

Love is Everything Silent Retreat

August 22-24, 2025

Carmelite Spiritual Center
Darien, IL (near Chicago)

Scholarships Available.

Please contact: Betsy, wccmchgo@gmail.com, 708-269-2143

Why come to a silent retreat?

Silence is a privilege in our world. We live in a time when we are bombarded by noise. Our phones might never be turned off. Maybe we have the television on more than is helpful for us, and we might spend too much time listening to ads on social media. Coming together, we will have the opportunity to take time for intentional silence. Father John Main intuitively knew that meditation creates community. There is something miraculous in enjoying silence together in community. It gives us the spaciousness we need to truly hear God speaking to us. The retreat won't be spent entirely in silence, so, don't be frightened. We will have some opportunity to grow in friendship as we speak at our evening meals. This weekend we will strive for a balance between silence and talking, knowing that both create community.

As Christians, we believe that God is love. As Christian meditators, we strive to live as a community of love. Hadewijch of Antwerp, a 13th century Beguine mystic and poet, offered this prophetic challenge:

“God himself commands us never to forget Love...isn't it shameful robbery when we deprive Love of anything, or keep anything back? Think deeply on this: work, neglecting nothing, to promote Love above all things. Be leaders and protectors for others who have not attained this state but are still in want through the grief of estrangement. With the vast fierceness of your unified burning life, they will be enkindled; with the flames of your blazing charity, they will be irradiated.”

In another wisdom saying, she reminds us that “Love is everything.” In a time when love is often experienced as transactional for many or simply absent in the lives of others, we are called by our God to something else, a love that flows from our Ultimate Reality, God whose love is Real. We are invited by God to be prophets of love in a time where love is needed in families, communities, in our nation and our world. We need to burn with God's love. We are living in difficult times, and with God's grace, this weekend may help us learn tools we need to get through what many are calling a dark night for humanity. In our time together, we will meditate, pray psalms and delve into the study of love. Hopefully during our retreat, we will grow in love for God, for our neighbor and even for ourselves.

See the next page for accommodations details

Love is Everything Silent 3-Day Retreat

Kevin Maksym is a member of the World Community for Christian Meditation who has been meditating for 22 years, and like all meditators, he is still a beginner. After studying for the Catholic priesthood in Detroit and at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Kevin ministered in parishes and schools in central Michigan for 21 years. He left the priesthood in 2023, and is currently a hospice chaplain who expresses thankfulness that journeying with those who are experiencing the sacred art of dying is an honor. Kevin recently joined the Episcopal church and continues to grow in his experience of what it means to be catholic in its truest sense of being universal. He is a member of the Executive Committee for WCCM USA as a Group Coordinator and participates in other activities spreading the good news of Christian Meditation.

Information about your stay at Carmelite Spiritual Center

Accommodations: Registrants will enjoy separate bedrooms with private bath, 5 meals throughout the 3-day event. Registration and welcome begins Friday, 3-5pm and retreat ends Sunday 11:30am (Central time).

Travel questions: For those arriving from out of town, please email Marlene, marlenmcauliffe@icloud.com with your inquiries.

Special Dietary Needs, i.e. vegetarian, gluten free, dairy free are available. There is a small extra charge of \$20 for these meal additions during your stay. We ask you to choose this additional option on your registration form. A refrigerator and microwave is available for those who would prefer to bring supplementary food because of dietary needs. Please feel free to contact the Center with any questions: 630-969-4141.

NOTE: The Carmelite Center's kitchen cannot be held responsible for any food related allergies that stem from your visit here. Our kitchen does cook with ingredients that may get mixed in by cross contamination from our equipment, utensils, and stoves. We make every effort to accommodate your requests that are specifically placed ahead of time for special needs and try to insure its safety. However, it cannot be 100% guaranteed. People who have serious health food allergy concerns usually bring their own food, just to be safe.