

PRESENTERS

SPRING 2017 CONTEMPLATIVE STUDY & RETREAT SABBATICAL

NATASHA KORSHAK

Natasha Korshak is a long time teacher of Yoga, Meditation, Mindfulness, iRest and Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR). As the former Director of Mindfulness Education for Miraval: Life in Balance Natasha designed and presented mindfulness programs for guests, staff, and the local community. In this role, she was also privileged to speak about the benefits of mindfulness to national audiences. She has completed professional training at the University of Massachusetts Medical School Center for Mindfulness in Medicine, Health Care and Society, and is a dedicated facilitator of the 8 week Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction MBSR program since 2004. She is also affiliated with the Integrative Restoration Institute and has been teaching iRest meditation since 2010.

CHARLIE WEHRLEY, C.SS.R

Father Charlie Wehrley has been directing retreats since 2002. His retreats feature an underlying 12 Step spirituality, as is used by Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Codependents Anonymous. Fr. Charlie's Serenity Retreats also place strong emphasis on personal empowerment.

JAMIE PARRISH

Jami has a Masters of Counseling degree with a background in psychology and neuroscience and consciousness studies. She is also has a coaching certification and a trained interfaith spiritual director. She has worked in several capacities as a therapist, in outpatient and inpatient settings. She worked both individually and in groups focused on: trauma, grief, spirituality, LGBT issues, and chronic pain. In these roles I walked with those on their path of recovery from addictions, war, abuse, anxiety, and depression. She is an EMDR Level II trained therapist, a Certified Sex Addiction Therapist (CSAT), and a Certified Multiple Addictions Therapist (CMAT). She also provide supervision and consultation to therapists and spiritual directors, and has supervised and trained graduate students in their internship programs. She also teaches at RRC's Hesychia School of Spiritual Direction.

BISHOP RICARDO RAMIREZ, CSB

Retired Bishop Ricardo Ramírez of Las Cruces, NM was the first bishop of the Las Cruces Diocese, which was established in 1982. He was born in Bay City, TX. Both his parents and their families were migrant workers in southern Texas. He attended public schools in Bay City and graduated from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, in 1959. He was ordained a priest

in 1966 as a member of the Basilian Fathers. Bishop Ramírez served in parishes in Canada, Detroit and Mexico. He was on the staff of the Mexican-American Cultural Center in San Antonio when he was appointed auxiliary bishop of San Antonio in 1981. He is the author of a book *Power from the Margins*.

RICARDO ELFORD, C.SS.R

Father Ricardo, a Redemptorist priest since 1952, has been working with migrants since 1960. After work in Missouri and California, he came to Tucson in July 1967. Since arriving in these Arizona-Sonora borderlands, he has been an activist and done Hispanic and Native American ministry in Tucson and along both sides of the border. He lives in the barrio but commute to help a little each week at our Redemptorist Desert House of Prayer north of Tucson. In the barrio, he is involved every day with social justice issues, especially the struggles of migrants and immigrants.

JOSEPH JOAQUIN

Joe Joaquin is a cultural affairs specialist with the Tohono O'odham Nation's Cultural Affairs Program. He formerly served on the Nation's Legislative Council and chaired the Nation's Cultural Preservation Committee. He served on Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's Board of Directors from 2001-2005 and still is a member of Old Pueblo's Advisory Committee.

PAUL COURY, C.SS.R.

Father Coury is Director of the Redemptorist Renewal Center. A former member of the Provincial leadership team of the Denver Province of Redemptorists, his ministerial experience includes Redemptorist formation communities, the retreat apostolate, and Liguori Publications. Father Paul holds Masters degrees in theology, religious education, art, and psychology.

PETER CONNOLLY, C.SS.R

Father Peter Connolly is a Redemptorist from Boston. A former Provincial Vicar of the Denver Province of Redemptorists, he conducts retreats, parish missions and lectures on Celtic spirituality whenever the opportunity presents itself. Father Peter leads the retreat in traditional forms of Celtic Prayer.

ALLEN DART

Mr. Dart received his Bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of New Mexico in 1973 and his Master's degree in anthropology from the University of Arizona in 1983. He has worked and volunteered as a professional archaeologist in New Mexico and Arizona since 1975 for government, private companies and non profit organizations. His studies have focused on southern Arizona's prehistoric Hohokam culture, but he also has participated in archaeological research on other prehistoric and historical Native American cultures of the Southwest. Allen is currently the Executive Director of Tucson's nonprofit Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, which he

founded in 1993 to provide educational and scientific programs in archaeology and culture. A Registered Professional Archaeologist, he has been a recipient of the Arizona Governor's Award in Public Archaeology for his efforts to bring archaeology and history to the public.

PAUL GABOR, SJ

Father Paul Gabor was born in Slovakia. A Jesuit, he was ordained a priest in 2004. He earned a Ph.D in astrophysics in 2009 in Paris. Father Gabor joined the Vatican Observatory in September 2010 and was assigned to the Vatican Observatory Research Group in Tucson, AZ. He became its vice director in September 2012.

GREG WIEST, C.SS.R.

Father Greg Wiest received his Master of Divinity from Catholic Theological Union and was ordained a Redemptorist priest in 1989. He has been a retreat director at the Redemptorist Renewal Center since 2008. He co-ordinates the Heschia Spiritual Direction Program at the Center and has been developing the Center's contemplative retreats. His main area of concern lies in the intersection of painting, writing, and meditation. He is also concerned with how to help GLBTQ people benefit spiritually from the Catholic Tradition.

THOMAS PICTON, C.SS.R.

Father Picton is a licensed marriage and family therapist. A former provincial of the Redemptorist Denver Province, he belongs to the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. He has been a clinical pastoral therapist in private and community practice for twenty-four years.

JEFF WOCKEN, SDS

Father Wocken's background is in music and liturgy, receiving both his M.Div. and M.A. from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. He professed vows as a member of the Society of the Divine Savior (Salvatorians) in 1994 and was ordained to the ministerial priesthood in 1999. Since then, he has served in parish ministry, province administration, and formation ministry. He now serves as director of the Jordan Ministry Team in Tucson, AZ, a Salvatorian ministry for the formation of lay leaders in the Church and promotion of adult faith formation.

GREG MAY, C.SS.R.

Father May was raised in a farming community west of Wichita, Kansas. He professed vows as a Redemptorist on July 24, 1983 and was ordained in Wichita on September 10, 1988. He has been active in parish ministry for more than 25 years. His primary focus has been with the Spanish-speaking community. He has run programs for lay leadership and Redemptorist spirituality. He is a graduate of the Hesychia Program for Spiritual Direction. He has an interest in history, especially in those areas that pertain to the Sacred Scriptures.

PETER TRAN

Peter Tran is assistant director of the Redemptorist Renewal Center. He is a former editor of the Union of Catholic Asian News (UCANews), the largest Asian Catholic Church news agency. Peter's past writings include articles in World Migration Magazine, L'Osservatore Romano, Liguorian Magazine, Asian SUNEWS. He is co-editor of A Catholic Response to the Asian Presence (National Catholic Educational Association, publisher).