



Poetry as Prayer: The Psalms & Rumi

February 10-11, 2010

Overnight Retreat for Women & Men

Directed by Ann Marie Mack

If silence is the first language of God, as stated by St. John of the Cross, then poetry is His second. As Thomas Merton once wrote, what is hidden beneath the literal meaning is not merely another and more hidden meaning; it is also a new and totally different reality. It is divine life itself.

In this retreat we will explore this new and totally different reality in the works of the 10th century B.C. psalmist and the works of the 13th century mystical poet, Rumi. In considering the work of these poets, we will allow our consciousness to relax into the divine primordial space from which we can imagine these poems emanated. In addition to penetrating their meaning, perhaps a personal poem or two will emerge – to share or not, as the spirit moves.

The retreat can be enjoyed in total silence if desired, or by partaking of the opportunities which will be given to share with other like-minded divinely thirsty souls.

The schedule will consist of:

- Conferences
- Group Interaction
- Quiet Time
- Mass on Thursday afternoon

Practical Notes ... Please bring with you a journal. Accommodations are single bedrooms with a wash stand only. Showers and lavatories are on each hall. We do not keep clocks in our bedrooms but ring a bell for rising. If you prefer an alarm clock, please bring one with you. **Please plan to arrive at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 10 and we will finish by 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 11th. All meals and accommodations are included in the retreat offering.**

About the Director . . . Ann Marie Mack is an adult educator and spiritual life coach. She teaches scripture and spirituality at St. Luke Church in McLean and has a private practice of spiritual life coaching. She has a special interest in coaching parents and caregivers. Ann Marie has a master's degree in adult education and counseling plus special training in mindfulness meditation and mind/body psychology. She has studied at Georgetown University, the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem and the Mind/Body Institute at Harvard.

**Dominican Retreat
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