Wise and Holy Women and a Few Good Men

Monday, July 23—Thursday, July 26, 2018 6:00 PM—9:00 PM

Using art to tell the stories, this heavily visual course will take a fresh look at the spiritual legacies of the four Women Doctors of the Church: Hildegard of Bingen, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, and Therese of Lisieux. While these women are our primary focus, we will also look at some of their kindred spirits, both men and women, who have made significant and prophetic contributions to the reform and spiritual legacy of the church in more recent times. St. John XXIII, Teilhard, Merton, Pope Francis, Dorothy Day, and Thea Bowman will be featured in this group. In addition, we will look at the art and architecture of the times and places in which the women lived to provide yet another layer of understanding their spirits. These will include Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals (Hildegard); Giotto and the art of Florence and Siena (Catherine); the Spanish art of El Greco and Velazquez (Teresa), and the paintings of Vincent van Gogh (Therese). Lastly, to foster a whole-brain experience for the students, a creative hands-on activity may be included, even for the terrified, time permitting.

Required Reading

Malone, Mary T., Four Women Doctors of the Church: Hildegard of Bingen, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, Therese of Lisieux (Orbis Books, 2017)

Bro. Michael McGrath, OSFS

I paint, write, and tell stories—and then travel all over the place telling the stories behind what I paint and write. I majored in Art at Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA and later received an MFA in Painting at the American University in Washington, DC. For eleven years, I was an associate professor of Studio Art and Art History at De Sales University in Center Valley, PA from where I transitioned in 1994 into working full time as an artist who leads retreats, creates books, and gives presentations. Since 1987, I have taught every summer at the Grunewald Guild, an interfaith art community in the Cascade Mountains of Leavenworth, WA. Since 2009, I have lived and worked in Camden, NJ where I have furthered my art education in the context of social justice and finding beauty in the margins. In 2017, I celebrated forty years as a Religious Brother in the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales- and firmly believe the best is yet to come.

Contact Information

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