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### **Fr. Richard Rohr to speak on Restoring Sacred Balance 2011 Collins Lecture will explore convergence of Contemplative traditions and social action**

In times of so much uncertainty and anxiety about the future, one question becomes increasingly important: *“How does one sustain one’s soul while working faithfully and effectively for social justice and peace?”*

This year’s Collins Lecture, presented by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO), will create the context to pursue this spiritually-enriched question. “Restoring Sacred Balance: The Convergence of Contemplative Traditions and Social Action,” featuring the renowned Fr. Richard Rohr, will also provide an opportunity to celebrate and honor people and communities engaged in the holy work of peaceful change in the world.

The Collins Lecture will be held on the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 26, and a sold-out workshop with Fr. Rohr will be held the following day, Oct. 27. During the all day workshop, Fr. Rohr will lead an inspired dialogue and facilitate a spiritual practice with prayers and mediation. The workshop will also explore music, chant, Taize and guided meditative practices and engagement.

Both the lecture and workshop will be held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral; they will be especially helpful to pastors, laity, worship leaders, and congregational teams committed to social justice and peacemaking, both within the religious community and broader society.

#### **Fr. Richard Rohr**

Fr. Rohr is a Franciscan of the New Mexico Province. Since 1986, he has served as founding director at the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Rohr entered the Franciscans in 1961 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1970. He received his master’s degree in theology from Dayton University that same year. He now lives in a hermitage behind his Franciscan community in Albuquerque and divides his time between local work and preaching and teaching on all continents.

#### **MEMBER DENOMINATIONS**

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ American Baptist Churches of Oregon ■ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ■ Christian Methodist Episcopal Church ■ Church of the Brethren ■ Community of Christ  
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA)—Presbytery of the Cascades  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

Rohr's ministry and life work center on helping people connect to the contemplative traditions in order to be instruments of peaceful change in the world. Rohr himself spends a good part of every day in silence, solitude and surrender to what God and the moment are offering.

“With contemplative eyes, I can live with a certain non-dual consciousness that often allows me to be merciful to the moment, patient with human failure, and generous toward the maddening issues of our time,” states Rohr. “For me, it is the very shape of Christian salvation or any salvation. My sadness is that so few have been taught this older and wiser tradition, although many still come to it by great love and great suffering.” (Sojourners, ‘09)

Some of Rohr's best known books include *Everything Belongs: A Gift of Contemplative Prayer*; *The Enneagram: A Christian Perspective*; *From Wild Men to Wise Men: Reflections on Male Spirituality*; and his latest book, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*, published in 2011.

### **Learn more and register**

The 2011 Collins Lecture will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 26, at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland, Ore. Registering for the lecture as soon as possible is highly recommended, as it is close to selling out; the workshop on Oct. 27 is already sold out. The registration fee is \$10 for the lecture; students with ID are half price. Register securely online, or download a registration brochure, at [www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org); the deadline is Oct. 19. For more information, call the EMO office at (503) 221-1054.

The Collins Lecture is an annual event designed to provide an opportunity for clergy and laity to explore issues related to religion and social ethics. The lecture has been part of EMO's ministry for over 40 years and is funded in part by the Collins Foundation.

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.*