

Impasse and the Dark Night

With Dr. Keith Barron

In this Monday Night Speaker Series, Dr Keith Barron, a Third Order Carmelite himself, will explore with us an article written by Sr. Constance Fitzgerald, O.C. D. entitled, *Impasse and The Dark Night*.

In this article Fitzgerald interprets John of the Cross' concept and symbolism of "dark night" (including his classical signs concerning the passage from meditation to contemplation to show what new understanding it brings to the contemporary experience of what she would call impasse, which insinuates itself inescapably and uninvited into one's inner life and growth and into one's relationships.¹ What is even more significant today is that many of our *societal* experiences open into profound impasse, for which we are not educated, particularly as Americans.

Although the article was written in 1984, many contemporary contemplative practitioners are bringing it forth as a piece of wisdom to help guide us through our present Dark Night.