

DIVINE EMBRACE



A Weekend Centering Prayer Retreat for Women and Men

FR. BILL SHEEHAN, OMI

SEPTEMBER 6 — 8, 2019

FRIDAY, 5:00 P.M. — SUNDAY, 1:30 P.M.

Richmond Hill 2209 E. Grace Street Richmond, VA 23223

The method of centering prayer is both a relationship with God and a practice to foster that relationship.

The Gospel of Matthew expresses God's desire for our happiness with Jesus' call for us to go into our inner room, close the door and pray to our Father in secret. Yet, as Fr. Bill reminds us, the greatest obstacle to our spiritual journey is to pray as if we are separated from God. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is this intimacy and tenderness that God offers us, as St. Augustine declared, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

The human ego longs for a compassionate gaze. With the practice of silence, we can become gradually loosened from the exaggerated ego demands that distract us from the trust and faith in the Divine Indwelling. We are all one with God—it is our common ground, our interconnectedness with each other and all of creation. God is love and when we pray, we open ourselves to feel that love. Join us as we gather for a weekend free of distractions to enjoy the gift of silent presence with God who made you and loves you beyond imagination.

Sponsored by Lynne Larson & Phil Stone



Fr. Bill Sheehan, OMI has been deeply committed to Contemplative Outreach since it was founded in 1983 by Fr. Thomas Keating, OCSO. For more than three decades he has led centering prayer workshops and retreats throughout the United States and abroad. He has a rich background as a pastor, director of ministry to priests, novice director, director of formation, provincial, and director of the Oblate House of Theology. Among teachers of the faith journey and presence of the divine indwelling, few deserve the title “master teacher” as does Fr. Bill. He offers a weekend of rest and renewal, through spiritual enrichment and the communal sharing of silence with the Divine. Father Bill lives in the St. Eugene House Oblate Residence in Lowell, Massachusetts.

Richmond Hill is an ecumenical Christian Community founded in 1987 and located in the historic monastery of the Sisters of the Visitation of Monte Maria on Church Hill in the center of Richmond. The mission of the Community is to pray and work for the transformation of Metropolitan Richmond through prayer, hospitality, racial reconciliation and spiritual development. There is anecdotal evidence that Richmond Hill, the highest hill in Richmond, has been a place of prayer for several millennia. Native Americans have confirmed this use of the hill when the land was still known as Tsenacomoco. The hill overlooks the falls of the James River and faces the setting sun.

Cost and Room Arrangements

The cost for the retreat is \$230.00 per person based on double occupancy and \$270.00 for a single room. If you desire a single room, please register early as they are limited in number. The commuter fee, including meals, is \$140.00. Meals and linens are included in the fee for overnight retreatants. Cancellations received by August 10 will be refunded minus a \$50 fee.

Schedule

Our weekend will begin with arrival on Friday after 4:00 p.m. and in time for Community Prayer at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:30. The weekend ends on Sunday after lunch. The schedule includes time for quiet and rest, opportunities for questions and sharing, and celebration of liturgy

For retreat inquiries, contact Lynne Larson at lynne33larson@gmail.com

OR

Phil Stone at philstone@cox.net or 757-280-2803

For information about Richmond Hill, go to www.richmondhillva.org

REGISTRATION FORM DIVINE EMBRACE, SEPTEMBER 6 – 8, 2019

DEPOSIT IS DUE BY JULY 15, 2019

YOU MAY PAY IN FULL WITH YOUR REGISTRATION OR MAKE A DEPOSIT

THE BALANCE IS DUE BY AUGUST 15, 2019

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

e-mail Address _____

For one payment:

_____ Double Room \$230 per person

_____ Single Room \$270 per person

_____ Commuter \$140

For deposit and balance payments:

_____ Double Room per person -- Deposit \$115

_____ Single Room -- Deposit \$135

_____ Commuter -- Deposit \$70

Balance \$115

Balance \$135

Balance \$70

I want to request _____ as my roommate. I need a handicap accessible room. _____.

Make check out to **Retreats** and mail to:

Retreats
1503 Arlington Chase Road
Cape Charles, VA 23310

Directions to Richmond Hill 2209 E. Grace Street Richmond, VA 23223 804-783-7903

From the South area: -- Take I-64 West toward Richmond. From most locations in this area, this is about 90 miles. Merge onto VA-33 W. Nine Mile Road via Exit 193A. Proceed 1 ¼ miles. Turn slight left onto N. 25th Street/VA-5. Pass through 1 roundabout. N. 25th Street is just past T Street. Go 1/3 mile and turn right onto Grace Street. Grace Street is just past E. Broad and before E. Franklin. Continue 2/10 of a mile. Richmond Hill is on the left. Note that Richmond Hill is just past N. 23rd Street and before N. 22nd Street.

From the North area via I-95 -- From Leesburg Pike/VA-7, merge onto I-495 S/Capital Beltway S toward Richmond/Alexandria. Go 9.11 miles. Take the exit toward I-95 S/I-495 E/Baltimore and go almost ½ mile. Merge onto I-395 S/ Henry Shirley Memorial Hwy S via the ramp on the left toward I-95 S/Richmond. I-395 S/Henry Shirley Memorial Hwy S becomes I-95 S. You will travel about 100 miles. Take the Franklin Street exit, Exit 74B. Go .12 miles and turn right onto E. Franklin Street. You will immediately turn right onto N. 14 Street. Go .17 miles and turn right onto E. Broad Street. Go ½ mile and turn right onto N. 22nd Street. Go .08 miles and turn left onto E. Grace Street. 2209 E. Grace Street will be on your right. If you want to access I-95 but avoid the Capital Beltway, an alternate is to take VA-123 directly to I-95 South.