



Mountain Pieta

Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center

Winter-Spring 2019

Centering Prayer

TAKES CENTER STAGE AT MATER DOLOROSA



Michael Cunningham conducts a Centering Prayer workshop at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center.

Contemplative prayer has been a tradition at Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center since its first retreats in the 1920s. In the Fall of 2018, Retreat Center Director Michael Cunningham continued this tradition with a new program that brings Centering Prayer to retreatants and those interested in pursuing this ancient prayer form.

Centering Prayer traces its roots back to the desert fathers where John Cassian and others headed to the desert to try and unclutter their minds of worldly thoughts and focus their attention on God alone. The search for silence and solitude to be alone with God was a common thread in their austere lifestyles, and prayer forms that sought to

release our worldly distractions from worship were practiced. In the 13th century, a spiritual classic was written taking these principles to a new level in a book called “The Cloud of Unknowing.”

The anonymous author of the book further defined what we have come to know as Centering Prayer. It is a detachment of the mind and our

desire in prayer towards God. The book encouraged the reader to detach themselves by purely consenting to God’s will in a movement of our heart; a desire and disposition of surrender. “Not My Will, But Yours Be Done” (Mark 14:36 and Luke 22:42) presents us to God with a prayer of the heart, not just of the mind. Centering prayer is often called the Prayer of Consent, as it represents our willingness to be open to God. A willingness that is without agenda or needs, just a desire to rest in God’s presence.

The *catechism* has much to say on the topic of contemplative prayer forms, particularly as they can move a person from a “friendly disposition” in our prayer life to one of “intimacy with God,” illuminating other prayer forms we might be practicing in a new light.

Mater Dolorosa hosted an evening workshop, “Introduction to Centering Prayer,” Nov. 11 for 29 participants. Dr. Cunningham led them in the method. They practiced it and prayed together. It was a wonderful experience and will result in setting up a permanent Centering Prayer group at Mater Dolorosa, which will meet weekly. For further information about Centering Prayer, please contact please contact Dr. Cunningham by email mcunningham@materdolorosa.org or sign up online on the web events page at materdolorosa.org.

Dear friends,

As we begin this new year of 2019, I wish you all the very best. May 2019 be filled with God's love for you and your family and know that you are in our prayers daily.

It seems that January always has a special tone all its own. There's a freshness and renewed energy that excites us about the future, but also some regret and sadness that often lingers from the year just finished. And, as we bring in this New Year of 2019, those mixed feelings are present with us.

As you know, our beloved fellow Passionist, Father Michael Hoolahan, passed away in early June. While he had been failing, his sudden death caught us all by surprise. He was a long-time personal friend, a center of prayer and wisdom in our Passionist community life, and a gentle and compassionate confessor and counselor for the many retreatants who have come to Mater Dolorosa over the past 15 years. He is greatly missed though we are consoled by the realization that he has now received the fullness of life from his loving Father.

As Father Michael's memory continues to inspire us, God's consistent blessings energize us as we look to the coming months. Since our new retreat season began in September, we have had some 10 retreats and this year's

retreat theme "Be Not Anxious: Living in the Peace of Christ" has been well received. As we continue this theme in the New Year, we are looking forward to inviting the men and women of the Mater Dolorosa Retreat Family into rich reflection on their experience of living with Christ. As always, our retreat schedule is full so we anticipate many blessings during the coming year.

Along with those scheduled weekend retreats, we also have a full schedule of Kairos Retreats for high school seniors during the midweeks. We will also be serving a diverse complement of parish staffs, school faculties, men and women religious, elementary and high school retreat groups, confirmation retreats, archdiocesan staffs as well as several ecumenical groups. Such a rich diversity of people and programs will be finding a sacred place here at Mater Dolorosa. We are indeed privileged to be able to serve so many various religious groups here in Southern California!

2019 is full of promise for us and we pray that it is also full of promise for you and your family. Be assured of our prayers for you and we hope that you will be keeping us in your prayers as well.

Father Mike Higgins, C.P.



Meet Heather Banis

THE NEW CHAIR OF THE BOARD AT
MATER DOLOROSA RETREAT CENTER



Heather Banis, Ph.D., has been appointed as the new Chair of the Board of Directors at Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center. As a board member since 2013, serving as co-chair of the Vision Planning Committee, and later as board secretary, Dr. Banis brings a wealth of experience to Mater Dolorosa.

In her professional life, she serves as the Victims Assistance Ministry Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. In that capacity, she provides pastoral care and outreach to clergy abuse survivors and their families, and assists in coordinating psychological services for those harmed in support of healing and recovery. In November, she spoke to all the bishops gathered for the General Assembly of U.S. Catholic Bishops in Baltimore about best principles and best practices.

"It was such an honor and such an incredible experience," Ms. Banis said. "I felt that my message was heard by

the bishops as they strive to restore trust with the people of God."

Her awards and honors are numerous. They include the Msgr. J. Clifford Parker Service Award at her home parish of St. Philip the Apostle Church in Pasadena, and the Elizabeth Ann Seton Religious Recognition Award from Our Lady Queen of Angels Cathedral.

"With her leadership experience and her depth of appreciation of the mission of Mater Dolorosa," said Father Mike Higgins, C.P., "Heather is an outstanding choice to navigate the board and retreat center into the future."

The Board of Directors 2018-2019, OF MATER DOLOROSA PASSIONIST RETREAT CENTER

Heather Banis	Chair
Edward Roohan	Vice Chair
Kathryn Kenney	Secretary
David Banis	Treasurer
John Van Dyke	Past Chair
Paul Anderson	Director
Tawfiq Bishara	Director
Patrick Bowler, Sr.	Director
Colby Boysen	Director
Michele Coudures	Director
Dale Edgington	Director
Filippo Fanara	Director
Peter Godfrey	Director
Frank Hall	Director
David Hayden	Director
Fr. Alan Phillip, C.P.	Director
Al Santillanes	Director
Kristin Yanish	Director
Brenda Harrison Young	Director
Michael Cunningham, O.S.F.	Director



Blessed
Nicéforo
Díez,
C.P.

AND

Bl. Juan
Pedro
Bengoa,
C.P.



José María Bengoa Aranguren

Blessed Nicéforo de Jesús y María (Vicente Díez Tejerina) was born in 1893 and Blessed Juan Pedro de San Antonio (José María Bengoa Aranguren) in 1890. Both were born in Spain.

Aspiring to do something meaningful in their life, they responded to God's call generously by embracing religious life in the Passionist Congregation. They volunteered as students to go as missionaries to the American Continent. They studied at Toluca, Mexico, but because of the persecution of the Church during the presidency of Plutarco Calles, they were imprisoned and they were exiled to the United States. They completed their studies for the priesthood in Chicago and were ordained in the cathedral by Archbishop Mundelein in 1916. They preached many popular missions among the Latinos in United States, Mexico and Cuba.



Vicente Díez Tejerina

Juan Pedro had to return to Spain in 1926 and Nicéforo in 1932 to take up responsibilities of leadership of the Passionist Congregation in their country. As the civil war was breaking out in Spain in 1936, both died heroically as martyrs defending the Catholic faith along with 24 other Passionists, by a group of anti-ecclesial anarchists. Before they died, Nicéforo who was the Provincial Superior, stationed in Daimiel, exhorted his community, mostly students, to be brave like Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, gave them general absolution and Communion to strengthen them spiritually.

As he was dying, Nicéforo, with a bullet in his body, smiled at his persecutor offering him forgiveness, but the other, enraged, put an end to Nicéforo's life with another bullet. Pedro Bengoa was martyred a few days later in Ciudad Real. His last words were "Long live Christ the King." The martyrs were beatified by Pope St. John Paul II. As Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, their example strengthens us to be courageous in making important challenging decisions at difficult times of our life and of the historical period we live in.

Harvest on the Hill Fiesta was a Resounding Success!

A HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL



Yet another wonderful team effort was made for our Harvest on the Hill event in October. Mother nature co-operated to the point we didn't even need the outside heaters provided for the event. There are so many to thank for their work to put on the event and, then, the successful running during the evening.

This year we tried and succeeded to do some new things, including the online bidding process. This went surprisingly smoothly, and we managed to raise a lot more moola

from our "silent auction" items as a result. The work could not be complete of course without the great donations for the silent auction and the main auction. Once again, our



Fr. Alan Phillip, C.P. "Performing."



Jim Kenney, Kathleen Coyne, Carol Cerrina and Judie Cimino.



Heather Banis, Board Chair & Fr. Bruno D'Souza, C.P.



Janet Selinske and Sue Wickhem



Kathryn Kenney & Jennifer Gowen, Co-Chairs



Bob and Sara Law

benefactors – that's you guys – did us proud. Behind the scenes, some of us less technical learned to take pictures in our makeshift studio near the bell tower at Mater Dolorosa and know enough about digital photography to be dangerous.

Seriously though, the team did a great job, the kitchen, the volunteers, the servers, our co-chairs Kathryn Kenney and Jennifer Gowen, and Pat Wickhem "The Auction Magician" who managed to separate us from our money in the wonderful cause that is our spiritual home, Mater Dolorosa. The net proceeds of \$86,000 will allow us to begin the needed improvements to the west wing of the retreat center.

The lovely thing about an event like this is the way the spiritual community comes to the fore. We are really a loving extended family, along with all the fun that is a part of it. Thank you, one final time for all you have done. Donors, volunteers and staff. **We love you all.**

Save the date

TAKE PART IN OUR SPIRITUAL PROGRAMS



ABRIENDO PUERTAS (OPENING DOORS)

Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center began opening doors to laymen for retreats in 1926. Then, in 1966, Mater Dolorosa opened its doors wider to welcome married couples. And by 1974, those doors swung wide open to greet women.

Over the years, Mater Dolorosa also has opened its doors to many groups, including Spanish-speaking men and women for weekend retreats. In recent years, Mater Dolorosa and Father Clemente Barrón, C.P., have added a new program to welcome the Spanish-speaking community with its monthly *Breve Retiró* evenings of recollection.

"Mater Dolorosa is excited about giving the Spanish-speaking faith community an opportunity to experience spiritual exercises in Spanish in this beautiful retreat center," said Father Clemente. The *Breve Retirós* are offered during the fall months and the winter/spring months. Most recently, the retreat conferences explored the apostolic exhortation, "*Guadete et Exsultate*" by Pope Francis.

"The *Breve Retiró* schedule is simple," said Father Clemente. "We have opening prayer at about 7 p.m. Then an open forum conference and a closing prayer. We hope to have people going home by 9:30 p.m. Over the last three years, we have welcomed about 200 Spanish-speaking retreatants at these *Breve Retirós*."

Mater Dolorosa also offers weekend retreats in Spanish for men, women and married couples. **The men's retreat takes place during Holy Week. The married couples retreat is scheduled for June 28 to 30, 2019 and the women's retreat for Aug. 2 to 4, 2019.** Please call the retreat center to register retreatants to these annual retreats.



Fr. Clemente Barrón, C.P., leads a *Breve Retiro*, an evening of retreat.

A VALENTINE'S WEEKEND RETREAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Feb. 15 – 17, 2019

Married couples are invited to make a romantic and relaxing Valentine weekend retreat. Join us for "*Three is Company – Not a Crowd*" – *Friendship with God and Marriage*, featuring Fahter Paul Fagan, C.P. as the speaker. This retreat will include talks on the sacrament of matrimony, great meals, including a candlelight dinner and time to spend with God and with each other. Please call 626-355-7188 to register.

JOIN THE CENTERING PRAYER GROUP AT MATER DOLOROSA RETREAT CENTER

Starting this January, every Sunday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The sessions will be led by Dr. Michael Cunningham, a certified Centering Prayer instructor, from Contemplative Outreach and will provide background, method and practice. To register, please sign up on the form below or email Michael Cunningham at mcunningham@materdolorosa.org or phone at 626 355 7188 x 106. There is no charge, but donations are happily accepted.

Mater Dolorosa's 13th Annual Golf Classic

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019

CALLING ALL GOLFERS!!! Please join us for a fun day on the golf course. Get a family foursome together or invite three of your best friends for a great day. If you have never golfed in our tournament, this is an event you won't want to miss. Your day of golf is spent at Glendora Country Club and includes food, drinks and goodies throughout the day. Afterwards at Mater Dolorosa, you will enjoy a social, delicious dinner, awards ceremony, auction and a chance to wind down among friends. An overnight stay at the retreat center is available for those who live a distance away.

Please register your friends and family in a foursome for a great day at Glendora Country Club. If you can't golf, please consider the many sponsorship and underwriting opportunities that are available.

• Patron Saint	\$10,000
• Guardian Angel	\$5,000
• Faithful Friend	\$2,500
• Happy Halo	\$1,000
• Tee Sponsor	\$200
• Individual Golfer	\$200

Your spouse or significant other is welcome to join us for the social and dinner afterwards at Mater Dolorosa.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:

Visit our website
www.materdolorosa.org/golf-classic

Call our Development Office
(626) 355-7188, ext. 103

Email Jeanne Warlick
jwarlick@materdolorosa.org

We look forward to seeing you at Glendora Country Club on Monday, May 20, 2019!

Men's & Women's 2019 Retreat Season

01/11/19 12

Annunciation, Arcadia	Bruce Kvidahl	626-444-1123
St. Cecilia, Tustin		
St. Joseph, Placentia	Thomas Woore	714-996-3478
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188
Vice-President:	Thomas Woore	714-996-3478

01/18/19 13

Transfiguration, L.A.	Greg Warner	323-242-9686
St. Anthony Claret, Anaheim	Joel Inzunza	714-535-4518
St. Bernadette, L.A.	Gilbert Wright	310-645-3580
St. Boniface, Anaheim	Mark Monnig	714-686-8134
St. Mark, Venice	Friedrich Hirt	310-827-1585
St. Irenaeus, Cypress	Gary Moore	714-826-3402
St. Augustine	Richard Stromberg	310-397-5067
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188
Vice-President:	Roger Bramm	714-772-8643

01/25/19 14

Mission San Juan Capistrano	John Tenery	949-582-1566
Our Lady of Fatima, San Clemente	Louis Gardner	949-375-2008
St. Edward, Dana Point	Rob Wagner	949-429-1928
St. Joan of Arc, Victorville	Louis Lerma	760-956-7348
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188
Vice-President:	Rob Wagner	949-429-1928

02/01/19 15

St. Cecilia, Tustin	Patty Baer	714-286-3216
St. Norbert, Orange	Barbara Ward	714-812-1615
St. Philip the Apostle, Pasadena	Jean Bowler	626-793-8953
St. Elizabeth, Altadena		
St. Robert Bellarmine, Burbank	Lourdes Malam	661-644-1380
Vice-President:	Jean Bowler	626-793-8953
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188

02/15/19 17

Couples Retreat		
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02/08/19 16

Ascension, L.A.	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188
St. Christopher, West Covina	Oscar Abcede	626-961-7120
St. Finbar, Burbank		
St. Jane Frances, No. Hollywood		
St. John Vianney, Hacienda Heights	Robert Owiecki	562-789-3180
St. Juliana Falconieri, Fullerton	Ron Green	909-597-2299
Resurrection, Escondido	Dann Nielsen	760-415-1771
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188
Vice-President:	Manuel Briones	626-333-5493

02/22/19 18

Our Lady of Victory, L.A.	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188
Resurrection, L.A.	Alex Gamboa & Ralph Gamboa	626-968-5698 323-780-1330
St. Paul, Chino Hills	Richard Lapierre	909-455-8830
St. Alphonsus, L.A.	Joe Diaz	323-269-3778
St. Bede the Venerable, La Canada	Tim Collins	818-541-9711
St. Hilary, Pico Rivera	Henry Arenas	562-761-1343
St. Mariana, Pico Rivera	Gabriel Herrera	562-949-3953
Resurrection, Escondido	Dann Nielsen	760-415-1771
St. Thomas More, Irvine	Paul Geiger	714-505-5412
St. Angela Merici, Brea	Brian Prieto	714-577-0200
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188

03/01/19 19

State Council K of C	Ross Willour	760-318-3622
Antelope Valley Chapter	Michael Salorio	760-693-2031
Manhattan Beach K of C	Mike Rotolo	310-505-3052
Simi Valley K of C	Mike Palacios	805-581-9506
Fallbrook K of C	Bill Weber	760-728-5325
San Marino K of C	Dan Cumi	626-487-4019
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188
Vice-President:	Ross Willour	760-324-1591

03/08/19 20

St. Bernard, L.A.		
St. Catherine, Laguna Beach	Jim Raynoha	858-414-2909
St. Charles, North Hollywood	Robert Benson	818-632-7921
St. Dominic, L.A.	John Van Dyke	323-258-6045
St. Paul of the Cross, La Mirada	Tim Crothers	562-706-3112
St. Luke, Temple City	Al Santillanes	626-285-3381
St. Elizabeth/St John Neumann	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188
Vice-President:	Victor Pelayo	562-944-1663

03/15/19 21

Holy Family, South Pasadena	Ernie Arnold	323-982-0927
St. Denis, Diamond Bar	Mike Kellogg	909-860-1332
St. Mary Magdalen, L.A.	Al Wilson	310-559-7159
St. Peter Claver, Simi Valley	Gary Carlson	805-522-0875
St. Pius X, Santa Fe Springs	Tony Reyes	562-868-7696
St. Rose of Lima	Joel Bruemmer	818-307-3590
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188
Vice-President:	Gary Carlson	805-522-0875

03/22/19 22

Immaculate Conception, Monrovia	Patrick Moore	626-358-4700
Holy Name of Mary, San Dimas	Tom Kiely	909-592-5906
Lay Bros. of the Poor / St Mary's	Dennis Cook	760-356-4198
St. Polycarp, Stanton		
St. Rita, Sierra Madre	Bill Cosso	626-355-5656
Karcher Family	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188
Vice-President:	Don Juge	714-897-9067

03/29/19 23

St. Joseph, Placentia	Joanna Rogers	714-325-1421
St. Margaret Mary, Lomita	Nancy Castiglione	310-325-7625
St. Edward, Dana Point	Liz Mojica	949-661-9647
St. Angela Merici, Brea	Cecilia Witchey	714-745-6117
St. Charles Borromeo, No. Hollywood	Evelyn Medel	818-982-8929
Vice-President:	Cathy Hainley	714-996-1793
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188

04/05/19 24

Holy Name of Jesus, L.A.	Clyde Sparrow	323-734-8978
St. Barbara, Santa Ana	Thomas Mueller	714-876-8342
St. Dorothy, Glendora	Jim Shivers	626-963-5162
St. Teresa of Avila, L.A.	Edwin Ongsingco	818-982-6833
St. Joseph, Upland	Dan Wilson	909-230-3234
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188
Vice-President:	Clyde Sparrow	323-734-8978

04/12/19 25

St. Columban, L.A.	Rollie Agony	818-846-3050
St. Louise de Marillac, Covina	Brian Lee	626-966-7989
St. Mel, Woodland Hills	Bob Driscoll	818-704-9087

St. Thomas the Apostle, Riverside	Michael McVeigh	951-639-5290
Padre Serra, Camarillo	Dave McCormick	805-987-7629
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188
Vice-President:	Michael McVeigh	951-639-5290

04/18/19

Tijuana Men's Retreat	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188
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04/26/19 26

St. Timothy, Laguna Niguel	Ren Lopez	949-859-2397
St. Linus, Norwalk	Anthony Zanic	562-202-2691
St. Margaret Mary/Tom Reis Group	Mike Mocsny	310-530-2276
St. Stephen Martyr, Monterey Park	August Koch	626-643-2964
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188
Vice-President:	Dale Edgington	626-446-7731

05/03/19 27

St. Peter Claver	Linda Cravens	805-522-0981
St. Rose of Lima	Annelies Bruemmer	805-584-2363
Beatitudes of Our Lord	Joie Azurin	562-947-4942
St. Joseph the Worker	Rosemarie Bartolata (Camonayan)	818-414-4353

Mission San Juan Capistrano		
St. Irenaeus, Cypress	Connie DelFonzo	714-521-0872
St. Catherine of Alexandria, Temecula	Patricia Sanchez	951-506-1422
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188

05/10/19 28

St. Dorothy, Glendora	Michelle Connors	626-422-9885
St. Anthony	Mary Baum	310-643-7699
St. Paul the Apostle, Chino Hills	Marian Molina	909-591-5661
St. Louise de Marillac, Covina		
Holy Family, So. Pasadena	Shelly Stokes	714-350-6865
Santa Clara, Oxnard		
St. Thomas Apostle, Riverside	Debi Young	951-237-3283
Visitation, Westchester	Mary Rotolo	310-503-8949
Saint Kateri, Saugus	Ada Loys-Abshire	661-296-5903
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188

05/17/19 29

Italian Men's Retreat	Tom Vasile	626-798-3645
June 5-12, 2019 Holy Cross Province Chapter		

05/31/19 30

St. Timothy, Laguna Niguel	Margo Hartle	949-285-8922
St. Benedict, Montebello	Irene Wolf	323-722-3471
St. Dominic, Los Angeles	Linda Van Dyke	323-258-6045
Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, LA	Patricia Rodriguez	213-248-9991
St. Linus, Norwalk	Irene Arias	562-242-8234
Padre Serra, Camarillo	Eileen Richards	805-386-4017
St. Paul of the Cross, La Mirada	Kim Crothers	714-412-1980
St. Catherine, Laguna Beach	Lori Obermeyer	949-699-0916
St. Paschal Baylon, Thousand Oaks	Cynthia Torres	805-660-0700
All Other Parishes	Call Retreat Center	626-355-7188

06/21/19 Couples Retreat in English

06/28/19 Couples Retreat in Spanish

08/02/19 Spanish Women

08/16/19 Young Adult Retreat



Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center

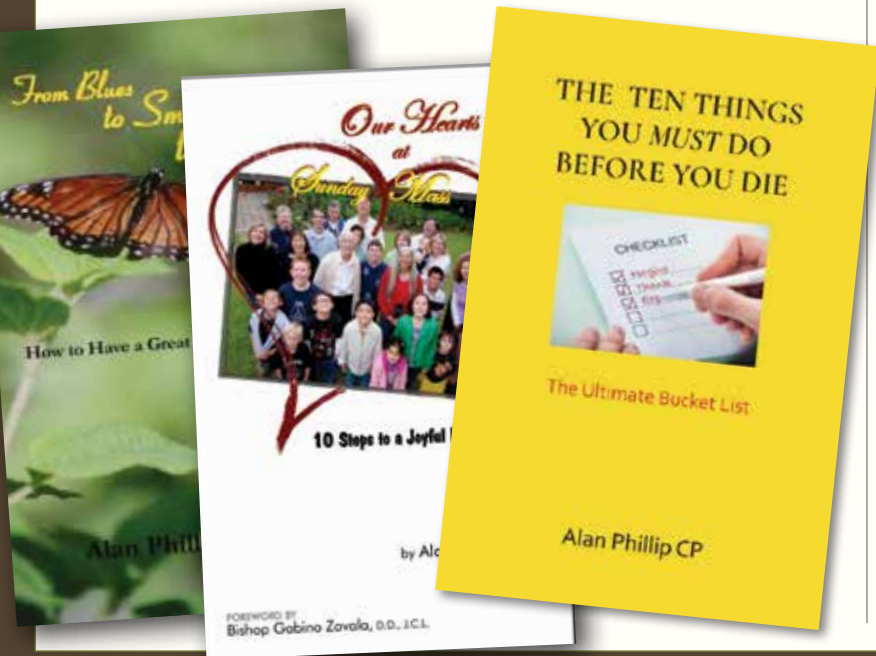
700 N. Sunnyside Avenue
Sierra Madre, CA 91024



Mountain Pieta Winter-Spring 2019

Feeling blue?

These books are filled with JOY!



Father Alan Phillip, C.P., Local Superior of the Passionist Community at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center, author of two previous books, has come out with his latest – “The Ten Things You Must Do Before You Die: The Ultimate Bucket List.”

Don't be put off by the title. This book examines the life of joy. “The challenge of coping with everyday depression and finding happiness may seem complex,” Father Alan observes. “This book clears the air and shows simple and practical steps to find true and lasting joy.”

Father Alan also has written “Our Hearts at Sunday Mass,” and “From Blues to Smiles to Joy.” His books are available at the retreat center gift shop and on Amazon. They make great reading.