

# Everything is Holy Now: Alive to the Contemplative Path

*The key to life is finding the kernel of pure truth that's hidden in the middle of every situation. Thomas Merton*

**January 27-29, 2023**

**Illuman of Illinois Annual January Men's Retreat Weekend**

Carmelite Spiritual Center (8419 Bailey Road, Darien, IL 60561)



Come spend a contemplative weekend, with the Men of St. Thomas Parish, other men on the Journey of Illumination. We will slow down, shoulder to shoulder with brothers, to deepen our awareness of God's gracious presence. Joel Blunk led us in Jan 2020 for a very powerful and popular weekend of story, wisdom, song, ritual, personal listening and sharing. He helped our souls sing and received rave reviews. We will reflect on our lives and how to hold and live the light given us, *how to seek that kernel of pure truth hidden in each moment of our lives*, drawing on Thomas Merton, James Finley, Howard Thurman, Thich Nhat Hanh, and Cynthia Bourgeault and other wisdom teachers, as well as our own lives. You'll come away with a new appreciation for a more contemplative awareness and for the gift that the present moment offers not only yourself but healing of the world.

Come ready to:

- Enjoy the company of other men;
- Spend quality time in silence and reflection;
- Receive affirmation of God's presence in your life;
- Way of Council; Authentic and deep listening and sharing;
- Experience inner work that makes a difference in the world;
- Reflect on your own mythic journey;
- Laugh, sing, worship, celebrate and drum;

Our men's weekend will be led by Joel Blunk, who was with us the last time we met in person in January of 2020, just before the pandemic. He returns to help us reemerge from this liminal time more awake, alert and alive. Joel is an ordained minister, a musician, spiritual director, and men's rites of passage guide. He's a weaver and wisdom elder who enlightens us with the God-given light we have been given, especially in holding and living as a light to the world as beloved sons of heaven.

After many years at Penn State Campus Ministry, Joel and his family have lived in intentional communities in Richmond VA. and now lives at Rolling Ridge, WV doing nature-based soul work. He'll share from his life experiences in order to help us consider a more contemplative way of life.

**January 27@5pm– 29@noon, 2023 – Carmelite Spiritual Center** \$220 for double occupancy; \$285 for single room (as available); \$150 commuter rate.

Pre-registration required by Jan 26<sup>th</sup> – call CSC 630-969-4141 or [email](#): Any questions or more information contact [Bob Colaresi](#), [Gary Meagher](#), or [Chester Trocha](#).