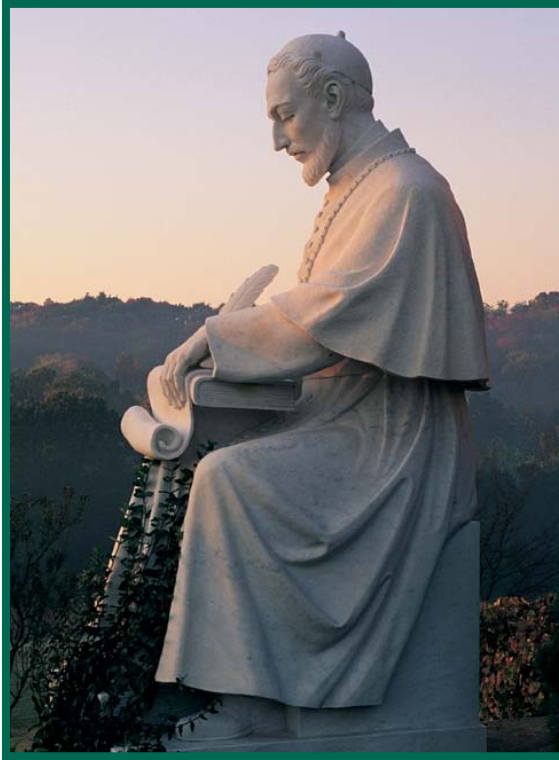


Seventh Annual

Catholic Writers Retreats 2006 - 2007



Redemptorist Renewal Center
at Picture Rocks - Tucson, Arizona

The Soul Tells a Story

October 27–30, 2006

Catholic Poets Retreat

January 26–29, 2007

Catholic Writers

Retreats

Session 1

January 12–16, 2007

Session 2

February 7–11, 2007

Catholic Writers Retreat • Session I

The seventh annual “Catholic Writers Retreats” sponsored by The Alphonsian Institute will be hosted by Thomas M. Santa, C.Ss.R., Director, Redemptorist Renewal Center and Charles A. Roth, Roth Advertising.

Two conferences provide unique gathering places for new (**Session I**) and established (**Session II**) writers sharing a common Catholic spiritual tradition. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore interests, concerns, and challenges—including the intricacies of the publishing process—within the context of a caring Catholic community of writers.

Catholic Writers Retreat Session I highlights:

- Meeting personally with other writers of similar interests to share ideas and experiences
- Hearing informative and open presentations by publishing professionals
- Personal interviews with working publishing professionals
- Daily celebration of the Eucharist
- Daily opportunity for silent prayer and reflection

All of this in the supportive environment of the Redemptorist Renewal Center at Picture Rocks, located in the beautiful Sonoran desert, surrounded by the Catalina and Tucson mountains, overlooking Tucson.

Presenters:

- **Thomas M. Santa, C.Ss.R.**, Redemptorist Renewal Center
- **Terry Hershey**, author and motivational speaker
- **Jeremy Langford**, Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus
- **Charles A. Roth**, Roth Advertising, Inc.

Session I schedule:

Friday, January 12, 2007

- 3-5:00 p.m. Arrival and Registration
5:15 Welcome Social at the Pool
6:00 Dinner is served in Dining Room
7:15 *Welcome, Orientation, and Introductions* - Petroglyph Room



Saturday, January 13, 2007

- 7:30 a.m. Eucharist is celebrated in St. Gerard Chapel
8:00 Breakfast is served
9:15 *Publisher presentation: Thomas M. Santa, C.Ss.R.* / Discussion
10:30 Coffee Break
10:45 Personal interviews with presenters
12:00 noon Lunch is served in dining room
2:30 p.m. *Author presentation: Terry Hershey*,
“Live and Write with Intention” — “A Gentle Plea for Chaos”
4:15 Opportunity for personal interviews with presenters
6:00 Dinner is served
7:15 *Roundtable discussion: All presenters*,
“Catholic Spirituality and the Call to Write”



January 12 - 16, 2007

Sunday, January 14, 2007

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast is served
- 9:00 Personal interviews with presenters and/or small group work for reading works in progress
- 10:00 Sunday Eucharist is celebrated
- 11:00 Small group work for reading works in progress continues
- 12:00 noon Lunch is served
- 2:00 p.m. *Editorial Director Presentation: **Jeremy Langford**, Sheed & Ward / Discussion*
- 3:30 Free time to explore the desert
- 6:00 Dinner is served
Evening is free

Monday, January 15, 2007

- 6:45 a.m. Optional contemplative prayer with Redemptorist community
- 7:15 Morning Prayer
- 7:30 Eucharist is celebrated
- 8:00 Breakfast is served
- 9:30 *How Publishers Sell Books & How You Can Help: **Charles A. Roth**, Roth Advertising Inc. / Discussion*
- 11:00 Reading of a work in progress
- 12:00 noon Lunch is served
- 2:45 p.m. *Roundtable discussion: **All presenters***
- 4:00 Break
- 4:15 Small group work: readings of works in progress
- 5:30 Social at the pool
- 6:00 Dinner is served
- 7:15 *Presenters' Choices: Selected readings of works in progress*

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

- 6:45 a.m. Optional contemplative prayer with Redemptorist Community
- 7:15 Morning Prayer
- 7:30 Eucharist is celebrated
- 8:00 Breakfast is served — Departure follows



Catholic Writers Retreat • Session II

The second session of the retreat continues to build the relationship between Catholic writers and the professional publishers, editors, and marketing personnel, who are dedicated to the formation and encouragement of the Catholic writer.

The Catholic Writers Retreat, Session II, is organized around the experience of small groups of Catholic writers working within a dedicated time period with a single publishing professional. During the retreat each participant will have the experience of working, within the context of their small group, with one publishing professional learning more about the process of creativity, editing, and presenting your manuscript for publication. In addition to the small group work the participants will hear professional presentations each day that will hopefully further enhance their experience and contribute to their learning.

Catholic Writers Retreat, Session II, begins with registration on Wednesday, February 7 between 3:00-5:00 p.m. The retreat ends with lunch on Sunday, February 11 at 12:00 noon, followed by departure. *Note:* Formal presentations and group work end on Saturday evening. You may plan your departure accordingly.

Session II schedule:

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

- 3-5:00 p.m. Arrival and Registration
- 5:15 Welcoming social at the pool
- 6:00 Dinner is served in Dining Room
- 7:15 *Introductory session, small group formation*

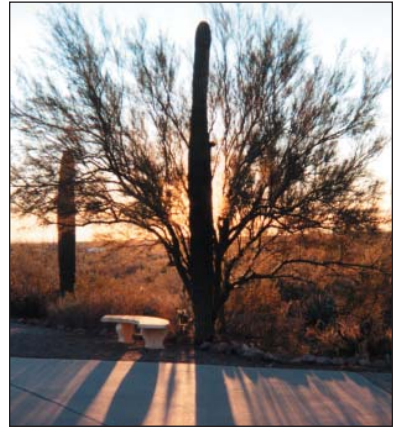
Thursday - Saturday, February 8 - 10, 2007

- 6:45 a.m. Optional contemplative prayer with Redemptorist community
- 7:15 Morning prayer
- 7:30 Eucharist is celebrated
- 8:00 Breakfast is served
- 9:15-11:45 Group work as assigned

Marketing: **Thomas M. Santa, C.Ss.R. and Charles A. Roth**
Publishing/Editorial: **Frank Cunningham - Ave Maria Press**
Creativity: **Vinita Hampton Wright - Loyola Press**

- 12:00 noon Lunch
- 2:30-4:30 p.m. Group work continues
- 5:00 Vigil Mass for Sunday - St. Gerard Chapel
- 5:15 Social at the pool
- 6:00 Dinner is served
- 7:15 Presentation in Main Meeting Room - Petroglyph Room

Thursday: "Caring for Your Soul," **Vinita Hampton-Wright**
Friday: "Finding Your Niche," **Charles A. Roth**
Saturday: *Roundtable discussion:* **All presenters**



February 7 - 11, 2007

Sunday, February 11, 2007

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast is served, followed by departure
10:00 Sunday Eucharist in St. Gerard Chapel
12:00 noon Lunch is served for those who remain at the Renewal Center.

Applicants for conference/retreat have a strong interest in writing for Catholic and Christian readers in any of the many areas broadly defined as Spirituality (prayer, meditation, inspiration, Christian living, etc.).

Applicants for Session I — January 12-16, 2007

Submit a brief personal letter of introduction explaining interest and include any one of the following:

1. A synopsis of a manuscript idea / theme or a substantial sample of writing
2. The title, publisher, and date of publication of an already published book or magazine/newspaper article.

Applicants for Session II — February 7-11, 2007

Prerequisite for attendance: At least one of the following:

1. Previous session of the Catholic Writers Retreat hosted by the Redemptorist Renewal Center.
2. A manuscript, submitted in advance to the address below, which demonstrates that you have a book length project substantially prepared for the editing process.

Please note:

Session I is primarily for authors who do not have experience with the publishing community and who desire to be introduced to the process of submitting your manuscript for consideration and publication.

Session II is suggested for experienced authors, or if you have attended a previous session of the Catholic Writers retreat. This second session is a deeper study and experience of the skills that are useful and necessary for you, the Catholic author.

Cost

A deposit of \$50.00 is required with the application for each retreat which will be applied to the applicant's fee upon acceptance to the conference/retreat. All resident participants will be assigned a private room/bath, including all meals, socials and materials for \$545.00 for the entire conference. A limited amount of commuters will be accepted. The commuter fee includes the conference/retreat and all meals and socials at \$375.00. Early registration is recommended.

For further information please contact:

Thomas M. Santa, C.Ss.R.
Redemptorist Renewal Center
P. O. Box 569
Cortaro, AZ 85652
tmscssr@desertrenewal.org



Catholic Poets Retreat

In the established tradition of the annual "Catholic Writers Retreat," the Redemptorist Renewal Center offers the second annual retreat for Catholic Poets. This retreat has been established in response to the numerous requests of Catholic poets who have participated in the annual Catholic Writers Retreat who challenged the retreat staff to organize and promote an annual gathering that would support and encourage Catholic poets. Poets share many of the same struggles and gifts of other writers but they also work with a medium and in a context that is a special call and which uses a different kind of creativity and method. This retreat will provide an atmosphere that supports, honors, and encourages the poetic muse.

Catholic Poets Retreat highlights:

- Meet and spend time with other Catholic poets in the beautiful Sonoran desert and mountains overlooking Tucson, Arizona
- Share your insights and experiences in a warm and encouraging atmosphere in small and large groups
- Read from your own work and hear other poets read
- Learn of publishing opportunities in Catholic and other Christian media
- Daily opportunity for silent prayer and reflection and Eucharistic celebration

Presenters:

- **Judith Valente**, Religion & Ethics Newsweekly, PBS
- **Charles Reynard**, Gwendolyn Brooks Award Finalist
- **Kathleen Kirk**, Editor of the anthology *Where We Live: Illinois Poets*
- **Thomas M. Santa, C.Ss.R.**, Redemptorist Renewal Center



Catholic Poets Retreat schedule:

Friday, January 26, 2007

- 3-5:00 p.m. Arrival and Registration
5:15 Social at the pool
6:00 Dinner is served in Dining Room
7:15 *Orientation and Welcome*
Readings from *Twenty Poems to Nourish the Soul*



Saturday, January 27, 2007

- 7:30 a.m. Optional Eucharist is celebrated - St. Gerard Chapel
8:00 Breakfast is served
9:15 *First Session: Judith Valente*, "The Poet and the Poet's Craft - Recognizing and Responding to the Sacred in the Everyday" / Discussion
11:00 *Small group work*: share your poems with peers; individual meetings with presenters.
12:00 noon Lunch is served
2:00 p.m. *Second Session: Charles Reynard*, "Poetry Prompts to Nourish Your Soul - Jump Starting the Creative Process" / Discussion
4:00 Small group work and / or individual meetings with presenters
5:15 Social at the pool

January 26 - 29, 2007

- 6:00 Dinner is served
7:15 *The Coffee House*: Reading of selected poems by presenters and retreat participants.

Sunday, January 28, 2007

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast is served
9:00 Small group work and / or individual meetings with presenters
10:00 Sunday Eucharist in St. Gerard Chapel
12:00 noon Lunch is served
2:00 p.m. *Third Session: Kathleen Kirk*, "The Soul of the Text" on aspects of the "soul" related to inspiration and the poet's process, and what moves me as an editor, in selecting work for publication. / Discussion
4:00 Small group work
5:15 Social at the pool
6:00 Dinner is served
7:15 *Fourth Session: All presenters*, concluding remarks, para-liturgy for "Sending Forth the Catholic Poet" - St. Gerard Chapel, **Thomas M. Santa, C.Ss.R.**

Monday, January 29, 2007

- 6:45 a.m. Optional Contemplative Prayer with Redemptorist community
7:15 Morning Prayer
7:30 Eucharist is celebrated
8:00 Breakfast - followed by departure
12:00 noon Lunch is served for those remaining at the Renewal Center

Applicants for "Catholic Poets Retreat"

Applicants for the Catholic Poets Retreat will submit a sample of their poetry, not to exceed five pages, for review. The purpose of this review is not to judge the quality of the work but rather to demonstrate that the poets are engaged in working with their craft. Experience at previous writers retreats demonstrates that the retreat experience is enhanced for all participants when there is a shared starting point and experience. Samples and application should be sent to the following address:

Catholic Poets Retreat
P.O. Box 569, Cortaro, AZ 85652

Registration

The retreat is limited to 35 Poets in order to provide for the maximum opportunity for participation.

The retreat is also envisioned as a resident retreat with no commuter option planned. All participants receive a private room with bath, all meals, socials, and materials are included. A \$50.00 non-refundable registration fee is required in order to confirm your reservation (which will be applied to your final invoice). The retreat stipend is \$545.00 for single occupancy. For those preferring double occupancy of a room the retreat stipend is \$375.00 per person.



The Soul Tells a Story

“The Soul Tells a Story” is a workshop for the writer who seeks a process that will release emotions, intuition, creativity, and spiritual wisdom. Each workshop is custom-made to fit a group’s interest and skill level. Possible components include:

- Writing exercises designed to tap into emotion, memory, belief, and the senses
- Guided meditations that can release the imagination to dream of possibilities and discover callings
- Group time designed to help writers respond to one another constructively and learn how to ask for various types of feedback
- Dialogue that explores the writing process and our experience as writers
- Spiritual exercises that focus on the genius of the creative life found in the soul

Vinita Hampton Wright, Presenter

- If you are a writer, this is the perfect meeting place for you and other writers who understand the value of reaching into the soul for inspiration.
- If you are a publisher or agent, this workshop is a source of practical help and encouragement for your authors.
- If you are a spiritual director or pastor, this workshop can help you, or the artists under your care, understand the interweaving of spirituality and creative work.



October 27 - 30, 2006

Endorsements for Vinita Wright and “The Soul Tells a Story”:

“Vinita Wright’s creativity workshops for writers provide an inspirational and practical set of tools that will benefit any author—whether writing fiction or nonfiction. We need more of this kind of teaching and support for our authors in the world of publishing.”

—*Joe Durepos*, Senior Acquisitions Editor, Loyola Press

“Vinita Hampton Wright transforms participants into a community of creative pilgrims. With insight into the heart, soul, and imagination, she invites writers to tap the well of deeper faith and more honest writing. Vinita’s workshop was an invaluable time of growth and renewal for our authors.”

—*Dudley Delffs*, Fiction Editor, Waterbrook Press

“It is hard to talk to Vinita Hampton Wright and not come away expectant and enthusiastic about a new generation of Christian art. Above all, Wright’s work calls Christian artists to take risks. ‘I see creativity as a very spiritual act,’ she says.”

—*Christianity Today*

“I’m hugely grateful for Vinita Hampton Wright’s workshops, for the ways she explores faith, creativity, and the deep places of the soul. Places I never knew were shut off in me suddenly opened up. And the workshops provide safe space—emotionally, spiritually—for great writing and soul work and new ideas to happen.”

—*Lil Copan*, workshop participant, writer, editor

Applicants for “The Soul Tells a Story” — October 27-30, 2006

Applicants for the “The Soul Tells a Story” will submit a sample of their writing, not to exceed five pages, for review. The purpose of this review is not to judge the quality of the work but rather to demonstrate that the writers are engaged in working with their craft. Samples and application should be sent to the following address:

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Registration

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2006 – 2007 Presenters and Facilitators



THOMAS M. SANTA, C.Ss.R., is the Director of the Redemptorist Renewal Center at Picture Rocks and was the President/Publisher of Liguori Publications, 1992-1999. Tom was the recipient of the 1999 Outstanding Service Award of the Catholic Book Publishers Association. He is author of *The Essential Bible Handbook* and *The Essential Catholic Handbook of the Sacraments*. His most recent book is *Sacred Refuge: Why and How to Make a Retreat* published by Ave Maria Press, 2005.



FRANK CUNNINGHAM was Publisher and President of Ave Maria Press/SorinBooks, a ministry of the Priests of Holy Cross located on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. Frank joined the Press in 1978 as head of the editorial department. Along with several others, he shared in the 1996 Outstanding Service Award from the Catholic Book Publishers Association.



CHARLES REYNARD is a Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in Central Illinois. He is a nationally recognized expert on the handling of sexual assault and child sex abuse cases. He was a 2003 finalist for the Gwendolyn Brooks award for emerging poets and 2004 semi-finalist for the Emily Dickinson award from Universities West Press. He co-edited (with Judith Valente) *Twenty Poems to Nourish Your Soul*.



TERRY HERSHEY has served as a Protestant minister, and is now a writer and landscape designer on Vashon Island, near Seattle, Washington. He speaks throughout the U.S. on relationships and spirituality and gardening. *Sacred Necessities: Gifts for Living with Passion, Purpose, and Grace* (Ave Maria, 2005) is his eighth book. Mostly he loves to dance with his son, and watch bald eagles ride the currents in the canyon behind his house.



CHARLES A. ROTH founded Roth Advertising Inc., a marketing services agency for religious book publishers. Charles was a recipient of the Catholic Book Publishers Association's Outstanding Service Award in 1990. He coordinates the judging process for the annual Catholic Press Association Book Awards and is on the reader panel for The Christopher Book Awards.



KATHLEEN KIRK is the author of a chapbook of poems, *Selected Roles*, the editor of an anthology, *Where We Live: Illinois Poets*, and a co-editor of *RHINO Magazine*, a literary annual. Her work appears in *Sacred Fire*, *In a Fine Frenzy*, *Ekphrasis*, *Fourth River*, *Poetry East*, *Comstock Review*, and elsewhere.



JUDITH VALENTE, author of poetry chapbook, *Inventing An Alphabet*, was chosen for the 2005 Aldrich Poetry Prize. She is co-editor of *Twenty Poems to Nourish Your Soul*, a book about finding the sacred in the everyday. She is an on-air correspondent for the national PBS-TV program "Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly," and is a commentator on NPR and Chicago Public Radio.



JEREMY LANGFORD is director of publications and public information for the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus. He has served as editorial director of Loyola Press, Sheed & Ward, and Rowman & Littlefield's religious studies program. Editor of Cardinal Joseph Bernardin's best-selling memoir *The Gift of Peace*, his latest book is *The Spirit of Notre Dame* (Doubleday, 2005).



VINITA HAMPTON WRIGHT has been a book editor for fifteen years, and she has presented workshops on creativity/spirituality for six years. She has published three full-length novels and several nonfiction titles. The most recent novel, *Dwelling Places*, came out in February of 2006 with HarperSanFrancisco, and the most recent nonfiction, *The Soul Tells a Story*, grew out of her workshop of the same name. Visit Vinita's Web site: vinitahamptonwright.com

Participants' comments

"The Catholic Writers Retreat serves a special need in the Church today as we try to find expression using our experience, our insight, and our gift for writing. Thank you for your vision and your efforts on our behalf." —*Ann Power*

"I am ready to continue my work now. That's what this was all about for me: I was with workers, Catholic writers/workers." —*Janet Shea*

"All of the speakers were fine, wonderful, excellent. It is rare in my experience of conferences to be able to say that across the board. The speakers were of the very highest caliber. How can I be so lucky?" —*Gerry Kenneavy*

"I am extremely impressed, and I do not offer that lightly. I would not hesitate to recommend this retreat. It was an artful dance of free time, one-on-one, prayer, learning, and creativity. I am really impressed." —*Peggy Beunecher*



"Time in the desert for prayer and reflection, by itself, would have been fruitful and renewing for me. Meeting and conversing with so many thoughtful, faithful writers would have been a treat. The opportunity to meet informally with editors and other publishing professionals was pure gift." —*Mary Cronk Farrell*

"The affective spirit that emerged during the retreat was very helpful. I leave this retreat knowing where God wants me to be—the best fruit of the retreat." —*California*

"I loved this retreat because of the Catholicity of the experience. The foundation of the retreat, the participants, the encouragement that I received, helped me to learn and to celebrate what it means to be a catholic writer." —*Ohio*

"Truthfully, I thought that the most valuable component of my retreat experience was hearing and being inspired by the works of the other participants. What talent was gathered here! It inspires me to go home and write." —*Maine*

"I have to tell you — writing a proposal is a wonderful exercise in nailing down what your book is about and where you want to take it.... I've been to many writers conferences and they usually are too busy and exhausting. The one in Tucson was a good blend of work, prayer and quiet time. Also, I enjoyed meeting all of you and hope to see you again." —*Susan Virgalitte*

Redemptorist Renewal Center, Picture Rocks
PO Box 569
Cortaro, AZ 85652

“The opportunity to meet other Catholic writers and professionals
was central to the experience of the retreat.” —*Oklahoma*

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