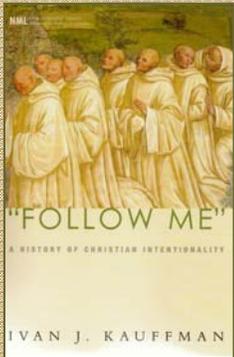
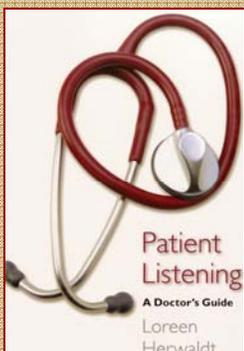


The Book Nook

Scholar **Ivan Kauffman** recently released *Follow Me: A History of Christian Intentionality* (Cascade Books, 2009). This inspiring work opens the way for greater understanding between two groups of Christians who have long been estranged—Protestant evangelicals and Catholic monastics.



Former Institute scholar and physician, **Loreen Herwaldt** (2000) edited *Patient Listening: A Doctor's Guide* (University of Iowa Press, 2008). In the growing field of narrative medicine, Loreen uses the illness narratives of two dozen writer-patients to teach listening skills to medical students, residents, physicians, and other health care providers.



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THE

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CARDINAL KASPER VISITS INSTITUTE

Walter Cardinal Kasper, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, delivered the Godfrey Diekmann, OSB, Lecture and received the Pax Christi Award from Saint John's Abbey and University on March 23. A receptive audience turned out for the event which was held in the Abbey Church. Don Ottenhoff, Executive Director of the Collegeville Institute, served as emcee for the program.



Cardinal Kasper spoke on theology and faith—and the frequent lack of faith—during his address. The Cardinal also spoke about the intimate relationship between God and freedom. He stated, "Thinking of God as absolute freedom means understanding God as a liberating God and the world as a place of freedom."

"Following the trauma of the wars of religion, theology underwent a process of purification through a process of self-criticism and constructive confrontation with the modern Enlightenment," he said. "Today all Christian churches profess freedom of religion, avoidance of violence, tolerance and respect toward other religions; while maintaining their own identity, they seek not conflict but dialogue."

While on campus, Cardinal Kasper, along with his Secretary, Fr. Oliver Lahl, toured the Collegeville Institute. They spoke with Don Ottenhoff, Founder and President Fr. Kilian McDonnell, and Board Chair Gary Reierson.



Meet Institute Scholar Mary van Balen-Holt



Mary is a retreat and workshop presenter, author, and columnist from Columbus, Ohio. She is a former Adjunct Professor of Theology and former Director of the Eastside Center for Success, an afterschool center for students at risk.

Mary came to Collegeville Institute last September to write a book—a book chronicling her own intellectual, emotional, and spiritual journey as a companion to her daughter who was dealing with the reality of her transsexualism. Mary hopes that her book will dispel ignorance and fear of transsexuality, as well as provide a resource for others when so few are available. The following is Mary's Institute story—originally published in *"The Catholic Times"*, her local diocesan paper.

During the last four months of 2008, I lived and worked as a resident scholar at the Collegeville Institute. The Institute grounds cling to the banks of Stumpf Lake, a lake one passes driving into St. John's University and Abbey campus.

The rhythm and depth of monastic prayer of both the monks of St. John's and the sisters of St. Benedict's Monastery just a few miles away, envelope this beautiful space with reverence for the Holy One.

Benedictine hospitality reaches out through everyone beginning with the Institute's staff and continuing through the Abbey's monks, St. John's School of Theology, and the employees of SJU and its partner, the College of St. Benedict.

The sense of community that developed among those at the Institute is perhaps the most important grace of all, the gift that provides grounding through which all else was experienced. We came from different ethnic and denominational backgrounds, and the projects we worked on at the Institute were just as varied.

We supported one another's work, shared prayer, presidential debate watching, enjoyed walks together, and helped one another with transportation.

When I flew home to be with my mother and family as she neared death, and when I returned again for her funeral, the prayerful support of the Institute community went with me. That same compassion saw us through the

sudden death of one of our scholars, Bill, as well as the death of another scholar's sister. We wept, prayed, and remembered together.

During the memorial services offered for those who died, I was struck by the depth of our community, sharing our hearts and talents. Together we lifted to God each other and those we had lost, trusting the Divine embrace of compassionate love.

"This is what church in its broadest sense is called to be," I thought. People using their gifts, gathering to pray, to support one another, and celebrate life's joys and sorrows. Through all this living, God's grace is mediated to the world.

In this new year, hope is rising in my heart. Despite headlines of increasing violence, continued wars, dwindling social services, and economies in recession, I am encouraged. In our country we have a renewed vision of the common good. In the midst of conflict there are those who work for peace.

As the group of scholars who were called to the Institute has come together in prayer and work, we are called to find common ground and to work for the common good.

God's presence with us in these efforts is what brings hope. Alone, we cannot succeed, but with Grace, we will not fail.

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N.B.

Poetry Reading

Featuring Fr. Kilian McDonnell, OSB, and Michael Dennis Browne, 2007/08 Kilian McDonnell Writer-in-Residence. Fr. Kilian will read from his third collection of poetry, *God Drops and Loses Things*, while Michael will share essays from his newest release, *What the Poem Wants: Poetry on Prose*.

Monday, April 27 ~ 8:00pm
Petters Pavilion ~ St. John's Abbey

In Memoriam

- + **George Walker, Jr.**, Board Member—October 2008.
- + **William (Bill) Placher**, Kilian McDonnell Writer-in-Residence—November 30, 2008.
- + **Rodney Wilmoth**, Board Member—February 2009.
- + **Jane Holland Browning**, Institute friend and donor—April 7, 2009.