

FALL 2011

250 Oak Grove Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025-3218
(650) 325-5614
www.vallombrosa.org

We shall not cease from exploration

And the end of all our exploring

Will be to arrive where we started

And know the place for the first time.

- T.S. Elliot

(from *Four Quartets*)

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VALLOMBROSACENTER

A Ministry of the Archdiocese of San Francisco

Faith in the Arts

Do you ever feel discouraged or confused about the changes and controversies in the Church? Ever feel as though your faith community may not be the source of comfort and inspiration that it once was? Or that your own prayer life has been a desert lately?

We hope you will join us at Vallombrosa as we explore the rich Catholic traditions wherein painters and writers and musicians seek to find God and to express their faith through their art. You may discover that your own experiences are not unique, that many have faced similar passages in our lives. Indeed such passages have moved artists to create works that can touch our emotions, inspire our hearts, and revitalize a sense of our living faith.

The conviction that we need such revitalization has lead Vallombrosa to weave into its programs a wide variety of opportunities for you to explore and experience the faith in and through the arts.

Last winter, as part of its ongoing Catholic Church in the World series, Vallombrosa hosted writer **Tobias Wolff**

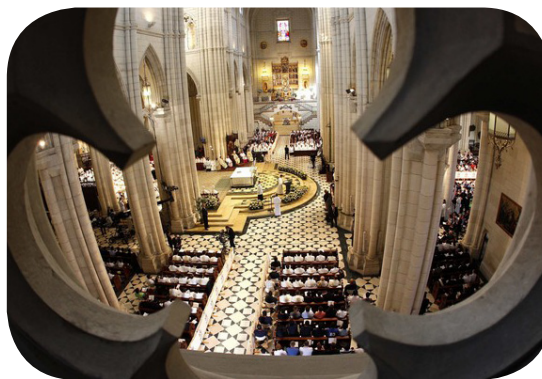
exploring the intersection of faith and art; composer **Bob Hurd** in concert with the Vallombrosa Choir; and scholar **Albert Gelpi** discussing the "Catholic Imagination."

This fall we are pleased to present another slate of distinguished speakers. On Sunday, September 25 **Archbishop George Niederauer**, a Flannery O'Connor scholar, will speak on the ways in which her faith shaped the worldview evident in her stories. Then on Sunday, October 30 writers (and spouses) **Ron Hansen** and **Bo Caldwell** will have a conversation about the ways in which their respective novels and short stories are based in, and continually influenced by, their faith.

The Vallombrosa Choir will perform at the **Thanksgiving Prayer Service** on Sunday, November 20 and at the **Christmas Lessons and Carols** on Sunday, December 18. All of the Catholic Church in the World events begin at 2pm.

And that's not all. For those of you who enjoy a more participatory experience,

(Continued on back...)



Gaelic Christmas

On Sunday, December 11, Vallombrosa Center is pleased to present a Gaelic Christmas concert with the Cór Ainglí choir led by **Mary Mc Laughlin** in the Vallombrosa Chapel.

Mary Mc Laughlin's Cór Ainglí was founded in 2006 in Santa Cruz California. An Irish Gaelic speaker and singer, Mary wanted a choir which could sing Irish sacred music in Gaelic, particularly Christmas songs. She arranged traditional songs in four parts and as there were only a few singers who spoke Irish, she taught the songs phonetically.



The Cór Ainglí has played their Christmas program to sold-out houses around the Bay area since

their inception and has now grown to a choir of 25 singers and three musicians accompanying them on harp, guitar and wind.

A Retreat for Widows and Widowers

Have you lost a spouse? After recovering from grief, then what? *Who am I if I am no longer a "husband" or a "wife"?* *Can I still have a social life? How safe it*



is to live alone, travel alone, or go to evening events? Is there a place in my church community for me now that I'm single?

As part of the Vallombrosa Center Marriage and Family

Life program we are delighted to offer a one-day retreat for Widows and Widowers. On **Saturday, September 24, Carol Kaplan, MFT** will look at the transition a person makes after the death of a spouse. Ms. Kaplan is a widow with children and grandchildren. She brings over 20 years of experience to share.

(Faith in the Arts continued)

Vallombrosa offered hands-on workshops with artist and art therapist **Beverly Terlep** in July and with composer and musician **Dan Shutte** in August.

This fall, on September 17, photographer **Carol Fowler** will explore the ways in which we can use prayer and photography as lenses to awaken our sense of God's presence, and on October 8, **Fr. Nathan Castle, O.P.** will read from his new book And Toto, Too: "The Wizard of Oz" as a Spiritual Adventure, and lead an Oz-centric retreat making connections from the 1939 film, "The Wizard of Oz" with Scripture.

Whether your preference is to hear from notable speakers or to delve into the creative process yourself, we hope to see you over the next year as we grow these exciting new programs.

- **Catherine Wolff**
Vallombrosa Advisory Board Member



VALLOMBROSACENTER

All events are open to the public.

To register for an event call (650) 325-5614
or visit www.vallombrosa.org

SEPTEMBER

September 17, 2011

Photography and Prayer:

**"Awakening to the Handprints
of God" led by Carol Fowler**

A hands-on workshop to show how photography and photographs can help awaken our senses to God's presence within us and around us.

September 24, 2011

Navigating the World Alone:

**A Retreat for Widows and Widowers
with Carol Kaplan, M.F.T.**

A one day retreat to address the social, safety, emotional, and spiritual needs of the "formerly married" with an emphasis on practical strategies. The retreat director has been a widow for 30 years.

September 25, 2011

The Catholic Church in the World:

"Faith in the Arts" with

Archbishop George H. Niederauer

As part of the ongoing speaker series, Archbishop Niederauer, a Flannery O'Connor scholar, will discuss the ways in which her faith shaped the worldview evident in her stories.

OCTOBER

October 1, 2011

Engaging the Heart/Marriage Preparation

A one-day Pre-Cana program which includes presentations and workshops by Catholic professionals. The sessions address Catholic teaching on the Sacrament of Marriage as well as various aspects of married life such as intimacy, communication, spirituality, family of origin, role expectations, and sexuality.

October 8, 2011

**And Toto, Too: "The Wizard of Oz" as a
Spiritual Adventure, A Spiritual Workshop
with Fr. Nathan Castle, OP**

Join us for this Oz-centric spiritual retreat making connections from the 1939 film, "The Wizard of Oz" with Scripture.

October 30, 2011

The Catholic Church in the World:

"Faith in the Arts" with

Bo Caldwell and Ron Hansen

Join us for a conversation with Bo Caldwell and Ron Hansen. Both are distinguished Catholic authors, as well as husband and wife. They will explore in conversation the ways in which their faith guides and informs their writing, and their writing deepens and shapes their faith.

NOVEMBER

November 19, 2011

Engaging the Heart/Marriage Preparation

A one-day Pre-Cana program which includes presentations and workshops by Catholic professionals. The sessions address Catholic teaching on the Sacrament of Marriage as well as various aspects of married life such as intimacy, communication, spirituality, family of origin, role expectations, and sexuality.

November 20, 2011

**Thanksgiving Prayer Service
with the Vallombrosa Choir**

Join us for an afternoon of music, prayer and reflections in celebration of the great gift of God's love.

FALL 2011 Schedule of Events

DECEMBER

December 2-4, 2011

Silent Private Retreat Weekend

Vallombrosa opens its doors several weekends throughout the year for people to make a silent retreat beginning Friday afternoon and concluding midday Sunday. There are opportunities for spiritual direction and morning and evening prayer each day.

December 3, 2011

"A Call to Contemplative Prayer": Centering Prayer Workshop with Jean Ramacciotti

A morning workshop to learn how to deepen your connection with God through Centering Prayer. Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer, rather, it adds depth of meaning to all prayer.

December 11, 2011

Gaelic Christmas Concert

Join us as the Cór Ainglí choir, led by singer, songwriter and teacher Mary Mc Laughlin perform original choral arrangements of Christmas music in Irish Gaelic.

December 18, 2011

Christmas Lessons and Carols with the Vallombrosa Choir

Celebrate the season with us through music, prayer and reflections as we make our way from Advent towards Christmas.

Quick Look Calendar

Photography and Prayer led by Carol Fowler

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December 18, 2011



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