Why Contemplative Dialogue Circles?

It is the call of our church and world to be promoters of dialogue and peace.

*It is neither a culture of confrontation nor a culture of conflict which builds harmony within and between peoples, but rather a culture of encounter and a culture of dialogue; this is the only way to peace.*

—Pope Francis

Who should participate?

Small faith groups who desire to respond to the issues of our day from a spiritual & contemplative grounding.

Parish committees seeking to better understand, honor and support one another.

When to use the Contemplative Dialogue process?

- During a liturgical season
- At a time when renewal is desired
- For deep listening in a challenging time

The Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center

living out of a shared Catholic faith tradition, recognizes and respects the dignity of all persons and all of creation.

We are sponsored by 18 religious communities and collaborate with Catholic, ecumenical, interfaith and other groups in carrying out this mission.

We serve parishes, communities, organizations and individuals

Workshops • Retreats • Publications

Immersions • Conferences

Other small faith community resources from IPJC

- **Climate Change: Our Call to Conversion**—4 sessions: Our Earth Community, The Science of Climate Change: Call to Change Course, Ecological Conversion, Eco-Imagining Our Emerging Future.
  - Prayer, reflection, discussion & action
- **Just Economics**—5 sessions: Scripture, The Commons, New Economy, Taxes, Simplicity.
  - Prayer, discussion, CST, reflection, action

Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center

a collaborative venture of

- Adrian Dominican Sisters
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace • Oregon Province Jesuits
- Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, U.S. Ontario Province
- Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province
- Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia • Tacoma Dominicans

affiliates: Benedictine Sisters of Cottonwood, Idaho
- Benedictine Sisters of Lacey • Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel
- Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose • Dominican Sisters of San Rafael
- Sinsinawa Dominicans • Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet • Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon
- Society of the Holy Child Jesus • Society of the Sacred Heart
- Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union

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What IPJC Provides

Contemplative Dialogue Circle Manual
- Facilitator Guide
- Participant Handouts
- Music CD
- USB Drive with PowerPoint

Promotional Materials
Support and Resources

How to Form a Group

Ask your parish pastoral staff for assistance

Invite a core group to organize the six-week process

Create a bulletin announcement to invite people to participate

Identify parish committees or groups who would benefit from deep listening & respectful dialogue

Contemplative Dialogue Process

Six 2-hour sessions

Contemplation & Dialogue for Transformative Living
Contemplation
The Practice of Contemplative Listening
Reflective Dialogue: Part One
Reflective Dialogue: Part Two
Transformation

Contemplative Dialogue Experience

Join in a communal process with others who bring a diversity of perspectives

Participate in dialogue rooted in the practice of contemplation

Create community in the midst of exploring critical issues in our church and world

Seek mutual understanding

Explore personal & communal transformation

Contemplative Dialogue Goals

- Experience the power of contemplation as a tool for living with awareness and an open heart
- Experience the power of communal contemplation as a foundation for building community
- Experience the richness of dialogue that is rooted in listening to one another with an open mind and an open heart
- Explore the relationship of contemplation and the call of discipleship
- Support the experience of contemplation, personal and communal through:
  - Explanation of the elements of the practice of contemplation
  - Participation in the experience of contemplation
  - Reference tools for personal and communal practice of contemplation
- Enhance dialogue skills through:
  - Education on what dialogue is and is not
  - Education and experience of what is necessary to engage in dialogue
    - Personal willingness to share and be vulnerable
    - Safe and confidential environment
    - Engaging in specific dialogue practices
    - Engaging in dialogue topics
- Reflect on the power of contemplation and dialogue as a response to the spirit and a source of energy for healing in our world.

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Contemplation is the keen awareness of the interdependence of all things.

—Thomas Merton

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We must love them both, those whose opinions we share, and those whose opinions we reject, for both have labored in the search for the truth, and both have helped in the finding of it.

—Thomas Aquinas