AWAKENING THE HEART, MENDING THE WORLD: Merton’s Path to Mercy
June 26 – July 1, 2016

“Mercy, always in everything mercy.” Pope Francis has called for this year to be a Jubilee of Mercy. Beginning with an exploration of the epiphanies of mercy that Merton experienced, this program will explore the essential themes of his spirituality - contemplation, compassion and unity - so we may nurture what Merton describes as “a Climate of Mercy” in our communities and in the world.

Resource Person: Christine M. Bochen, PhD., holds her doctorate from Catholic University of America and is currently professor of Religious Studies at Nazareth College, Syracuse, NY. She is a founding member and past president of The International Thomas Merton Society. Christine has edited many volumes of Thomas Merton’s letters and journals. The book which she co-edited, Thomas Merton: A Life in Letters (Ave Maria Press, 2010) is one of the basis for this program.

EMBODIYING THE OPTION FOR THE POOR
July 17-22, 2016

This program leads participants in exploring the essential theological insights of preferential option for the poor by understanding the context out of which the phrase arose and by addressing current contexts in which we engage in mission, spiritual development and evangelization. Option for the poor is an incarnate principle of divine love, at the intersection of the horizontal mandate for love of neighbor and the vertical reality of God’s love made flesh.

Resource Person: Maria Teresa Davila, PhD., holds a doctorate of Philosophy from Boston College and is currently Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics at Andover Newton Theological School, Boston, MA. Her main interests are the intersections of class identity formation and Christian ethics in the U.S. context. She is currently conducting a study to examine the relationship between different understandings of discipleship and activism-public witness-faith in action.

THE MARYKNOLL MISSION INSTITUTE is an educational ministry sponsored by the Maryknoll Sisters Congregation which provides continuing education and renewal programs for missioners and others engaged in cross-cultural ministries.

Cost of 5-day Programs at Maryknoll, NY
Registration/Deposit $ 50.00
Tuition $200.00
Room/Board (per night) $ 55.00
Registration/Deposit is not refundable. Only one registration fee is required per year.

Further Information, Application Forms, On-line Registration are available on our Website: maryknollsisters.org/maryknoll-mission-institute-2/

SAINTS, PROPHETS AND WITNESSES FOR OUR TIME
July 10-15, 2016

By using the lives and witness of contemporary figures as an open window to the gospel of our times, this program will challenge us to think more creatively about being faithful and active in our own historical context. Sharing the stories of women and men whose lives and message speak to the spiritual needs of our day, participants will imbibe their creativity, courage and imagination in the face of modern challenges. Participants will deepen their appreciation that the call to Holiness is a call for each one of us in our daily lives.

Resource Person: Robert Ellsberg, MA., has a Master’s Degree in Theology from Harvard Divinity School. He is Publisher and Editor in Chief of Orbis Books. He has written many books and received numerous awards. Blessed Among Women (Crossroads, 2007) and All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets and Witnesses for Our Time (Crossroads, 1997), are the basis for this program.

Dorothy Day had a great influence on Robert’s life. He worked as editor of the Catholic Worker and edited the published diaries and letters of Dorothy Day.

RECESSION AND THE COSMIC STORY: A Look Inside
July 24-29, 2016

Science has made it clear over the past two centuries that the universe is a story still unfolding. The new scientific cosmic story brings with it a whole new framework for understanding our species’ ageless religious quest. In this program we shall explore what religious faith means in the unprecedented setting of science’s relatively recent discovery of an unfinished universe. This will be done in conversation with both Christian Theology and contemporary scientific naturalism.

Resource Person: John F. Haught, PhD., is Distinguished Research Professor, Theology Department, Georgetown University. His area of specialization is systematic theology, with a particular interest in issues pertaining to science, cosmology, evolution

EXPLORING EVOLUTIONARY SPIRITUALITY
May 8-13, 2016

Illuminated by emerging spiritual insights, this program is designed to help participants prepare for the Feast of Pentecost which falls on May 15, 2016. The Gospel of John presents us to a rich array of concepts that are aligned with the interconnecting components of an integral spiritual path. In view of the call to participate consciously in the mission to build the future, we will seek ways to inspire healing action in the world in response to the needs of today which will seed the hopes of tomorrow.

Resource Person: Ann Brands, MM, PhD., as a missioner in the Philippines, Ann founded the Center for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. She obtained her doctorate in Applied Cosmic Anthropology from the Asian Social Institute, Manila, Philippines. As a representative to the United Nations, she was co-chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development and received the International Council of Women Award for Outstanding Achievement for Sustainability.

CARING FOR CREATION IN A CHANGING CLIMATE
May 15-20, 2016

As caregivers of creation, we need to heed the call to build a culture that will face and address our ecological crisis—a culture that will, in the words of Pope Francis’ Encyclical Laudato Si’, “hear the cry of the earth and the poor”. Examining economic policy and environmental sustainability as interwoven, we will consider how we can move from a philosophy of “more” to one of “enough” where all of creation lives in harmony.

Resource Person: Judith Mayotte, PhD., is an author, humanitarian, professor and Emmy Award-winning television producer. She has held professorships at University of Western Cape, South Africa, Seattle University and Marquette University, where she has specialized in International Service Learning Programs. Judy is keenly involved with displaced civilians around the world and is Chair of the Women’s Refugee Commission of Refugees International. In 2010, she was named the first Desmond Tutu Distinguished Chair in Global Understanding for the University of Virginia’s Semester at Sea. Currently she is involved in issues dealing with climate displacement.

LIVING INTO DEATH—DYING INTO LIFE
May 22-27, 2016

What happens to a person when she or he dies? Is there something that can be called Eternal Life? These are some of the basic issues we will investigate during this program, spelling out the practical implications of the Last Things of our living on this Earth. Using World Religions as a backdrop, Dr. Phan will lead us into inquiries such as: death as a peak of human freedom, reincarnation, the Paschal Mystery, the end of the world and the virtue of hope.

Resource Person: Peter C. Phan, S.T.D., PhD., D.D., is a Vietnamese-American Catholic theologian. Currently he is the holder of the Ignacio Ellacuría Chair of Catholic Social Thought at Georgetown University. He has authored fourteen books, edited twenty books and written over 300 essays. His more recent books include Christianities in Asia (Wiley, 2011) and Cambridge Companion to the Trinity (Cambridge University Press, 2011). His fields of expertise include eschatology, missiology and interreligious dialogue.

STRENGTHENING YOUR INNER LIFE IN CHALLENGING TIMES
June 5-10, 2016

Dr. Wicks, is an expert in the prevention of secondary stress and offering insights into how we can live in peace and in turn offer our warmth to others without losing our own inner fire in the process. One of the greatest gifts we can share with others is a sense of our own peace. Using reflection method during this Resiliency Retreat, the participants will discover how to maintain perspective and inner strength in challenging times. The five presentations of Dr. Wicks will be followed by guided facilitation, enabling the participants to discover resiliency tools for life-improving self-awareness.

Resource Person: Robert J. Wicks PSY.D., is Professor Emeritus at Loyola University Maryland and has taught in universities and professional schools of psychology, medicine, nursing, theology, education and social work. He has a doctorate in Psychology from Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, Philadelphia. His main area of expertise is resiliency, self-care and prevention of secondary stress. He has published over 50 books, his latest, Perspectives: the Calm within the Storm (Oxford University Press, 2014) and Bounce: Leading a Resilient Life (Oxford University Press, 2010) are the basis for this program.

TEILHARD’S MYSTICISM: SPIRALING INTO THE COSMIC CHRIST
June 12-17, 2016

In an early essay, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin describes the natural root and stages of his spiritual growth in terms of five concentric circles. These stepping stones allowed him to spiral into an ever deepening mystical life and into the heart of matter where he eventually finds himself within the very heart of God. During this program, we will step with Teilhard along these circles, encouraged to open our contemplative hearts to the wonders of our universe and to the Divine Presence that dwells there.

Resource Person: Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, PhD., is Director of the Institute for Religion and Science at Chestnut Hill College, PA. She is on the Advisory Board of the American Teilhard Association and Editor of “Teilhard’s Studies”. Kathleen has her doctorate in Physics from Drexel University and presently is Professor of Physics at Chestnut Hill College, PA. Her books Teilhard’s Mysticism (Orbis, 2014) and Rediscovering Teilhard’s Fire (St. Joseph’s University, 2010) are the basis for this program.

MERCY WITHIN MERCY, WITHIN MERCY:
God’s Love Awaits Our Response
June 19-24, 2016

We often think that our dark side, our sins and shadows, are not “pleasing” to God. We use our own standard to measure and define what gains us “access” to God. Pope Francis reminds us “not to be afraid of tenderness.” We will take encouragement from film artists who portray our struggle to accept the freedom and love God offers us—a struggle played out as we learn to see ourselves with the loving gaze of our Tender Merciful God.

Resource Person: Larry Lewis, MM, PhD., has served for many years in Taiwan and China. For the past 20 years, Larry has coordinated programs with the Chinese Bishops to train Church personnel. He is currently a staff member and spiritual director at the