

# Visitation Spirituality Center

Winter-Spring 2025

Programs

**VISITATION CENTER** is available for **A DAY AWAY!** If you are looking for a contemplative space for prayer, study, or personal reflection consider spending a day, or part of a day with us. Just contact us in advance to make your reservation with a call to (248)433-0950 or an e-mail to [visitationnorth@ihmsisters.com](mailto:visitationnorth@ihmsisters.com). (Free Will Offering)

## Musing over Mugs

**February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, 10:00am-12:00noon**

*Over a cup of coffee or tea, women explore the graces and challenges of their lives as seen through the eyes of faith. Marie Miller, IHM, is our facilitator. (Free Will Offering)*

## A Morning with Howard Thurman

**Joni Scott, BA**

**Saturday, February 22, 9:30am-12:30pm**

February is Black History Month, and it's more appropriate than ever to celebrate and learn about civil rights activists like Howard Thurman. Nicknamed "the quiet saint," by Congressman John Lewis, Thurman was the spiritual companion who black activists went to for prayer and encouragement. Thurman's writings were critical in sustaining and comforting Martin Luther King, Jr., during the marches, demonstrations, especially during his time in Birmingham jail. In this program, we will explore Thurman's message of faith, hope and love in times of struggle. (Suggested Offering: \$25)

## Meeting God: The Path of Entering Quiet in the Midst of Everyday Life

**Julie Vieira, IHM, MA**

**Saturday, March 8, 9:30am-12:30pm**

We long for quiet and spaciousness with God, yet there is so much that fills our hearts and daily lives with questions and challenges. Stillness seems impossible in the chaos of the moment. God is in all of this, and we have within us the capacity to dwell in quiet and spaciousness. You are invited into this time of prayer, reflection and exploration with God which includes the wisdom of the saints and mystic. Along the way, you will find ideas and practices that can guide you along your own journey. (Suggested Offering: \$25)

## Thomas Merton and Pope Francis: An Ecological Conversation

**Susann Rakoczy, IHM, PhD**

**Saturday, March 15, 9:30am-12:30pm**

Thomas Merton, renowned Trappist spiritual writer, had an intuitive grasp of the beauty of creation since he was a young child, as his mother attested. Creation images abound in his poetry. Merton died in 1968; Pope Francis became pope in 2013 and has become a significant voice in ecological thought through his two documents *Laudato Si'* (2015) and *Laudate Deum* (2023). What might they say to each other today? (Suggested Offering: \$25)

## Praying with the Women Doctors of the Church: A Lenten Day of Reflection

**Francis J. Daly, SJ, MDiv, and Kathie Budesky, IHM, MA**

**Saturday, March 22, 10:00am-4:00PM**

Over the long history of the Church, thirty-seven saints have been named "Doctors of the Church. Of these, only four have been women: Hildegard of Bingen, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Ávila, and Thérèse of Lisieux. During our time together, we will look at the lives of these women, their contributions to Catholic thought, as well as the insights they offer us as we live our faith today. In addition to input, there will be time for personal prayer and reflection, lively conversation, and a lunch from Panera Bakery. The day will end with the celebration of the Eucharist. **The registration deadline is Monday, March 17, 2025.** (Suggested Offering: \$50)

## Entering into Holy Week: The Passion and Death of Jesus

**Kathie Budesky, IHM, MA**

**Saturday, April 12, 9:30am-12:30pm**

St. Luke's account of the Passion and Death of Jesus tell the story of God's deep and abiding love for the human family. In this program, we will use the methods of critical Biblical scholarship to plumb the depths of these texts to develop new insights and a more profound appreciation of this holy season. The works of classical and contemporary artists and musicians will enhance the presentation. The morning will also include time for personal prayer and reflection as well as lively discussion. (Suggested Offering: \$25)

**Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ: Pondering His Poetry on Creation and the Paschal Mystery**

**Mary Ellen Sheehan, IHM, STD**

**Saturday, April 26, 9:30am-12:30pm**

Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J. was born in 1844 in east London, an Anglican who went to Oxford to study the Classics. He converted to the Roman Catholic faith and eventually became a Jesuit. Stimulated by the Welsh countryside, Hopkins wrote several poems on creation. Sent to Dublin to teach in J. H. Newman’s University, he wrote “the dark sonnets” as he underwent a depression. He died in Dublin in 1889. In this workshop, we will explore creation and the paschal mystery from Hopkins’ poems and ask: How does Hopkins call us into a deeper integrated Incarnational Spirituality? We will explore this question through presentation, guided personal reflection, and small group sharing. (Suggested Offering: \$25)

**Are You a Martha or a Mary?**

**Janet Schaeffler, OP, MA**

**Saturday, May 3, 9:30am-12:30pm**

The Scripture story of Jesus coming to the home of Mary and Martha (and Lazarus) is well-known to us. What is the message for us, women living in 2025? Through this Scripture passage, what is God saying to us about our lives? Is it what we often hear--or might there be additional messages? Do I feel too busy, too rushed? How—really--do I balance everything today? What really are the answers to which Jesus challenges us--and comforts us? (Suggested Offering: \$25)

**The Post-Resurrection Appearances of Jesus**

**Annemarie S. Kidder, PhD, IHM Associate**

**Saturday, May 10, 9:30am-12:30pm**

After his resurrection on Easter and up until his ascension into heaven, Jesus appears to a select group of his followers. All four Gospels record these bodily appearances of Jesus that last for forty days. In these stories, he is both physical and ephemeral. He can be touched and he can eat, but he can also walk through locked doors and appear and disappear at an instant. Jesus is both of the earth and of heaven, human and divine. And he chooses select people to whom he appears.

This presentation will explore the biblical stories of Jesus' appearances based on the context in which they are placed. We will also look at examples of Renaissance art on the subject. And we will seek to identify the support these stories offered their earliest audiences and the aid they might give us in our own Christian walk today. (Suggested Offering: \$25)

Visitation Spirituality Center • 7227 Lahser Road • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301 • [visitationnorth@ihmsisters.org](mailto:visitationnorth@ihmsisters.org) • [visitationnorth.org](http://visitationnorth.org) • (248) 433-0950

**Registration Form**

*Visitation Spirituality Center*

- Morning with Howard Thurman (February 22)
- Meeting God: Entering the Quiet (March 8)
- Thomas Merton and Pope Francis (March 15)
- Lenten Day of Reflection (March 22)
- Entering into Holy Week (April 12)
- Gerard Manley Hopkins (April 20)
- Are You a Martha or a Mary? (May 3)
- Post-Resurrection Appearances of Jesus (May 10)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Be a Visitation “Frequent Flyer”:** For those who register for three or more programs, there is a \$5 reduction for the cost of each program.

Send registration and check to: Visitation Spirituality Center, 7227 Lahser Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301; email [VisitationNorth@ihmsisters.org](mailto:VisitationNorth@ihmsisters.org), or call (248)433-0950.



*We are a place of welcome  
for all who seek quiet space,  
spiritual companionship  
or opportunity or spiritual growth.*