

The Prayer Center is sponsoring this online retreat in conjunction with La Ferme, Retreat Center for L'Arche, Troly, France:

## The Sacrament of the Encounter

*December 6 -12, 2020*

### Facilitator

George Durner is a member of L'Arche for more than 40 years; former L'Arche community leader in Canada and in France; L'Arche regional coordinator in France and the Middle East; Formation coordinator for L'Arche International.



### What is L'Arche?

**L'Arche is a world-wide federation of faith communities where adults with and without intellectual disabilities share life and friendships in community.**

For more information: <https://www.larcheusa.org/>

### Program

*“But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” Luke 14:13-14*

Meeting one another and entering into relationship are at the heart of the history of God and humanity, beginning with the story of Adam and Eve. Encounter and relationship are also at the heart of the experience of L'Arche.

In the Gospels Jesus tells us that when we sit down at table with the poor the crippled, the lame... when we welcome “the little ones” and “the stranger”, we are welcoming Him. An encounter with another person is a spiritual experience, but we do not always see it, or understand what is happening. We can feel vulnerable and afraid of difference, afraid of those who do not look and think as we do. And yet, an encounter is the first step toward unity rather than segregation, welcome rather than rejection, peace rather than conflict in our world.

During the retreat we will look at encounters in the Bible, in the life of Jesus and in our own lives; at how meeting one another is the path towards transformation, asking the Lord to show us where in our life He is asking us to encounter Him today.

### Practical Information

This retreat will be offered online over a period of seven days, and will comprise:

- Five pre-recorded inspirational talks of 45 mins by George Durner by video link (sent in advance) for five days of the retreat (watch one video each day whenever you are able)
- Two prayer-sheets with introduction by video clip to guide you during two days of the retreat so that you can enjoy your own personal time of prayer and reflection
- Two days where you are invited to join a small group sharing for a time of reflection and exchange with other retreatants in your time zone for a period of approximately an hour, if you so wish

The retreat is organized to take place in the context of your daily life. You will need about an hour daily to follow the talks and take some time of reflection and prayer. On the two days of small group meetings (Tuesday 8th and Friday 11th of December) you will need an additional 30 minutes to complete the prayer sheet.

### Fees and Registration

\$125 per participant: Please register with The Rev. Dr. Sandi Kerner at [skerner@stchristopher.org](mailto:skerner@stchristopher.org) or contact her at 843-768-0429, ext. 3009 before December 4<sup>th</sup>. Arrangements for payment can be made – by check, by credit card, or by Venmo. (La Ferme and St. Christopher will share the revenue from this retreat.)

We would be thankful for further donations; if you are able to pay more, it helps those facing financial difficulty. If it is a serious difficulty for you to pay the full amount, please discuss the matter with us beforehand.

