

# Retreat Schedule

Bridges To Contemplative Living  
With Thomas Merton

Themed Retreats

## 2010 Retreats

**Lent:**  
**March 5-7**  
**March 8-10**  
**March 12-14**

**April 19-21**  
**April 30-May 2**  
**May 10-12**

### First Day

4:00 Arrival and Check-in  
 5:30 Vespers at Gethsemani  
 6:00 Dinner  
 7:00 Opening Session

### Second Day

5:45 *Lauds at Gethsemani*  
 6:15 *Mass at Gethsemani*  
 7:30 - 9:30 Breakfast  
 9:30 - 10:30 Contemplative Living Session  
 11:00 - 12:00 Contemplative Living Session  
 12:00 Lunch  
 1:00—4:30 Free Period for solitude,  
 hiking, etc.  
 4:30 - 5:15 Contemplative Living Session  
 5:30 Vespers at Gethsemani  
 6:00 Dinner  
 7:30 *Compline at Gethsemani*  
 8:00 – 8:45 Contemplative Living Session

### Third Day

6:45 *Lauds at Gethsemani*  
 7:30 – 9:30 Breakfast  
 9:30 - 10:30 Contemplative Living Session  
 10:20 *Tierce and Mass at Gethsemani*  
 12:00 Lunch  
 1:15 –2:15 Contemplative Living Session  
 Retreat Concludes

Additional dates for Bridges retreats can be found online  
 at [www.mertoninstitute.org/retreats.php](http://www.mertoninstitute.org/retreats.php)

Thomas Merton & Mary Oliver:  
 Poets of the Sacred  
 January 22–24, April 9–11, June 18–20 (\$285)

Thomas Merton and Mary Oliver align their lives with Wisdom in their poetry's approach to nature and the feminine. Reflect upon Wisdom as the feminine energies of God (Merton) and Wisdom as living a life of praise within Nature's embrace (Oliver). Rusty Moe guides the retreat.

Love & Contemplative Living  
 February 12–14 (\$285)

Focusing on themes from Merton's book *Love and Living*, participants discover love as an experience that may shatter our delusions and offers opportunities, at its most graced heights, for creative, generative and compassionate suffering for and with our life's beloveds. David Hilton hosts and facilitates the retreat.

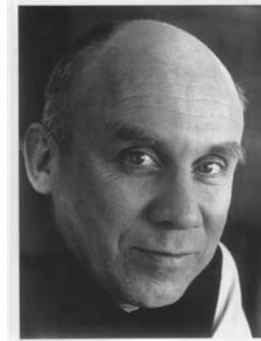
Holy Week Non-Directed Retreat  
 March 31–April 4 (\$320)

Rest in an atmosphere of silence from Wednesday night until late morning Easter Sunday. Participants have the opportunity to attend prayer services at the Abbey of Gethsemani and spend time in silence and solitude.

*Themed retreats begin with registration at 4 p.m. on the first day and end mid-afternoon on the last day.*

Full descriptions of these retreats can be found online at [www.bethanyspring.org](http://www.bethanyspring.org)

## About The Merton Institute for Contemplative Living



**Thomas Merton** is widely acclaimed as one of the most influential American spiritual writers of the past century. Thousands of readers have drawn strength from his words as well as the witness of his life, which was essentially the living out of a contemplative vision. His autobiography, *The Seven Storey Mountain* appears on lists of the 100 most important books of the century. Thomas Merton is distinguished among most contemporary spiritual writers by the depth and substance of his thinking. Merton was a scholar who distilled the best thinking of the best theologians, philosophers and poets throughout the centuries, from both the West and the East, and presented their thinking in the context of his Christian world view.

The Merton Institute's Mission is to awaken interest in Contemplative Living through the works of Thomas Merton in order to promote peace and justice through the world. Contemplative Living fosters a life of right relationships with ourselves, our neighbors, and nature, while deeply coursing through all these relationships is God manifested as Love, Relationship and Community.

"Contemplation is the highest expression of man's intellectual and spiritual life."

**Thomas Merton**  
 - *New Seeds of Contemplation*



## Offering

Center-sponsored retreats:

*Bridges to Contemplative Living Retreats*

Guided Retreats

Directed Retreats

Individual retreats:

Private retreats

Group retreats

*Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours are at the Abbey of Gethsemani*



### Bethany Spring, The Merton Institute Retreat Center

offers retreats based on the eight-volume series, *Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton*, a resource for small group dialogue. No prior knowledge of Merton or the *Bridges* series is required for participation. These guided retreats are an intimate experience that includes no more than twelve participants who share lunches and dinners in common, with opportunities to participate in the prayers of the monks at the Abbey of Gethsemani located only one mile from Bethany Spring. Gethsemani's public paths are open to retreatants at Bethany Spring. In addition to our guided retreats, Bethany Spring offers opportunities for private retreats for individuals and small groups. The core of these retreats is the Contemplative Living Session that includes individual reflection on readings from Merton and other spiritual writers, contemplative dialogue on these readings with all retreatants, and prayer in common. Each session focuses on aspects of our lives' basic relationships—with self, our neighbors, with nature and with God. By attention to these core relationships in daily living we become "contemplatives" who are learning that "our every day life is our spiritual life."



### About Bethany Spring

The wooded setting, the rolling fields and the lake at Bethany Spring provide unique opportunities for reflection and prayer. Located 50 miles south of Louisville, Kentucky, 10 miles from Bardstown, Bethany Spring is situated in an area called the "Kentucky Holy Land" that fosters religious communities of both men and women still witnessing to dedicated contemplative living today. Retreatants at Bethany Spring are welcome to participate in or simply witness the daily monastic schedule of prayers with the Cistercian monks of Gethsemani. Thomas Merton lived at Gethsemani for twenty-seven years and is buried at the Abbey.

**Bethany Spring is an inclusive facility** welcoming everyone who realizes that our "true journey in life is interior." (Merton)

### Lodging & Meals

The House at Bethany Spring will lodge participants in the Merton Institute's guided retreats. Two cottages (one for 2-3 persons and one for a single individual) are available for private retreats. Space for private individual and group retreats will be available throughout the year. Linens and towels are furnished. Bathrooms in the House are shared. On guided retreats, meals are provided for both lunch and dinner. Meals are provided at dinner time for private retreatants staying in the House.

### Directions to Bethany Spring Retreat House

From Bardstown, Kentucky: Take 31E south for 6 miles, turn left at jct. 247. Stay on this for 3 miles, **going past** the Abbey of Gethsemani. Go straight exactly one mile south. Bethany Spring is on the right at 115 Dee Head Road. Telephone **502-549-8277**. The nearest airport is Louisville, Kentucky, International Airport (SDF) about 50 miles north. *Retreatants arriving by plane, bus or train in Louisville must arrange their own transportation to and from Bethany Spring.*



**Please call 502-899-1991 for rates and available dates for your private retreat or group.**

## Reservation Form

Retreats **\$235.00** per person

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> February 8–10 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 30–May 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 5–7     | <input type="checkbox"/> May 10–12      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 8–10    | <input type="checkbox"/> June 4–6       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 12–14   | <input type="checkbox"/> June 25-27     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 19–21   | <input type="checkbox"/> July 12-14     |
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- Feb. 12–14 Love & Contemplative Living (\$285)
  - March 31–April 4 Holy Week Non-Directed Retreat (\$320)
  - April 9–11 Thomas Merton & Mary Oliver (\$285)
  - May 21–23 Mysticism & Non-Violence (\$285)
  - June 18–20 Thomas Merton & Mary Oliver (\$285)
  - June 21-25 Directed Retreat (\$320)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of Payment

- Check
- Visa
- MasterCard

You are considered registered when we have a completed registration form and full payment for the retreat.

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**To reserve space for your retreat or for additional information please contact us at:**

**The Merton Institute  
for Contemplative Living**  
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[www.mertoninstitute.org](http://www.mertoninstitute.org)