

PILGRIMAGE FACULTY



JUDITH HARDCASTLE, the tour leader, is a candidate for ministry in The United Church of Canada. She is in her third year of M.Div. studies at Vancouver School of Theology. Founding member and program director of the Thomas Merton Society of Canada, Judith is active in Merton research, particularly on Thomas Merton and interfaith dialogue.



KATHLEEN DEIGNAN, CND is a theologian and musician, and professor of Spirituality Studies at Iona College in New York. She is the author of *Christ Spirit: The Eschatology of Shaker Christianity* and *When the Trees Say Nothing: Thomas Merton's Writings on Nature*, and *Thomas Merton: A Book of Hours* (Sorin 2007). Kathleen serves on the Board of Directors of the International Thomas Merton Society.



JIM FOREST has been a newspaper reporter, edited several magazines and journals, headed the staff of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, and now edits the journal, *In Communion*. His many books include *The Wormwood File: E-Mail from Hell*, *Praying with Icons* and biographies of Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day. Jim lives in Holland with his wife, Nancy.

If you have any questions about this program, contact Judith Hardcastle at 604-669-2546, judithhardcastle@telus.net or visit www.merton.ca

THE PROGRAM

May 18 Thursday

1:00 pm Arrive at Hotel Les Glycines in Prades, register and settle in.
6:00 pm Apéritif de bienvenue at the Bureau de Tourisme.
8:00 pm Dinner at Les Glycines. Orientation after dinner.

May 19 Friday

7:30 – 9:30 am Breakfast at the hotel, and so every day.
10:00 am – noon Opening session. Lunch at the restaurant of your choice, and so most days.
2:00 pm Walking tour of Prades, including a visit to Merton's birthplace.
3:00 – 4:30 pm Afternoon session.
8:00 pm Dinner at Les Glycines.

May 20 Saturday

9:30 am – noon Morning session. Lunch out—your choice.
2:00 pm Chartered bus to the Abbey of St. Michel de Cuxa, 3 km from Prades (from which part of The Cloisters in Manhattan was taken).
6:00 p.m. Barbecue and soirée with local members of L'Association Française Thomas Merton.

May 21 Sunday

Free day.

May 22 Monday

9:30 am – noon Morning session. Lunch out—your choice.
2:00 – 4:30 pm Afternoon session.
8:00 pm Dinner at Les Glycines.

May 23 Tuesday

Free morning to visit the weekly public market at *la Place*.

1:00 pm Lunch out—your choice. Bus departs for overnight trip to St. Antonin, where Merton's father built what is now the Villa Diane.
8:00 pm Dinner at Hotel des Thermes.

May 24 Wednesday

8:00 am Breakfast at the hotel.
9:30 am Morning session and visit to Villa Diane. Lunch out—your choice.
2:30 pm Leave for Montauban. Brief stop at the Lycée Ingres.
8:00 pm Dinner at Les Glycines.

May 25 Thursday

9:30 am – noon Morning session. Lunch out—your choice.
2:00 – 4:30 pm Afternoon session.
6:30 pm Wine & Cheese Reception with local members of L'Association Française Thomas Merton (hosted by the Thomas Merton Society of Canada) Dinner out—your choice.

May 26 Friday

9:30 am – noon Morning session. Lunch out—your choice.
2:00 – 4:30 pm Afternoon session. Dinner out—your choice.

May 27 Saturday

9:30 am – noon Morning session. Lunch out—your choice.
2:00 – 3:30 pm Closing session and evaluation.
7:30 pm Dinner at Les Glycines... party!

May 28 Sunday

Breakfast and departure. Bon voyage, tous et toutes!

REGISTRATION

As the tour is limited to 26 people, we advise early registration. Minimum age is 19 unless traveling with a parent or guardian.

COST

Inclusive cost: \$1,995.00 Canadian. Payment of \$995.00 with registration; balance of \$1,000.00 payable by March 1, 2006. A receipt from the TMSC in response to your deposit will confirm your registration.

Cost includes tuition fee of \$695.00 which may be income tax-deductible and is based on double occupancy. Single occupancy, if desired and available, will be at an additional charge of \$350.00.

Cost also includes: Ten nights accommodation, breakfast daily, seven evening meals, scheduled land transportation, instructors' services and taxes.

Cost does not include: Transportation to and from Prades (air and land), other meals, health and accident insurance, alcoholic beverages, medical costs, laundry, personal items, excess baggage charges, individual accommodation surcharges, tips, or expenses arising from any causes beyond the reasonable control of the tour leader.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Before March 1: Deposit of \$995.00 will be refunded, less a \$50.00 processing fee. *Between March 1 and March 31:* A full refund, less the processing fee, will be possible only if someone from the waiting list is able to take your place. *After March 31:* No refund will be possible. *Original receipts issued by the TMSC must accompany any refund request. The TMSC reserves the right to cancel the tour in the event of insufficient registration.*

HOW TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE

Please complete and mail the registration form with your deposit cheque or credit card number in the amount of \$995.00 (*payable to the TMSC*) to TMSC, 705 - 700 Chilco Street, Vancouver, BC V6G 2R1.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Everyone will be making their own way to Prades, and departing on their own. From North America, fly to Paris, take the fast train (TGV) to Perpignan (or fly to Barcelona and take the regular train to Perpignan), then the local train from Perpignan to Prades.

REGISTRATION FORM

May 18–28, 2006 (one registration form per person please)

Full Name (*as it appears in your passport*)

Address

() ()

Day Telephone

Evening Telephone

()

Fax

E-mail

Dietary Restrictions: Vegetarian Other _____

Smoker: Yes No Age group: 19–30 31–45 46–60 60+

Accommodation: Single Share with _____

Arrive via: _____

I heard about the tour from: _____

Deposit of \$995.00 CDN is made by:

Cheque (*payable to the TMSC*)

VISA

Card Number

Expiry Date

Cardholder's Name (*if different from registrant above*)

Signature (*mandatory for credit card payment*)

Balance of \$1000 CDN is due March 1, 2006.

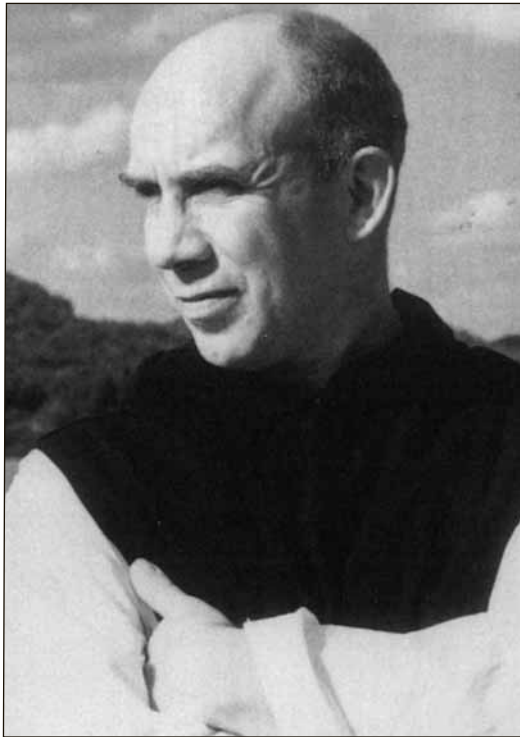
I have carefully read and accept all the conditions stated in the brochure. I confirm that I am 19 years of age or older, that I will be responsible for any health or travel insurance which I will need on the study tour, and for any person(s) of minor age accompanying me; and that I hereby release and discharge the TMSC and its agents and employees from any and all claims, actions and demands that I or anyone in my charge may have for any injury, accident or loss arising from my participation in the program.

Signature of registrant

We respect your privacy. The mailing information you have provided is included in our TMSC mailing list; however we do not sell our mailing lists.

Please check here and sign below if you DO NOT want to be on our mailing list.

Signature of registrant



Thomas Merton in France

Prades, France
May 18–28, 2006

*A pilgrimage program offered
by the Thomas Merton Society
of Canada*

A PILGRIMAGE TO PRADES, FRANCE,

for longtime lovers of Merton and his writings as well as new friends of this great and mischievous hermit ...

*“On the last day of January 1915,
under the sign of the Water Bearer;
in a year of a great war, and down
in the shadow of some French
mountains on the borders of Spain,
I came into the world.”*

This is the memorable first sentence of *The Seven Storey Mountain*, Thomas Merton’s autobiography. And as he says, it was on January 31, 1915, that he was born at Prades in the department of Pyrénées-Orientales, in the Midi, the sunny south of France.

Prades is a lovely town, now twice as populous (currently about 6,000) as it was when Merton was born there. The house in which he was born still stands at the corner of Rue du 4 Septembre and Rue du Palais de Justice, where in the summer, a beautiful bougainvillea grows in the narrow walled garden.

Merton’s parents took him to the United States early in the war. But he returned to France in 1925, to live and go to school in St. Antonin Noble Val, and later to a boarding school in Montauban which he very much disliked, the Lycée Ingres.

After a few years in Britain, he spent the rest of his life in the United States. But he was very proud of being French by birth, and was identifiably French in many of his sensibilities.

Merton was many things in his all-too-short life (he died in 1968, in Thailand)—poet, photographer, essayist, social critic, Zen calligrapher, theoretician of monastic renewal, ecumenist. Most of all, however, he was a contemplative—both as monk and writer. He is arguably the most significant spiritual writer of the western Christian tradition in the second half of the 20th century.

In this ten-day program, we will have the privilege of inviting Merton’s presence among us in the place where he was born and spent part of his growing-up years. We will review his life, with special attention to the ways in which he cherished and expressed his French origin. We will spend time on his great themes—contemplation, non-violence and interfaith encounter—and we will visit St. Antonin and Montauban.

The program is intended both for longtime lovers of Merton and his writings as well as new friends of this great and mischievous hermit. It will include lectures, discussions, ample free time, and a chance to meet local members of L’Association Française Thomas Merton.



Drawing by Owen Merton, Thomas Merton’s father.