

Sowing Seeds of Contemplation

The 2025 International WCCM Annual Appeal - May 2-7, 2025

Dear Friends,

Fr John Main wrote in *The Present Christ*, “Everyone who meditates ...[comes]...to know that they are meditating through the crises and tragedies of their world.” As I meditate these days, I am profoundly grateful for the global character and unifying message of WCCM. The programs, retreats, resources, seminars, and meditation groups of our global community are more than means to get through challenging times. As Fr Laurence writes in his letter below, they are a way of receiving from Christ seeds of contemplation that may bear the fruit of his greatly needed peace.

I commend Fr. Laurence’s letter to you and invite your participation in the WCCM International Annual Appeal. You may give directly to WCCM International Appeal using the link within the letter. Or to make a tax advantaged donation, you may give to WCCM-USA with the note, “International Appeal” on your check or online in the PayPal memo line using this link <https://wccm-usa.org/support-our-work/>.

Gratefully yours,

Matt Reeves

WCCM-USA National Coordinator

A Letter from Fr Laurence

Dearest Friends,

With my health issues and other challenges in the past year, I have come to understand better what ‘apocalypse’ really means. It’s not only the end of the world where many people fear we are heading. It is the vision of reality which is the ever-evolving Gospel. It’s how I’d like to speak now about the mission of our community to which I hope you recognize you belong. And to invite you to discern how you may help.

The Christ-vision is already irreversibly released. Even through our failures it becomes a light on the lampstand for humanity’s future. We and our institutions often fail to live it and sometimes contradict it. But the light shines to keep transforming the way humanity sees itself. Hope doesn’t depend on technology, economics or consumption but on human beings waking up across our beautiful planet with all its diversity - waking up to our true Godlikeness and oneness. This is what lies beyond the Christian apocalypse – not only in heaven but here on earth where we desperately need to see and hope in it. Our community mission is to help keep this moving forward generation by generation.

The three big apocalyptic threats we face shake this vision and show our dark inclination for violence. These threats are ecological, nuclear weapons and the biological manipulation of the human. The fundamentalist sees the apocalypse as God’s violence against humanity. But Christ has smashed this self-deception. The apocalyptic violence is man’s. Christ has placed in our hearts the vision of God which snaps all that chains us to violence.

Teaching meditation and supporting contemplative community is what the light of the Gospel means. At any stage of life, meditation can open consciousness to this light. We teach it as a universal wisdom, in the simplest way and to anyone. Not merely to de-stress from the anger stored inside us. But as a way of releasing among us the power of peace: shalom, salam, shanti, síocháin, eiréné – all words for what Jesus called ‘my own peace’.