

The 20th Annual
FESTIVAL of FAITHS
SACRED
JOURNEYS
and THE LEGACY of THOMAS MERTON

LOUISVILLE, KY • MAY 12-17, 2015



"THE SUNDANCE
OF THE SACRED"
RICHARD ROHR, O.F.M.



WEEK PASSES & TICKETS AVAILABLE

WWW.FESTIVALOFFAITHS.ORG

THE 2015 FESTIVAL OF FAITHS EXPLORES:

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES • SACRED JOURNEYS • SACRED WORLD • ART AND THE SACRED

THE 20TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF FAITHS is a five-day celebration of music, spoken word poetry, film, theatre, photography, and dialogue with internationally renowned spiritual leaders, practitioners, and teachers. This festival is inspired by the life and legacy of Thomas Merton (1915 – 1968), poet, hermit, author, activist, artist, and interfaith pioneer.



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FOLLOW OUR TWEETS!

@FestofFaiths
#SacredJourneys



WATCH US ON YOUTUBE!

YouTube.com/FestofFaiths

TICKETS

With the exception of the Interfaith Prayer Service, each Festival of Faiths event requires a ticket, available through Actors Theatre of Louisville's box office. Ticket prices for individual programs are \$25. Passes for the entire Festival are \$247.50. In addition, fees will apply to ticket sales. Individual session, day, and week passes are available.

To order Festival of Faiths tickets,
call **(502) 584-1205** or **(800) 428-5849**
or log onto www.FestivalofFaiths.org
or scan the **QR code** shown here.

Please inquire about additional discounts for
students, educators, and clergy.



CONTACT US

(502) 583-3100

Email: info@interfaithrelations.org

WWW.FESTIVALOFFAITHS.ORG

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For more information about the cover photograph, please visit our website.

SACRED JOURNEYS

and THE LEGACY of THOMAS MERTON

Actors Theatre of Louisville • May 12-17, 2015

DAILY SCHEDULE

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

Each morning begins with a guided spiritual practice led by practitioners from diverse faith traditions. These sessions provide insight into the ritual, words, movements, and meanings of different forms of contemplative prayer. Practitioners will share their personal experience and relationship with their practice.

GUIDED PRACTICES: *Lectio Divina* (Divine Reading) • The Jesus Prayer • Hindu Vedantic practice • Buddhist meditation.

SACRED JOURNEYS

Thomas Merton wrote, “If you want to identify me, ask me not where I live, or what I like to eat, or how I comb my hair, but ask me what I am living for, in detail, ask me what I think is keeping me from living fully for the thing I want to live for.”

Invited guests explore Merton’s questions by sharing their stories and insights in two formats:

SACRED STORIES: Speakers convey in a seven-minute, highly distilled format the story of their spiritual journey, and the essential insights and understandings they have gained from it.

SACRED JOURNEYS: Speakers respond in a 25-minute presentation to four questions:

1. What are you living for?
2. What is preventing you from living that more fully?
3. What insights, keys, and practices do you find most valuable, and why?
4. What issue, societal or global, most concerns you, and what are you doing about it?

THEMES: Merton and His Legacy • East and West • Abrahamic Faiths • Engaging the World with Compassion

SACRED WORLD

Afternoon programs explore how we bring our ‘True Self’ into the world. Speakers share diverse spiritual perspectives on contemporary themes.

THEMES: The True Self • Contemplation and Action • Secular and Sacred • Discovering the Self in Sacred Journey with the Other

ART AND THE SACRED

Evening programs offer opportunities to experience the sacred through music and poetry.

PERFORMANCES: *Sacred Journeys through Music*, curated by Teddy Abrams, Music Director for the Louisville Orchestra • *Merton and Songs of a Century* with Dick Sisto and Ensemble • *Sacred Journeys through Spoken Word*, poetry from diverse voices, including Roots & Wings, a unique local theatre project featuring emerging artists.



1 GALT HOUSE HOTEL 140 N. 4th St.

2 ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE
316 W. Main St.

3 MILKWOOD RESTAURANT 316 W. Main St.
(Lower Level of Actors Theatre)

4 HEINE BROS COFFEE 516 W. Main St.

5 PANERA BREAD 400 W. Market St.

6 STARBUCKS COFFEE 221 S. 4th St.

7 SUNERGOS COFFEE 231 S. 5th St.

8 FOOD COURT 4th Street Live!

9 FEDEX SHIPPING & PRINT 315 W. Market St.

10 THE BROWN HOTEL 335 W. Broadway

11 CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION
433 S. 5th St.

12 LOUISVILLE VISITORS CENTER
301 S. 4th St.

TUESDAY, MAY 12

5:30PM INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE *Cathedral of the Assumption*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

8:30AM SPIRITUAL PRACTICE *Lectio Divina (Divine Reading)* with Br. Paul Quenon

10AM SACRED JOURNEYS *Merton and His Legacy* with Dr. Paul Pearson, Br. Paul Quenon, Dr. Christopher Pramuk, Morgan Atkinson, Br. David Steindl-Rast

2PM SACRED WORLD *The True Self* with Pravrajika Vrajaprana, Shaykh Hamza Yusuf, Br. Paul Quenon, Gerardo Abboud

7PM ART AND THE SACRED *Sacred Journeys through Music* curated by Teddy Abrams

THURSDAY, MAY 14

8:30AM SPIRITUAL PRACTICE *The Jesus Prayer* with Mary Minifie

10AM SACRED JOURNEYS *East and West* with Gerardo Abboud, Pravrajika Vrajaprana, Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus, Shaykh Hamza Yusuf, Rev. Robert S. Harvey

2PM SACRED WORLD *Contemplation and Action* with Amb. Attallah Shabazz, Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus, Dr. Christopher Pramuk

7PM ART AND THE SACRED *Merton and Songs of a Century* with Dick Sisto & Ensemble

FRIDAY, MAY 15

8:30AM SPIRITUAL PRACTICE *Hindu Vedantic practice* with Pravrajika Vrajaprana

10AM SACRED JOURNEYS *Abrahamic Faiths* with Dr. William F. Vendley, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, H.E. Cardinal John Onaiyekan, Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah

2PM SACRED WORLD *Secular and Sacred* with Dr. William F. Vendley, Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah, H.E. Cardinal John Onaiyekan, Rabbi Rick Jacobs

7PM ART AND THE SACRED *Sacred Journeys through Spoken Word*

SATURDAY, MAY 16

8:30AM SPIRITUAL PRACTICE *Buddhist Meditation* with Gerardo Abboud

10AM SACRED JOURNEYS *Discovering the Self in Sacred Journey with the Other* with Dr. Christopher Pramuk, Rev. Robert S. Harvey, Rev. Daniel Corrie Shull, Rev. Willie D. Francois III, Rev. Neichelle R. Guidry Jones, Elizabeth Jones, J. D.

2PM SACRED WORLD *Engaging the World with Compassion* with Roshi Joan Halifax

TUESDAY, MAY 12

TIME 5:30pm

INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE
CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION

The 20th annual Festival of Faiths opens with an interfaith prayer service at Louisville's historic Cathedral of the Assumption. The service features offerings from local houses of worship in celebration of our diversity and with gratitude for our unity.

All other sessions will be held at Actors Theatre of Louisville.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

TIME 8:30 - 9:15am

SACRED PRACTICE *Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) with Br. Paul Quenon*

Brother Paul Quenon, OCSO, a monk at the Abbey of Gethsemani and student of Thomas Merton, guides participants through the *Lectio Divina*. The session begins with a brief film of the monks of Gethsemani singing *Tierce*. The *Lectio Divina* begins with a reading from the Psalms recited as the point of reflection. This is followed by recitation of the *Prayer of the Heart*, using a line from the text repeated over and over, and finally tapering off into silent prayer. This presentation is designed to be accessible to a broad religious spectrum.

TIME 10am - 12pm

SACRED JOURNEYS *Merton and His Legacy*

"Our real journey in life is interior."

THOMAS MERTON

The 2015 Festival begins with the extraordinary journey, and legacy of Thomas Merton. Dr. Paul Pearson, Director of the Merton Center at Bellarmine University, introduces participants to the spiritual journey of Thomas Merton.

An important dimension of Merton's legacy is the many people around the world whose lives have been influenced by their encounter with Merton and his writings.

Guests will share their seven-minute Merton stories, as well as how their lives have been touched by their encounter with Merton.

THE LIFE OF THOMAS MERTON Dr. Paul Pearson, Merton Center, Bellarmine University

SACRED STORY Br. Paul Quenon, OCSO, is a monk and poet who entered the Abbey of Gethsemani in 1958. He was mentored by Thomas Merton during his two years as a novice.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

SACRED STORY Dr. Christopher Pramuk, a theologian and lifelong musician and student of African American history and spirituality, is an exciting fresh voice in Thomas Merton studies.

SACRED STORY Morgan Atkinson is a highly acclaimed local filmmaker of 30 years who has produced many important documentaries on Thomas Merton, including the newly released, "The Many Stories and Last Days of Thomas Merton."

SACRED STORY Video message from Br. David Steindl-Rast, OSB, a Benedictine monk, and notable writer and speaker on the topic of spirituality and science.

AUDIENCE Q&A with morning speakers

TIME 12 - 2pm LUNCH BREAK

Tea House • Meditation and Motion

TIME 2 - 4pm **SACRED WORLD** *The True Self*

Short talks followed by panel discussion and Q&A with audience.

Pravrajika Vrajaprana • Shaykh Hamza Yusuf • Br. Paul Quenon • Gerardo Abboud

"Contemplation is not and cannot be a function of this external self. There is an irreducible opposition between the deep transcendent self that awakens only in contemplation, and the superficial, external self which we commonly identify with the first person singular."

THOMAS MERTON

TIME 4pm BOOK SIGNING

TIME 6pm RECEPTION

TIME 7 - 9pm **ART AND THE SACRED** *Sacred Journeys through Music* *curated by Teddy Abrams*

A one-of-a-kind musical experience curated by Teddy Abrams, Music Director for the Louisville Orchestra.

"The whole world is charged with the glory of God, and I feel fire and music under my feet."

THOMAS MERTON

THURSDAY, MAY 14

TIME 8:30 - 9:15am

SACRED PRACTICE *The Jesus Prayer with Mary Minifie*

The Jesus Prayer is particularly esteemed by the spiritual fathers of the Eastern Orthodox Hesychast tradition as a method of opening up the heart and bringing about the *Prayer of the Heart*. The *Prayer of the Heart* is considered to be the unceasing prayer that the apostle Paul advocates in the New Testament. St. Theophan the Recluse regarded the Jesus Prayer as stronger than all other prayers by virtue of the power of the Holy Name of Jesus.

TIME 10am - 12pm

SACRED JOURNEYS *East and West*

SACRED STORY Gerardo Abboud, Buddhist practitioner and president of the Dongyuling Center, Argentina

SACRED JOURNEY Pravrajika Vrajaprana, Sarada Convent of the Vedanta Society of Southern California

SACRED STORY Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus, Episcopal Bishop of California

SACRED JOURNEY Shaykh Hamza Yusuf, President of Zaytuna College, America's first Muslim liberal arts college

SACRED STORY Rev. Robert S. Harvey, professor of Religious Studies and COO, Simmons College of Kentucky

AUDIENCE Q&A with morning speakers

TIME 12 - 2pm **LUNCH BREAK**

Tea House • Meditation and Motion

TIME 2 - 4pm

SACRED WORLD *Contemplation and Action*

Short talks followed by panel discussion and Q&A with audience

Amb. Attallah Shabazz • Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus • Dr. Christopher Pramuk

"We must work together, [my sisters and brothers of the South] as builders - I with my books and prayers, you with your work and prayers. Separately we are incomplete. Together we are strong with the strength of God. Oh, my brothers and sisters of the South...we are already one in our love of truth, our passion for freedom, and our adoration of the Living God."

THOMAS MERTON

TIME 4pm **BOOK SIGNING**

TIME 6pm **RECEPTION**

TIME 7 - 9pm

ART AND THE SACRED *Merton and Songs of a Century with Dick Sisto and Ensemble*

Merton loved jazz, and looked for live jazz wherever he could find it in his travels as a monk. Dick Sisto curates a beautiful jazz offering in honor of this love.

“Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.”

THOMAS MERTON

Kentucky Opera in partnership with the Festival of Faiths present:

A WOMAN IN MOROCCO

Chicago-based reporter Lizzy Holmes sets out to Algeria to investigate the status of Moroccan women. Her life unravels into a morass of drugs, murder, seduction and kidnapping in this two act opera sung in English.

Composer Daren Hagen
Presented in cooperation with
Center for Interfaith Relations

May 12, 15, 16 at 8 pm

May 17 at 2pm

Actors Theatre of Louisville

TICKETS: \$25/Discount Code FAITH

502.584.4500 | KyOpera.org



Reverend Alfred
R. Shands, III



The Kentucky Arts Council, its name and logo, appear Kentucky Opera with state
the dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Ticketed separately

FRIDAY, MAY 15

TIME 8:30 - 9:15am

SACRED PRACTICE *Hindu Vedantic practice with Pravrajika Vrajaprana*

The session starts with a Vedic Peace chant, and brief introduction to the Vedanta and Yoga as a spiritual practice (*Sadhana*). This will be followed by two guided meditations:

PRACTICE ONE *Japa* and *Dhyana* - a brief introduction on meditation, and the efficacy of *Japa* as a spiritual practice, followed by a guided meditation, and repetition of 'OM'.

PRACTICE TWO *Vichara* - a brief introduction on the question: "Who am I?" and the Hindu understanding of pseudo-selves (*Koshas*), and the True Self (*Atman*), followed by a guided meditation.

TIME 10am - 12pm

SACRED JOURNEYS *Abrahamic Faiths*

"If you want to identify me, ask me not where I live, or what I like to eat, or how I comb my hair, but ask me what I am living for, in detail, ask me what I think is keeping me from living fully for the thing I want to live for."

THOMAS MERTON

SACRED STORY Dr. William F. Vendley, Secretary General of Religions for Peace International

SACRED JOURNEY Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism

SACRED JOURNEY H.E. Cardinal John Onaiyekan, Archbishop of Abuja, Nigeria

SACRED JOURNEY Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah, Islamic jurist and scholar, and professor at King Abdul Aziz University, Saudi Arabia

AUDIENCE Q&A with morning speakers

TIME 12 - 2pm **LUNCH BREAK**

Tea House • Meditation and Motion

TIME 2 - 4pm

SACRED WORLD *Secular and Sacred*

Dr. William F. Vendley • Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs • Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah • H.E. Cardinal John Onaiyekan • Rabbi Rick Jacobs

Issues of rising inequality, war, the climate crisis, nationalism, and extremism are diverting us from sustainable development. What are the moral and religious obligations of faith leaders to tackle these global issues? This session also explores the importance of joint action, education, and advocacy.

Short talks followed by panel discussion and Q&A with audience.

TIME 4pm **BOOK SIGNING**

TIME 6pm **RECEPTION**

TIME 7 - 9pm

ART AND THE SACRED *Sacred Journeys through Spoken Word*

This session celebrates spoken word poetry from diverse voices, including local and national, and young and old, on the theme of *Sacred Journeys*.

“Music and art and poetry attune the soul to God.”

THOMAS MERTON

SATURDAY, MAY 16

TIME 8:30 - 9:15am

SACRED PRACTICE *Buddhist Meditation with Gerardo Abboud*

Gerardo Abboud demonstrates that the common thread to all meditation is the cultivation of mindfulness and awareness. Through meditation practices we can find calmness and clarity in our minds, and cultivate genuine compassion and loving kindness.

TIME 10am - 12pm

SACRED WORLD *Discovering the Self in Sacred Journey with the Other*

MERTON AND RACE A short talk delivered by Dr. Christopher Pramuk, author of *Hope Sings, So Beautiful: Graced Encounters Across the Color Line* (2013)

SACRED WORLD - DISCOVERING THE SELF IN SACRED JOURNEY WITH THE OTHER

Rev. Neichelle R. Guidry Jones • Rev. Willie D. Francois, III • Elizabeth Jones, J.D. •

Rev. Robert S. Harvey • Rev. Daniel Corrie Shull

"The 'I' is always in the field of the Other," according to Jacques Lacan. Otherness is a social framework by which dominant social bodies exclude 'others,' who are deemed by the dominant group to be subordinate elements of culture. This panel discussion of millennial faith leaders will explore our embedded assumptions of "otherness" as a function of our sacred journey through the lens of race, religion, class, and immigration.

Short talks followed by a moderated panel discussion and Q&A with audience.

TIME 12 - 2pm **LUNCH BREAK**

Tea House • Meditation and Motion

TIME 2 - 4pm

SACRED JOURNEYS *Engaging the World with Compassion
with Roshi Joan Halifax*

Roshi Joan Halifax is a Buddhist teacher, Zen Priest, anthropologist, and pioneer in the field of end of life care. This session explores the cultivation of compassion, the inherent qualities and transformative power of compassion as well as obstacles to it.

The extended presentation will be followed by a moderated response and Q & A with the audience.

2015 FESTIVAL SPEAKERS



GERARDO ABOUOD

Gerardo Abboud was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, into a Christian family. A former engineer, he left his work as a financial analyst at Ford in the 1970s to journey to India and Nepal to learn about Buddhism and its practices, as well as the Tibetan language. In 1986, he became president of the Dongyuling Center in Argentina, which offers free teachings of Buddhist theory and practice. He has served as the Dalai Lama's interpreter in Latin America since 1992.



TEDDY ABRAMS

Teddy Abrams is a widely acclaimed conductor, as well as an established pianist, clarinetist, and composer. This season marks the beginning of his tenure as Music Director of the Louisville Orchestra and Music Director and Conductor of the Britt Classical Festival in Jacksonville, Oregon. Abrams is dedicated to exploring new and engaging ways to communicate with a diverse range of audiences. He was the youngest conducting student ever accepted at both the Curtis Institute of Music and the Aspen Music Festival, and is an award-winning composer and a passionate educator.



RT. REV. BISHOP
MARC ANDRUS

Bishop Marc Andrus was installed as the Episcopal Bishop of California in 2006, having previously served as Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of Alabama. Since his ordination to the priesthood in 1988, Bishop Andrus has focused his ministry on issues of social justice, including immigration reform, climate change, civil rights, and health care for all. He combines his activist role with an interest in online meditation, the appeal of which in part is its opportunity to engage interactively with those of faith traditions other than his own. "I love," he says, "the fact that I am part of this group of online pilgrims, so increasingly diverse."



MORGAN ATKINSON

Morgan Atkinson, president of Duckworks, Inc., has been creating and producing independent films since 1975. A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Atkinson writes and produces programs that examine issues of community, spirituality, and culture. His most recent project is "The Many Storeys and Last Days of Thomas Merton," chronicling Merton in the last year of his life, embarking on his last journey. Atkinson's work has been featured nationwide on PBS, KET (Kentucky's PBS affiliate), and at various film festivals. His earlier films include "Soul Searching: The Journey of Thomas Merton" and "The Abbey of Gethsemani."

2015 FESTIVAL SPEAKERS



SHAYKH ABDALLAH
BIN BAYYAH

Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah is a globally renowned Muslim jurist and scholar ranked among the 500 most influential Muslims in the world. He is the Director of the Global Center for Renewal and Guidance based in the United Kingdom and teaches at the King Abdul Aziz University in Saudi Arabia. Bin Bayyah has also held various ministerial positions in Mauritania where he was born and where he studied Islamic sacred sciences including: jurisprudence, legal theory, syntax, language, rhetoric, Quranic exegesis and its auxiliary sciences, and the science of Prophetic tradition. He has also written extensively on tolerance, peace, human rights and extremism.



REV. WILLIE
DWAYNE FRANCOIS III

Rev. Willie Dwayne Francois III is the pastor of congregational care at First Corinthian Baptist Church in Harlem, New York. He received a Master of Divinity from Harvard University's Divinity School, where he was awarded the Hopkins Shareholders Award. In 2009, Francois co-founded the Preacher as Scholar Association (PASA), a nonprofit organization committed to the convergence of intellectualism, social conscience, and spirituality of young ministers. Francois is a founding fellow of Emerging Millennials Leadership Alliance, which is a movement committed to dismantling the racialized prison industrial complex in America.



ROSHI JOAN
HALIFAX, Ph.D.

Roshi Joan Halifax, Ph.D. is a Buddhist teacher, Zen priest, anthropologist, and pioneer in the field of end-of-life care. Halifax is the founder, abbot, and head teacher of Upaya Institute and Zen Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She is also the director of the Project on Being with Dying, and founder of the Upaya Prison Project that develops programs on meditation for prisoners. She was an Honorary Research Fellow in Medical Ethnobotany at Harvard University, and was a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Library of Congress.



REV. ROBERT
HARVEY

Rev. Robert S. Harvey is the executive minister of strategic pastoral initiatives at St. Stephen Church, a vibrant, multicampus ministry with thousands of members based in Louisville, Kentucky. He is also the Chief Operating Officer and a professor of religion at Simmons College of Kentucky. As a respected voice among today's religious and academic leaders, Rev. Harvey has been described as "a progressive, theological, and intellectual nonconformist, dedicated to empowering persons from all walks of life to live their most heroic life."



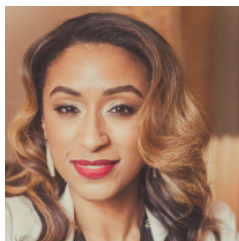
RABBI RICK
JACOBS

Rabbi Rick Jacobs is president of the Union for Reform Judaism, the congregational arm of the Reform Jewish Movement in North America. He was ordained in 1982 by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. A longtime and devoted creative change agent, Rabbi Jacobs spent 20 years as a visionary spiritual leader at Westchester Reform Temple (WRT) in Scarsdale, New York. Under his leadership, WRT completed a new “green” sanctuary. Prior to his tenure at WRT, Rabbi Jacobs served the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, where he founded and co-directed the first synagogue-based homeless shelter in New York City.



ELIZABETH JONES, J.D.

Elizabeth Jones, J.D. is an attorney who is pursuing her Ph.D. in Pan-African Studies at the University of Louisville. She is a distinguished alumna of the University of Louisville and she received her Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law School. She has spent a portion of her career as a Public Defender in New Orleans, where she worked to protect the rights of victims of an unfair legal system.



REV. NEICHELLE R.
GUIDRY JONES

Rev. Neichelle R. Guidry Jones currently serves as the Associate Pastor to Young Adults at Trinity United Church of Christ on the south side of Chicago. In January 2015 Rev. Jones was listed as one of “12 New Faces of Black Leadership” in TIME Magazine. She earned a Masters of Divinity from Yale Divinity School in 2010. Rev. Jones is a current Fund for Theological Education Doctoral Fellow as a Ph.D. student in Liturgical Studies at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. She is the creator of *shepreaches*, a virtual community and professional development organization that aspires to uplift African-American millennial women in ministry.



MARY MINIFIE

Mary Minifie is a classical realist painter who has practiced the Jesus prayer for almost forty years. She attended Wellesley College, graduated from Boston University College of Fine Arts, married and lived with her husband in Egypt, England, and Austria for nine years, and later in Turkey. It was in Cairo Egypt, that Mrs. Minifie first learned of the Jesus prayer from Muslim Sufis! She later studied the Jesus prayer under Rama Coomaraswamy, son of the renowned art critic and scholar Ananda Coomaraswamy.

2015 FESTIVAL SPEAKERS



H.E. CARDINAL
JOHN ONAIYEKAN

Cardinal John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan is the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Abuja, Nigeria. After receiving ordination in 1983, he became the youngest bishop in Nigeria. Cardinal Onaiyekan is well-known for his tireless work for peace in Nigeria, and has received decorations including the Pax Christi International Prize on October 31, 2012, in Brussels. He earned a license in Sacred Scripture at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, and a doctorate in biblical theology at the Pontifical Urban University. Cardinal Onaiyekan has played a major role among African bishops and in organizations for interreligious and ecumenical dialogue.



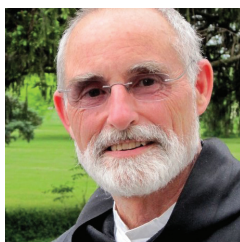
PAUL M. PEARSON,
Ph.D.

Dr. Paul M. Pearson is director of the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University in Louisville and Chief of Research for the Merton Legacy Trust. He is Resident Secretary of the International Thomas Merton Society, and served as President for the 10th administration. He completed his Ph.D. at Heythrop College, London, and his masters in Library and Information Science at University College, London. Dr. Pearson edited *Seeking Paradise: Thomas Merton and the Shakers* (Orbis, 2011), *A Meeting of Angels: The Correspondence of Thomas Merton with Edward Deming and Faith Andrews*, (Broadstone Books, 2008), and *Thomas Merton on Christian Contemplation* (New Directions, 2012).



CHRISTOPHER
PRAMUK, Ph.D.

Dr. Christopher Pramuk teaches theology and spirituality at Xavier University. A lifelong musician and student of African-American history and spirituality, Dr. Pramuk has led workshops on the healing of race relations in society and the church as well as retreats on the life, and writings, of Thomas Merton. He is the author of five books, including *At Play in Creation: Merton's Awakening to the Feminine Divine* (2014), *Hope Sings, So Beautiful: Graced Encounters Across the Color Line* (2013), and *Sophia: The Hidden Christ of Thomas Merton* (2009), which was awarded the International Thomas Merton Society's 2011 Thomas Merton Award, its highest honor.



BROTHER PAUL
QUENON, OCSO

Brother Paul Quenon, OCSO, entered the Abbey of Gethsemani in 1958. He was mentored initially by Thomas Merton during his two years as a Novice. He studied philosophy under Dr. Daniel Clark Walsh, Merton's teacher and friend from Columbia University. Br. Paul completed a Masters in theology at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. He is engaged with the monthly Merton Group that meets at Gethsemani Abbey. Br. Paul has published six books of poetry, most recently *Unquiet Vigil*, (Paraclete Press); *The Art of Pausing*, (Acta Publications) and *Bells of the Hours*, (Fons Vitae).



ROOTS & WINGS

Roots & Wings is a unique theatre project engaging emerging artists in integrating art, poetry, dance, music, and performance as catalysts for restoration of self and community in Louisville's "Zones of Hope" neighborhoods including Russell, Shawnee, Parkland, California, and Newburg. This initiative, created by the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage in partnership with IDEAS 40203 and Bridge Kids International, aims to ignite cultural production in West Louisville's underutilized community centers and spaces and support the development of a lasting arts infrastructure.



PROF. JEFFREY D.
SACHS

Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs is the director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. Professor Sachs is widely considered to be one of the world's leading experts on economic development, and the fight against poverty. His work on ending poverty, promoting economic growth, fighting hunger and disease, and promoting sustainable environmental practices, has taken him to more than 125 countries with more than 90 percent of the world's population. He has authored three New York Times bestsellers. His most recent book is *To Move the World: JFK's Quest for Peace* (Random House 2013).



H.E. AMB. ATTALLAH
SHABAZZ

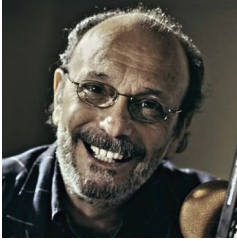
Ambassador Attallah Shabazz is a producer, writer, and diplomat who has spoken throughout the world. She has spent over 35 years offering keynote addresses while developing curricula and programs for educational institutions, executive forums, diplomatic networks, penal systems, and organizations globally. In 1996 Shabazz established the Pilgrimage Foundation in honor of the spiritual journey to the Holy Land by her father, El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, better known as Malcolm X. The former Prime Minister of Belize recognized her as a key advisor on International Cultural Affairs and Project Development.



REV. DANIEL
CORRIE SHULL

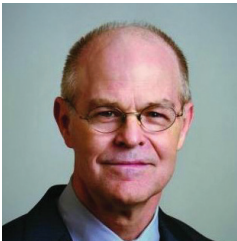
Rev. Daniel Corrie Shull is the Senior Pastor of the Burnett Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky, a congregation that has seen tremendous growth under Shull's leadership. In addition to preaching and providing leadership to a thriving congregation, Rev. Shull serves on a number of boards for community organizations and institutions of higher education, mentors youth, and is the author of a new book, *Detours to Greatness*. A proponent of education, Rev. Shull holds degrees from Fisk University, and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and works as an adjunct professor for Louisville area colleges.

2015 FESTIVAL SPEAKERS



DICK SISTO

Dick Sisto is an accomplished jazz musician who has played with numerous luminaries in the scene over the years. He was a friend of Thomas Merton in the last few years of Merton's life. They shared a love for jazz, Zen meditation, and Christian Mysticism. You can hear Mr. Sisto every Sunday at 11 a.m. on WFPK Radio Louisville when he hosts the show "Inner Ear." Since 1990, Sisto has been teaching meditation on a regular basis in Louisville, including classes at Bellarmine University, and a state of Kentucky halfway house for incarcerated men.



WILLIAM F.
VENDLEY, Ph.D.

Dr. William F. Vendley is the Secretary General of Religions for Peace International, the world's largest and most representative multi-religious coalition advancing common action for peace. He is a member of its World Council, consisting of 60 senior religious leaders from all continents. Dr. Vendley is a pioneer in advancing multi-religious cooperation to help resolve conflict and advance development, and has facilitated the establishment of multi-religious councils around the world. He is an advisor to a number of governments on matters related to religion and peace.



PRAVRAJIKA
VRAJAPRANA

Pravrajika Vrajaprana has been a nun at the Sarada Convent of the Vedanta Society of Southern California since 1977, taking her final vows of monasticism, or *sannyasa*, in 1988. Vrajaprana has written widely on the Vedanta, as well as subjects ranging from meditation to Sri Ramakrishna. She is an active participant in Santa Barbara's interfaith movement, and is the Hindu chaplain at Cottage Hospital. She was the Hindu representative at both the Dalai Lama's 2006 conference "Gathering of Hearts / Illuminating Compassion," and the Dalai Lama and Bishop Desmond Tutu's 2008 "Seeds of Compassion" conference.



SHAYKH HAMZA
YUSUF

Shaykh Hamza Yusuf is president and senior faculty member of Zaytuna College (Berkeley, California), America's first Muslim liberal arts college. He is an advisor to Stanford University's Program in Islamic Studies, and the Center for Islamic Studies at Berkeley's Graduate Theological Union. Yusuf serves as vice-president for the Global Center for Guidance and Renewal, which was founded by Shaykh Abdallah bin Bayyah. He is the author of several books and scholarly articles, and has translated major creedal Islamic texts into English. Recently, he was ranked as "the Western world's most influential Islamic scholar" by *The 500 Most Influential Muslims*, (Georgetown University / RISSC).

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