

Contemplative Wisdom School

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault

Wisdom Schools have two purposes. The first is to make available to Christians the breadth and depth of their own Christian heritage, paying particular attention to new resources and insights that come to us from the Near East and our own Western mystical tradition. A core textbook has been *The Roots of Christian Mysticism* by Olivier Clement. Our goal has been to recover the true catholicity of the Christian tradition by returning to our own wellsprings.

The wider tradition is unanimous, however, in its assertion that the deeper Christianity cannot be known by the mind alone; it requires a transformation of the entire being. That is our second...and in fact, primary...purpose. From time immemorial there have been wisdom schools to raise human consciousness and transform society, and we work with the core practices that sustain the transformation of consciousness: meditation, contemplative prayer, *lectio divina*, the language of sacred gesture, and the daily practices of mindfulness, inner observation and surrender.

Our upcoming New York Wisdom School provides a pioneering opportunity for experienced practitioners of Centering Prayer to begin to allow the transformation of consciousness inevitably set in motion by this prayer to open the gateways to a wider and deeper understanding of the Christian Wisdom tradition. This 6-day seminar retreat will serve as an introduction to the Wisdom tradition and a powerful bridge between the purifying practices of Centering Prayer and the opening of the unitive “eye of the heart.” Each seminar will include Morning Worship, Centering Prayer periods, teaching sessions, mindful work, sharing, discussions, a desert day, free time and closing worship.

Requirements:

- 1) an established Centering Prayer practice
- 2) an ability to participate full six days

Required Texts:

Bourgeault, Cynthia - *The Wisdom Way of Knowing*
Cynthia Bourgeault - *The Wisdom Jesus*
Lynn Bauman, Ward Bauman, Cynthia Bourgeault – *The Luminous Gospels*

Recommended Texts:

Lynn Bauman, *The Gospel of Thomas: Wisdom of the Twin* (*note: this covers the same text as is in The Luminous Gospels, but in a much more complete way, with notes and study questions. Recommend buying both texts*).
Jim Marion - *Putting on the Mind of Christ*
Olivier Clement – *The Roots of Christian Mysticism*

<u>Date:</u>	September 25-30, 2012
<u>Cost:</u>	\$500 – due with registration (<i>non-refundable after April 1, 2012</i>)
<u>Place:</u>	Bethany Spirituality Center, Highland Mills, NY
<u>Contact:</u>	Catherine McCarthy, Program Administrator Contemplative Outreach of Orange County Post Office Box 208 Cornwall, New York 12518-0208 845 534-5180; email cmccarthy001@hvc.rr.com Website - www.centeringprayer.org

For information and/or Registration Form, please contact Cathy McCarthy.