

Welcome to our discussion of Richard Rohr's book "The Universal Christ." We will be using a method of discussion called "Contemplative Dialogue," which may be a little different than you are accustomed to. The purpose of such a dialogue is not to decide/prove that Rohr or anyone involved in our discussion is right or wrong. The purpose will not be to convince anyone of any particular point of view or to criticize another's idea. Our discussion will reflect this quote from the Sufi poet Rumi:

*"Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing
and rightdoing there is a field.
I'll meet you there.
When the soul lies down in that grass
the world is too full to talk [argue] about."*

The goal of our discussion will be to come to a greater understanding/appreciation of God's work in our world by each of us offering our unique view, our unique part of the truth. Since none of us has the full picture, we will gather the different pieces of the picture from each other. Hopefully, we will all come away from the discussion with a greater vision and clearer insight than when we started. We will talk about the specific ground rules of the discussion when we gather.

What to Expect

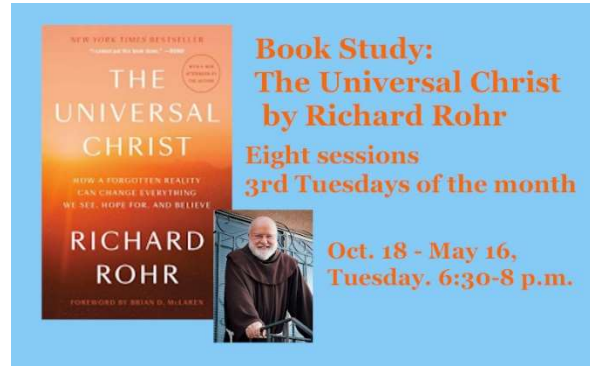
For the last 18-months, the Renewal Center has been running most of its programming as hybrid events, that is, in-person and on Zoom at the same time. As this letter goes out, we have about a dozen people signed up for each option. Running a hybrid program for this number of folks can be a bit challenging but still fruitful. The Renewal Center has experience hosting these programs and many of you also have experience with this model already. We look forward to a rich exchange of ideas.

How to Prepare

Each month we will discuss two chapters of the book. So this first month on Oct. 18, we will discuss the introduction, Ch. 1 "Christ Is Not Jesus's Last Name," and Ch. 2 "Accepting That You Are Fully Accepted." Here are some discussion starters that may be helpful, but our sharing need not be limited to these suggestions:

For discussion:

1. Rohr speaks of creation as the first incarnation, and Jesus as the second incarnation, coming out of an already "Christ-soaked world." How does that confirm or challenge your thinking about God's working?



2. Rohr says “When I know that the world around me is both the hiding place and the revelation of God, I can no longer make a significant distinction between the natural and the supernatural, between the holy and the profane.” (p. 15)
What would seeing things this way mean for us as individuals? As religions? As cultures?
3. “But God loves things by becoming them.” (p. 16)
How does this statement strike you?
4. “Jesus came to show us how to be human much more than how to be spiritual, and the process still seems to be in its early stages.” (p. 23)
What does this statement mean to you?
5. “The divine ‘DNA’ of the Creator is therefore held in all the creatures. What we call the ‘soul’ of every creature could easily be seen as the *self-knowledge of God* in that creature!” (p. 28)
How “easy” or difficult is it to see things this way? How do we need to improve our “vision” in order to do this?
6. Rohr says that salvation should be seen in terms of “restoration” rather than “retribution,” which we are accustomed to. What is the difference to you? How have you heard of, or experienced either/both?
7. “The Christ is always way too much for us, larger than any one era, culture, empire, or religion. Its radical inclusivity is a threat to any power structure and any form of arrogant thinking.” (p. 35).
How does this challenge us as religions, as societies, as cultures, as a world?

Once again, welcome. And I hope to see you on Oct. 18.

Fr. Garry Richmeier

More Information

If you are registered for the live stream of this event, we will email you instructions about how to find the live stream about two hours before the course starts.

If you cannot attend, please let us know. The course will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. central time. Our address is:

Precious Blood Renewal Center
2120 St. Gaspar Way
Liberty, Missouri 64068

Got a question, suggestion or comment? Contact us:

- Email: info@pbrenewalcenter.org
- Phone: 816-415-3745