

Workshop and Presentation Catalog

Stephen Muse, Ph.D.

If you are interested in any of the following workshops or presentations for your group, presented by Stephen Muse, Ph.D., please email info@pilink.org.



Compassion: The Sacred Circle of Life (2-3 hour presentation)

Compassion is the simplest of acts but one of the most difficult. Have you noticed how if someone insists on being the doctor, you have to be the patient? Or if you are the “reverend” someone else has to be the unreverend? Some “help” brings with it a requirement of the helpee to be ‘less than’. Yet the primary theological context for authentic human community is the fact that everyone stands on the same level. In the Sacred Circle of Life care-giving and care-receiving occur together.

Care for the caregivers: Nurturing Strengths for the Journey (One day workshop)

What happens when stress and competing interests obscure God’s place in our lives? Care for others flows from allowing oneself to be loved and cared for. Caregivers who do not honor their own legitimate needs for peer relationships, depending on others, and time for relaxation and renewal are placing themselves, their families, and their caregiving in jeopardy. This workshop explores how unconscious attempts at self-healing impede effective ministry and can leave clergy and caregivers with a sense of failure, compassion fatigue and burn-out.

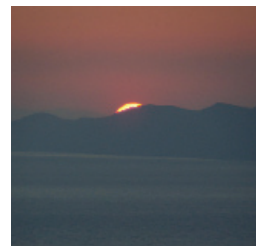


Holy Image/Holy Blood 2-3hr presentation

What did the Apostle John see when he looked in the empty tomb and why did he believe? What can two blood-stained ancient linen cloths separated for centuries in different parts of the world, tell us about the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ? New forensic studies of the Holy Shroud of Turin and the Sudarium of Oviedo vividly bring to life the details of the last hours of Christ and the Apostles finding of the empty tomb. An exploration that makes 33AD as vivid as Easter morning.

Marriage as a Spiritual Journey – two day workshop

Marriage as a Spiritual Journey is an interactive workshop with presentation, discussions and couples exercises focused on marriage as a spiritual path in which partners come to know Christ through self knowledge of repentance in the process of learning to love one another more fully. Drawing on Eastern Orthodox Christian theology and concepts from counseling and communication theory, participants explore prayer, the role of projection and the relationship between falling into moods versus clear and direct emotional transparency that furthers emotional maturity and enhances intimacy.



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Marriage Tune-up 2 - 3 hour presentation

This presentation includes some interactive exercises and discussion that explores marriage from the standpoint of 'falling in love' rooted in biological chemistry and unconscious forces of attraction and the later stages of 'growing in love' that are at the heart of our spiritual life.

MBTI temperament and Prayer styles: Group workshop series 10-12 sessions

Do I pray with words or in silence without words? Is stillness more helpful than movement? Do images enhance prayer or lead to deception? What about nature as a sign of God's presence in contrast to worship with ritual and incense? This workshop will explore variations by drawing from the history of prayer through the lenses of historical figures and saints of the church. Participants will use the Myers Briggs Type Inventory to help explore which ways of praying are most accessible to them.



Hazards of VIPS: Boundaries related to Vocation, Intimacy, Presence and Spirituality in Ministry

Clergy sexual abuse has increasingly come to the forefront of public awareness over the last two decades. This workshop examines relationships between clergy and parishioners by focusing on the boundaries of pastoral vocation, intimacy/isolation, power and spirituality. Clear awareness of each of these areas provides a means of self-examination for protecting pastoral relationships while allowing the intimacy that is part of all authentic relationships in Christ.

Battle for Person in the Heart: Trading a Heart of Stone for a Heart of Flesh

St. Irenaeus, who sat at the feet of the martyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, who knew the Apostle John in his older years, is recorded as saying, "The glory of God is a human being fully alive." This workshop will explore the value of repentance, confession, prayer, worship and spiritual struggle on a daily basis, to "follow Christ" in learning to love.



Passion-bearing: The life of the Spirit

Jesus is God's love for the world and for humanity. God's hope and faith in humanity is enough that God is willing to be affected by humanity unto death in the hopes that humanity will be equally affected by God unto eternal life. The question of Passion bearing is "How much of God's heart can we stand?"

The Healing Community

Physicians in the United States are working harder than ever and having less vocational satisfaction in the profession of medicine than perhaps at any time in modern history. As the stress levels mounts, so do inter-staff conflict and medical errors which increase the risk of malpractice claims. Studies show that as physician stress level and sleep-debt climb, so do medical errors. The danger of increased stress and loss of vocational satisfaction is not only to patients, but to the physicians themselves. According to the National Center for Health Statistics American physicians live an average of 69.7 years, approximately 8 years less than the national average for men. In 2001 JCAHO mandated that all hospitals must have a physician well-being program. "The Healing Community" is a one or two day workshop designed for physicians and nurses and their staffs. Morning sessions are devoted to presentation, interactive dialogue and group activities with afternoon time for individual consultations. The focus is on identifying physician stress and burn-out and its effect personally and on staff relations and making a case for the direct relationship between vocational satisfaction, physician well-being and quality of patient care.



Workshop and Presentation Catalog Continued

Fit For Life, Fit For War



Every warrior has a twin mission: to go to war and to come home again. Each leg of the twin mission deserves attention and requires a distinct skill set. Learning to move back and forth between these two arenas is especially critical for today's warrior who often faces multiple extended combat deployments with relatively short spans of time between. This workshop addresses the spiritual, emotional and neurophysiological components of combat-related stress. Returning Vets may find it difficult to allow feelings of tenderness to surface because the nervous system has adapted to an environment where relaxation and vulnerability at the wrong moment can mean death. Family members may not understand the reasons for the changes, causing misunderstanding.

As in the story of the "rusty knight" – many soldiers have gotten stuck in their armor. This workshop is designed for veterans and the families who love them to better understand and succeed in the mission of coming home psychologically, emotionally and spiritually after combat deployment, once they have come home physically.