

Associate Contemplative Prayer Retreat

Advent of 2018, Associates attended a focus group discussing contemplative prayer guided by the works of Thomas Merton. Five associates from this group attended a retreat September 13-15, 2019 at the Nazareth Retreat Center, led by Sr. Jeanne Glisky, sfp, in Nazareth, KY.

Sr. Frances Krumpleman, SCN, offered human interest stories about Thomas Merton's early life. Sr. Marilyn Shea, SCN, shared insights to the gospel. The group practiced contemplative prayer, led by Sr. Jeanne. Saturday was an enriching day.

Sunday was dedicated to a visit to the Abbey of Gethsemani where Thomas Merton lived as Cistercian Monk. We had the unique opportunity to experience a guided tour of the church and abbey and a visit to Thomas Merton's grave. Brother Luke Armour's hospitality and kindness intensified the experience. Our associate group journeyed together sharing prayer and fellowship. It was a grace-filled weekend uniting us in spiritual companionship.

As we gathered to return to Cincinnati, each of us were touched in different ways, but all agreed we had experienced the unconditional love of God.

Anne Cabanas - sfp-a

