

Poetry is Prayer: Robert Lax

When a Few Words Say it Best

Everything that exists
can turn to prayer;
even the water,
even the air.

--Robert Lax in "A Song For Our Lady"

This year's poetry day features the life and work of Robert Lax. Lax was Thomas Merton's closest friend from the day they first met at Columbia University in 1936.

As a young man Lax worked at *The New Yorker*, wrote film reviews for *Time* and even wrote screen plays for Hollywood. He was a part of the Friendship House community for a time in Harlem, related closely with the *Catholic Worker* and was international editor for the Catholic journal *Jubilee* for a number of years. He spent a year traveling with a circus and then wrote his most acclaimed book, *Circus of the Sun*. Lax continued to write, mostly poetry, in a minimalist style, the poetry equivalent to his abstract painter friend Ad Reinhardt's work of black on black paintings. Lax is to poetry what the slow food movement is to eating. He lived the second half of his life in solitude on the Greek islands of Kalymnos and Patmos. He died in 2000.

Leadership: Glenn Mitchell, M.Div., is Director of Training and Program for Oasis Ministries. He



is the lead presenter/facilitator for *Spiritual Direction for Spiritual Guides*. Glenn has led a variety of retreats around the country on themes of prayer, spirituality, spiritual direction, nature and spirituality and the interplay of art and spirituality. He has a practice of spiritual direction and retreat leadership based in State College, PA.

When: Friday, April 21, 2017, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Where: Lititz Church of the Brethren, 300 West Orange Street, Lititz, PA 17543

Retreat Fee: \$65-85 (as you are able) Please bring brown bag lunch.



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