Spiritual Journey* program
2. Weekly participation in a Journey Group
3. Twice daily Centering Prayer practice
4. Daily reading of Scripture
5. Daily reading of the Work of Inner Christianity
6. Daily conscious movement (e.g., tai chi, yoga, walking)
7. Commitment to attending Centering Prayer retreats annually
8. Seva group or youth education program participation
9. Tithing
10. Regular attendance at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service

The intention to participate in the Spiritual Journey program and Tenth Man School is to be submitted by January 26, 2019.

“Now the application of the Work to yourself  
is all about making it possible to go on a journey,  
spiritual or psychological, towards what is really you,  
Real I in you.”

Maurice Nicoll, *Commentaries*, p. 1348

In the Name of the Father, Transcendent, and of the Son, Omnipresent,  
and in the Name of the Holy Spirit, Immanent,  
the Divine Indwelling. Amen.



\*To become a formal member of CCH, certain classes, readings and practices are recommended. You can find out more by contacting the website.



### THE CHURCH of CONSCIOUS HARMONY

A CONTEMPLATIVE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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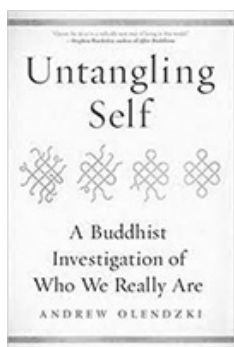
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## BOOK LOOK

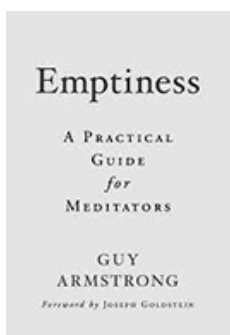
### BUDDHIST WISDOM ON NO-SELF

As we gather on January 12-13, 2019 for The Real Christ event\* remembering and honoring the witness and writings of Bernadette Roberts, it is encouraging to discover new resources that supplement Bernadette's experience from a different religious vantage point. Buddhist teachers Andrew Olendzki and Guy Armstrong offer a modern and accessible interpretation on the spiritual process of no-self, that often times resonates with Bernadette's teaching, and other times provides a significantly different nuance. All of it is useful in deepening our understanding.



For example, in *Untangling Self: A Buddhist Investigation of Who We Really Are*, Olendzki's chapters three, four and five on "Nonself," "Understanding Ourselves," and "The Interdependence of Experience" are the core take-away of the book's exploration on no-self. These chapters provide new insights and terminology to support creative conversation on how Buddhism and Bernadette are similar, and where they diverge in how they talk about the experiences

of no-self. Perhaps these differences of terminology and definition may be pointing to different experiences, or just different ways of speaking of the Mystery of Christ in its unlimited manifestations. We can self-observe, study and wonder. Perhaps one distinction immediately that comes to mind is reflected in Olendzki's title. Would it be more accurate to say something like, "A Buddhist Investigation of WHAT We Really Are?" instead of "... Who We Really Are"?



Similarly, Guy Armstrong's exceptional book *Emptiness: A Practical Guide for Meditators* provides deep enhancement to our Christian dialog about the spiritual journey and its relationship to Bernadette's ideas of no-self and the Christian apophatic way – the way of unknowing and emptiness. In particular, Armstrong's Part 1: "Self" has useful and brief essays on subjects that will be of great value for anyone seeking to compare and link the vastness of Buddhist understanding with

Christian experience – a linking that benefits greatly from Buddhism's long-enduring repository of meditative wisdom through practice, a practical repository that ensures we Christian meditators don't need to "reinvent the wheel" when it comes to finding ways of speaking about the no-self experience.

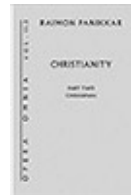
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## CCH LIBRARY

New titles in our  
Library Research Section  
by Raimon Panikkar



*Christianity, A Christophany*

*Buddhism Volume 5*

*Mysticism and Spirituality  
Way of Life & Fullness of Life*

*Hinduism  
Vedic Experience  
and Dharma of India*

*Religion and Religions*

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#### LIBRARY HOURS

Research section  
(not for check-out)  
Open Monday-Friday  
and Sunday  
during Office and Bookstore open hours

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Combined, these books offer a very accessible and up-to-date survey and summary of the subject of no-self and its relationship to meditation, and what we might call (following Bernadette's teaching) the spiritual journey leading up to and *beyond* the unitive state in the Marketplace. Enjoy! ☺

\*Register for *The Real Christ* event online  
[www.consciousharmony.org](http://www.consciousharmony.org). Cost \$50.



*Whoever is in Christ is a new creation ...*

*behold, new things have come.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

## ANNUAL AIM: A NEW CREATION

### HONOR THY FATHER AND MOTHER

BY CAREN BETZ

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The foundation of all tradition – i.e. all continuity in progress, growth, development and evolution – is the commandment: Honor thy father and thy mother... the spirit and soul of *tradition*, of constructive continuation from the past to the present, of true progress across the ages of the path of the life of mankind towards truth. ... the very essence of the life of the spirit and the soul. Because it is the experience of honored paternal love which renders us capable of raising our gaze to heaven and saying with sincerity and authenticity: ... *Our Father who art in heaven*. And it is the experience of honored maternal love which underlies our prayer: ... *Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us*. The source of spiritual life is in this experience of the two aspects of love: the virile love which provides for and directs our steps towards what is good for us, and the tender love which assuages all our tears.

Valentin Tomberg, *Meditations on The Tarot*

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To honor is defined as to fulfill an obligation, or to regard with great respect. We are directed in the decalogue to “Honor thy father and thy mother” (Exodus 20:12). How have I, and how do I honor my father and mother?

I was born in England. My earliest memories of my father and mother are there, such as my mother

holding my fingers as my 18 month old self tried to go downstairs. I was not entirely successful so the memory includes being swooped up into my mother’s arms and laid on the couch with a bloody nose. I remember my father sleeping in my room where we used a pressure cooker as a vaporizer to help my developmentally immature lungs.

Most of all, I remember being loved. How do I honor that love? I honor it by acknowledging it, treasuring it, and sharing it.

We all have a variety of fathers and mothers: biologic, adoptive, and spiritual. We all have a terrestrial father and mother, mine have passed from this realm of existence. Parents teach us – my father taught me focus

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on the mission (he was military and a scientist); my mother taught me relationship (she was a psychologist). My father helped me understand the practicality of 'payment' – study hard, practice often, keep trying when first attempts are not sufficient. My mother taught me to focus on building relationship with those in our life. Those lessons from my father seemed harsh and our relationship suffered for it. However, in the last eight years of his life, he moved across the country to be near me. In that precious time, we healed a lifetime of interpersonal strife, and I came to understand and appreciate him. He died, almost 100 years old with me at his bedside. He knew he was loved and I knew he loved me. One of my 'other' fathers during my early adolescence was an Air Force Chaplain, a friend of my parents, who showed me the importance and value of questioning, of trying it on for myself (as we are still reminded to do by our teachers of the Work of Inner Christianity). My mother's wisdom guided me through the turbulent years of adolescence and helped me learn the value of 'the other'. She moved to be near me when I came to Texas for college, and we were given the gift of time – she and I enjoyed a great many things together before she died at age 90 in her home surrounded by her family. My parents did not

'make' me what I am; they are not responsible for my life. They did the best they could, and apparently it was good enough. I am responsible for my arising, as Gurdjieff said. However, they gave me a strong spiritual foundation from which to arise, and I will be forever grateful. *הכרבל מנורכז* May their memories be a blessing.

Jesus asked, *Who is my mother...?* (Matthew 12:48). How do I know who is my father/mother? I know! My fathers and mothers nurture, protect, and encourage my growth and development. And I am fortunate to have several. I have spiritual fathers and mothers that I hold in high regard with great respect. These spiritual fathers and mothers begin from the 'good enough' of my biologic parents to enable me to become something even better. One of them was in the guise of a friend who introduced me to The Church of Conscious Harmony over 16 years ago and introduced me to Tim and Barbara Cook. They, in turn, introduced me to other, more remote fathers and mothers – G.I. Gurdjieff, P.D. Ouspensky, Jeanne de Salzmann, Maurice Nicholl, Beryl Pogson, Boris Mouravieff, Rodney Collin, David Hawkins, and others. The Cooks enabled me to experience the presence of Fr. Thomas Keating. He lovingly and consistently opened

my eyes and mind to the wonder and closeness of God. His mission was teaching Centering Prayer, which has transformed my prayer practice – learning that God is not in the powerful wind, not in the earthquake, not in the fire, but in the silence (I Kings 19:11-12). The evolution of my prayer practice might be described as going from superficial and filled with wonderful prayers of petition, intercessory, or praise to mysterious – not a thing to do, but an attitude to be. His writings on the Parables enabled me to read them and find deeper, more personal meanings. He asked me to question my old understandings and engage in an esoteric dialogue with the Bible.

If we call Fr. Thomas our Abba, which means daddy or father, then we call Sr. Bernadette Roberts our mother. "Our mother is our first window onto God ..." (*Meditations on the Parables of Jesus*, Keating). My first encounter with Bernadette was when she visited CCH to present her Circle Tour. I had the privilege, albeit with some reluctance, to work the sound board for her. One of the gifts of the sound board is that it focuses your attention and minimizes any mental wanderings. Her concepts were new to me and challenging. They made me hungry for more, and she fed me all I could handle. She gave me symbols that



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helped define the spiritual journey that Fr. Thomas called “no-thing-ness” – I could see my ego, false personality, slowly dissolving and my no-thing-ness growing. When my picture of Jesus was questioned, I found a more relatable Christ. In her book, *The Real Christ*, Bernadette tore down old associations and helped me begin to build new ones. She mothered me by fostering my growth and making it safe to question, explore and develop a new relation with Christ.

Both our spiritual father and mother blurred gender roles. Each showed us the feminine side of masculine and the masculine side of feminine as they provided us a representation of God in which *there is no male or female* (Galatians 3:28).


In both of Fr. Thomas and Bernadette’s ways, they guided me through an exploration of my personal religious upbringing. My father was an Orthodox Jew, the son of Russian immigrants. My mother was an Episcopalian from long-time Southern family. When they married, both families cut ties of relationship (this was before World War II and inter-religious marriage was not tolerated), and we children were raised with both Jewish and Christian teachings and customs, somewhat adapted by our parents to fit into their life narrative. In many ways, it seemed I was divided

– some days I was Jewish, some days I was Christian. Fr. Thomas and Bernadette helped erase that line of division. I could explore Christ through Old and New Testament teachings. Fr. Thomas introduced me to the book, *Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament* (Christopher J. H. Wright) when I was on a retreat at Snowmass. Bernadette introduced me to the idea of releasing the ‘Jesus cult’ to expand my notion of Christ.

Both Fr. Thomas and Bernadette brought me a new understanding of the Trinity. Fr. Thomas gave me a dynamic picture of the love pouring between the Father and the Son and that the Holy Spirit, frequently symbolized as female, is that love. Bernadette added Mother Mary to the center of the Trinity. I have even pondered Fr. Thomas as the father, CCH as the son, and Bernadette as the holy spirit. Fr. Thomas was inspirational to Tim and Barbara as they wished for a church community which manifested as CCH. Bernadette gave the mother’s love, occasionally tough love, that encouraged our growth and dynamic relationship. It may be another opportunity to see and feel the scale of honor for my father and mother, now and forever.

All of my fathers and mothers have given me gifts. Their gifts have brought me to this place at this time. Some of them were delightful

– love, compassion, joy. Some were challenging – fear, shame, anger. We don’t get the opportunity to pick and choose our lessons, we accept them all. And all of them are mine to use and mine to transform. I wish to bring my gifts to the Table and perhaps to *entertain angels unawares* (Hebrews 13:2).

In the Work of Inner Christianity, I was introduced to the idea that Patience is the mother of Will. My Work partner offered me that Faith is the mother of Patience, then Will is the mother of Knowledge/ Understanding, and Knowledge/ Understanding is the mother of Love. Rumi wrote “...My mother is love. My father is love.... My God is love. I am a child of love. I have come to speak of love.” I am reminded that love is a choice and all my fathers and mothers have chosen to give me love in their way. And that love allowed me to explore and grow safe in the knowledge that God is Love. I begin to understand in my whole essence that I am ‘not a human being in search of a spiritual experience, (but that I am a) spiritual being immersed in a human experience’ (Pierre Teilhard de Chardin). As I have been blessed, may I be a blessing to others. May my parenthood grow and guide others in love. And I am profoundly grateful that I have these examples and more upon which to pattern my motherhood. 

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*My Father is still working, and I also am working.* John 5:17

## LIVING THE WORK OF INNER CHRISTIANITY IN DAILY LIFE

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**Work Idea:** It is customary to make the most of the New Year moment by making new personal intentions and aims. Many make a wish to change something about their life or behavior; perhaps a wish to cease something or start something new. The Work teaches the importance of useful efforts, which is another way of saying conscious efforts, and the importance of also calculating second force. Second force is inevitable and necessary for all our efforts to be useful. In other words, don't just change to change – first make an aim, then make the effort(s) and understand before beginning that resistance will arise and needs to arise in order for the aim and wish to manifest completely. Knowing this, how will you respond?


**Work Source:** Maurice Nicoll's accessible book *Simple Explanation of Work Ideas* provides a helpful summary of this idea in Chapter Twelve, where he explains:

“In order to change oneself, a man/woman, must work on oneself. But there are both useful and useless efforts. As

an example of useless effort, take the instance of an irritable person, who hearing of this system and not understanding it, gives up smoking. The result is that he/she becomes even more irritable. Effort must be intelligent, and it must be based on the direction the Work teaches, and on what we have observed in ourselves in relation to the Teaching. Unless we have observed ourselves and seen what we have to work on, nothing useful can result from any efforts we make. If one has observed one is irritable, one is in a position to work on oneself usefully. All efforts made must be useful in one of three respects – the Work itself, or to others in the Work, or to oneself. The First Line of Work is to change the kind of person one is. The Second Line of Work is in connection with one's neighbors – those with whom one is working, who are nearest in understanding. The Third Line of Work concerns the Work itself. For instance,

we must think of what might harm it and what might help it, and realize that if we behave badly or talk badly, we harm the Work itself and other people in it – and ourselves, so that without seeing the reason, we can no longer Work on ourselves. The Teaching lays down these three lines of Work. No one can work only for oneself.”

**Practical Application:** As you make your New Year's aims and wishes, seek to connect the aims and wishes with all three lines of the Work. Can you see how your Work for yourself, can also work for others, and for the Work itself? See it clearly. Write it down. Share it with a friend in the Work. Anchor it all outside yourself.

**Supplemental Resources:** Read Jesus' parable related to calculating second force in The Gospel of Luke 14:25-34. 

For more experience with these teachings, you are invited to attend the Work of Inner Christianity class held Thursdays 7:30-9:00 p.m. at The Church of Conscious Harmony.

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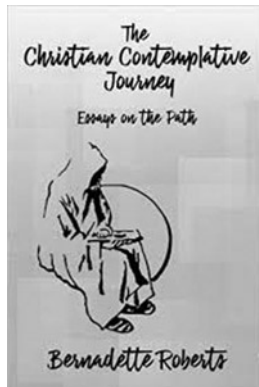
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## COMMUNITY READING FOR JANUARY

In honor of Bernadette Roberts

and our January 12-13, 2019 enrichment weekend,

let's begin our community reading with her book,



*The Christian Contemplative Journey: Essays on the Path.*

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## GUIDELINES FOR CHRISTIAN LIFE, GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION

Fr. Thomas Keating, in his seminal work

*Open Mind, Open Heart,*

lists 42 principles underlying the Christian spiritual journey.

Fr. Keating asks that these principles be read according  
to the method of Lectio Divina.

One principle will appear in these pages each month.

### GUIDELINE 12

Personal sin is the refusal to respond  
to Christ's self-communication (grace).

It is the deliberate neglect  
of our own genuine needs and those of others.

It reinforces the false self.

## JANUARY CALENDAR

Visit [consciousharmony.org](http://consciousharmony.org)  
for a complete listing of events

### SPECIAL EVENTS

The Real Christ: Remembering the  
Witness and Writings of Bernadette  
Roberts

Jan 12-13 Sat 9am-4pm, Sun 1-4pm  
\$50 Register by Jan 11, noon.

Lessons In Truth

Wednesdays Jan 16-Mar 13, 7:30-8:30pm  
Contact the office to register.

5-Day Centering Prayer Retreat

Jan 18-22  
Contact the office to register.

1-Day Centering Prayer Retreat

Jan 26 8:30am-4:30pm \$20 Bring  
your lunch.  
Register by Jan 25, noon.

### MONTHLY

1st Sundays

Bring non-perishables for Caritas

### WEEKLY

Sundays

Lectio Divina 8-9:00am  
Prayer Circle 9:15-9:45am  
Worship Service 10-11:30am  
Youth Program 10-11:30am  
Fellowship 11:30am

Wednesdays

Contemplative Lunch noon-1pm  
Contemplative Communion Service 6-7pm

Thursdays 7:30-9pm

Work of Inner Christianity Class

Saturdays

Scriptorium noon-12:50pm

### DAILY

Sunday-Saturday 7-7:35am

Centering Prayer Service in Theosis Chapel

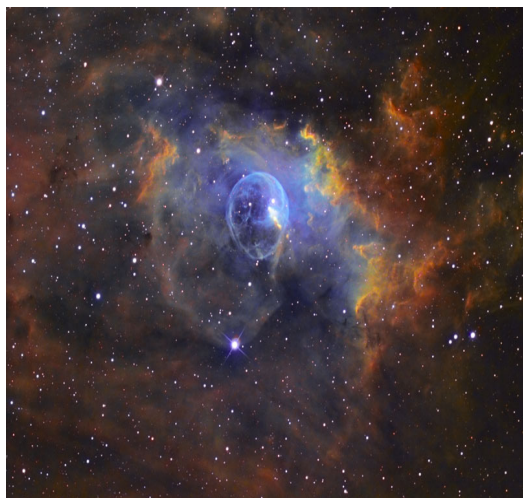
Recordings of services are available  
through the Bookstore and online at  
[www.consciousharmony.org](http://www.consciousharmony.org)



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*After their audience with the king,  
the Magi set out. And behold,  
the star that they had seen at its rising  
preceded them, until it came and stopped over  
the place where the child was.*

*They were overjoyed at seeing the star,  
and on entering the house they saw the child  
with Mary His mother.  
They prostrated themselves  
and did Him homage.*

Matthew 2:9-11

## EPIPHANY

At the culmination of the Christmas season is the feast of the Epiphany. Epiphany means revelation. What revelation?

Each of us is manifesting God, or at least we have the potential of doing so along with every other creature ... but there is more.

The feast of Epiphany reveals that God is inviting us to participate in the union of the Son of God with human nature.

The Incarnation of the Word made flesh is the marriage between the divine and human nature in Jesus Christ.

We share in the mystery of the Word made flesh in virtue of the oneness of the human species and become one body with Christ.

If we have any existence at all,  
we must be present to and penetrated by this Presence.

Why not cultivate it?

That is the invitation of the Epiphany.

Thomas Keating, *Contemplative Outreach News* December 2013

*Rise up in splendor ...! Your LIGHT has come,  
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.  
Upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears His glory.*

Isaiah 60:1