

**Ignatius Jesuit Centre** is a place of peace that welcomes a global community of people who seek to integrate their inner and outer life with God and with all Creation.

We promote right relationships with God, with each other and with Creation, especially through spiritual development in the tradition of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and through deep engagement with this land.

**Loyola House Retreat & Training Centre** is central to the Ignatius Jesuit Centre, located one km north of Guelph on over 600 acres of beautiful farmland, with walking trails through rolling hills, woods and wetlands—all of it an integral part in our retreats and programs.



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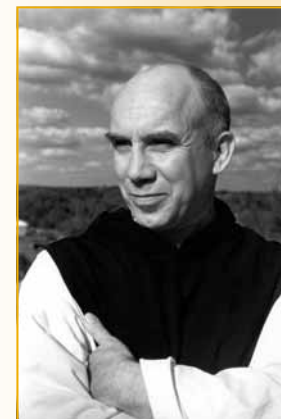
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# Thomas Merton: Searching again for Wisdom

March 24-26 2017

***A Weekend Retreat***

*Facilitated by Eric Jensen, SJ*



**Ignatius Jesuit Centre**  
*A Place of Peace*

**Loyola House**

**Retreat & Training Centre**

[loyolahouse.com](http://loyolahouse.com) | [ignatiusguelph.ca](http://ignatiusguelph.ca)

## Searching for Wisdom with Thomas Merton

More than one hundred years after his birth in 1915, and almost fifty years after his death in 1968, Thomas Merton continues to fascinate people of different cultures and religions. Last year fifty-eight people registered for Eric Jensen's Merton Weekend, and many asked to have yet another similar retreat to explore other facets of this contemplative monk's life and writings.

This year we invite you to arrive by **5pm**, if possible, to settle in, meet other participants, share your particular interests in Merton, and enjoy a monk's simple supper of soup, bread and cheese. The opening talk, at **7:30 pm**, will be "An Introduction to the Meaning and Practice of Contemplation," something that was central to Merton's life and a major theme of his writings. His book, *New Seeds of Contemplation*, is full of helpful suggestions.

Once again we will offer an experiential approach, inviting everyone to share something of Merton's monastic life of silence and solitude, of prayer and fasting (especially digital fasting).

As a way of entering into an understanding of Merton the writer, and as a personal record of your own experience, you are again encouraged to keep a journal, in a suitable book in which you can sketch and paste things as well as write, but this year we have eliminated the session on sharing from your journals. This will open up the schedule a little

on Saturday to allow for fuller presentations with question and answer sessions, and for more time to explore the land.

Merton's life was complex and even contradictory at times. It helps greatly to have read his early autobiography, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, but it is fascinating to explore the ways he grew and matured in the twenty years that followed its publication. By the end of his life (seven weeks short of his fifty-fourth birthday), he had achieved a breadth of wisdom and understanding which both attracted and astonished those who came to know him in person and through his extensive correspondence.

Immersion in the natural world was a major source for much of his prayer and poetry, his photography and painting with Chinese brush and ink. His essays and articles, his letters and underground publications dealt more and more with the themes of war and peacemaking.

We will begin and end each day with a revised and simplified form of Morning Prayer and Night Prayer, an ancient practice central to monastic life, now encouraged for all Christians. There will also be a Catholic Eucharistic liturgy each morning integrated into the themes of the retreat.



March 24-26 2017

Cost: \$260 Live-in | \$160 Commuter

To apply for this program, complete the online application form at [loyolahouse.com](http://loyolahouse.com) under Application. A downloadable form may also be completed, from the application webpage.

### Retreats and Programs

It is our intention to ensure the financial sustainability of the retreats and programs we provide at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre. Cancellations represent an expense to the Centre and a lost opportunity for others to participate in the retreats and programs.

### Payment

Payment in full must be received in order to secure your booking.

Cancellations & Refunds are managed on an individual basis.

### Fees

The costs of all programs are in Canadian funds (Cdn.). Payment may be made by cash, cheque, money order, VISA, MasterCard, online or bank draft in Canadian funds payable to the Ignatius Jesuit Centre.

The fees include room and board, sessions with a spiritual director, daily liturgy, all required materials, and access to the land.

### Checking In

This retreat begins promptly at 7:30pm on the first day and end at 1pm on the last day. You may arrive about 5pm, if possible, to settle in, meet other participants & enjoy a monk's simple supper of soup, bread & cheese.