

APRIL 2023

COMMUNITY OF HOPE International



*Save
The Date*

COHI 2023 Conference

All Saints Episcopal Church

Atlanta, GA

October 19-21

"Leaning In" Series

1ST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH | MARCH-AUGUST | 12PM US EST ON ZOOM

May 6, 2023

Debriefing Workshop

Jun 3, 2023

Expanding the Definition of Pastoral Care

Jul 1, 2023

Meet the Board of Directors

Aug 5, 2023

Spiritual Gifts

Contact us at (210) 305-8066 or event.registrations@cohinternational.org

Register here: "Leaning In" Facilitator Exchange Series



COHI Facilitator Training



WHAT

A 2-1/2 day training that provides facilitators with tips and tools plus hands-on experience.

- Basic facilitation skills
- Key points of each COHI training module
- Group exercises for each module
- Approaches for building trust and a sense of community
- Participant workbook plus handouts

WHEN

August 10 - August 12, 2023

Thursday and Friday sessions: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CDT

Saturday session: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CDT

WHERE

ZOOM - To ensure the best possible experience, individual accounts are recommended for each registrant.

WHO

- First-time COHI Training Facilitators
- Experienced COHI Training Facilitators looking for new ideas
- Inquirers contemplating beginning a COHI ministry

COST

\$350 per person

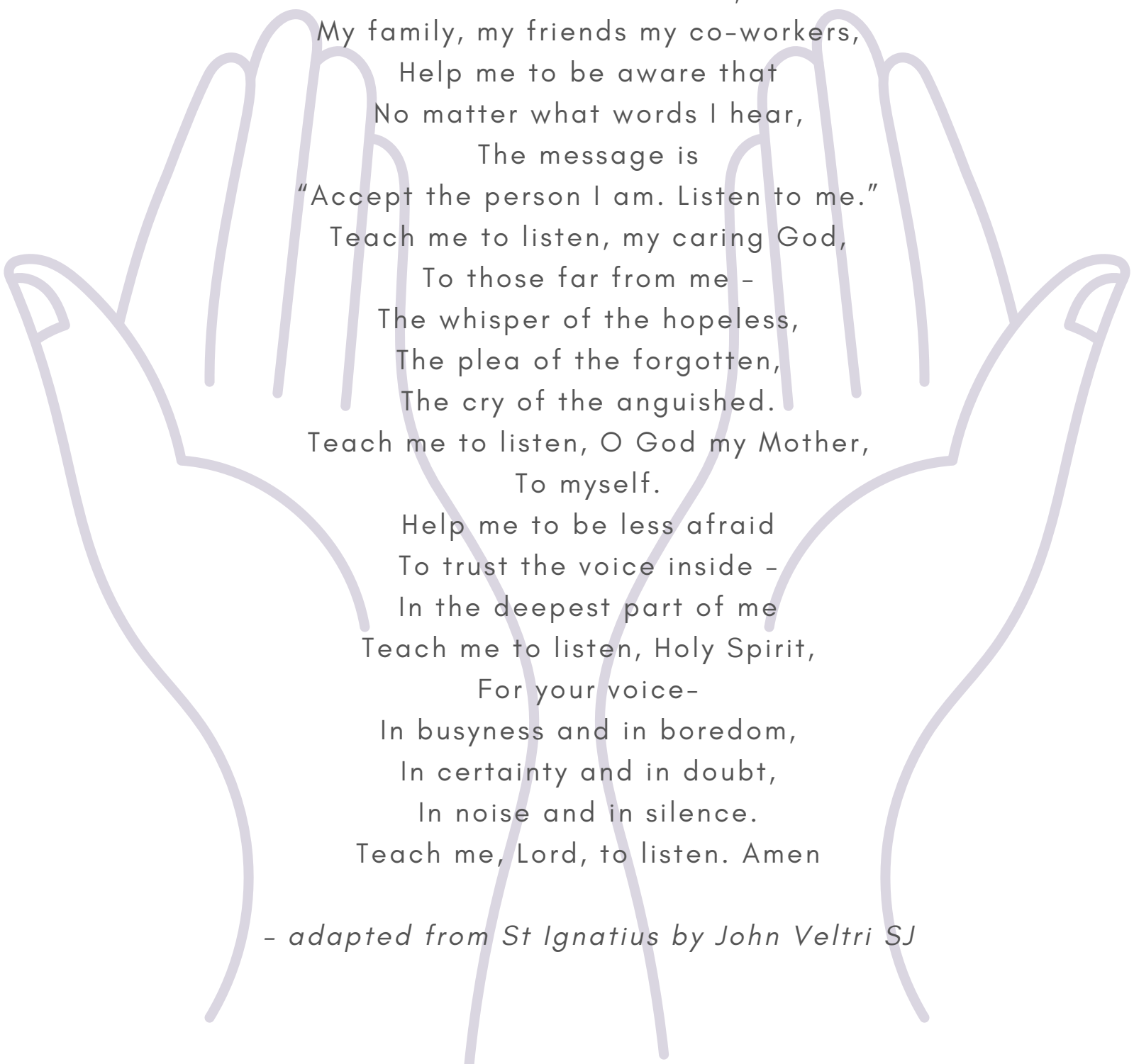
REGISTER HERE

Registration is open until 7/15/2023! Space is Limited to the First 20 Registrants.

Contact us at (210) 305-8066 or event.registrations@cohinternational.org



Prayer: *Teach Me To Listen*



Teach me to listen, O God,
To those nearest me,
My family, my friends my co-workers,
Help me to be aware that
No matter what words I hear,
The message is
"Accept the person I am. Listen to me."
Teach me to listen, my caring God,
To those far from me -
The whisper of the hopeless,
The plea of the forgotten,
The cry of the anguished.
Teach me to listen, O God my Mother,
To myself.
Help me to be less afraid
To trust the voice inside -
In the deepest part of me
Teach me to listen, Holy Spirit,
For your voice-
In busyness and in boredom,
In certainty and in doubt,
In noise and in silence.
Teach me, Lord, to listen. Amen

- adapted from *St Ignatius* by John Veltri SJ



Hours vs. Impact

SARAH ROBERTS, COHI PRESIDENT

For years there have been many questions pertaining to the counting of hours and visits. What constitutes a visit? How do I count multiple care receivers in the same visit? What if I make a phone call but have to leave a message, does that count? It takes an hour to drive to the facility and back. Should I count that time as well? The list goes on!

These are all good and valid questions that have forced us to examine what exactly we are counting and why it matters. The answer is in the question, what is the impact our organization is making? The impact pertains to our members, as well as our greater church and secular communities. It matters because we need to be able to measure, in some way, how effective our curriculum and structure are.

The answers are useful in myriad ways. We can convey to new faith communities and grantors the value of investing in Community of Hope International. We can evaluate and update our structure and modules. We can use this information to provide more opportunities to support the spiritual formation of our members and their varied ministries. The information can be communicated to the leadership of each church or organization to know that the investment they made continues to be valuable.

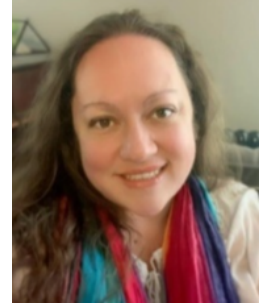
So, what is our impact? Our mission statement says, "Creating communities steeped in Benedictine spirituality, to serve others through compassionate listening." If serving others through compassionate listening is what we're doing, what is the best way to measure that?

I, for one, realize that my participation in Community of Hope has changed the way I see and respond to the world. It has awakened an awareness in me that everyone I interact with could be defined as a care receiver. It has become a way of life and that is truly hard to measure. Furthermore, who says how impactful our interactions are and is impact relative to time spent with a care receiver? I don't believe it is. I believe that the potential impact should be counted equally, without regard to time. A better way to communicate impact is in the phrase "pastoral encounter". I believe that perhaps a more profound impact could be happening in 30 seconds with a member of the homeless population as opposed to 30 minutes in a hospital room. The point here is that one is not better than the other. Both of these examples are great and necessary expressions of ways we live into our individual calls and serve others through compassionate listening.

Let's begin counting pastoral encounters without hours. We are asking for an estimate. A great way to count would be to include an acknowledgement of your daily pastoral encounters during your prayer time. It could be part of your settling into silence, a brief thought of each encounter and lifting each care receiver to God in your prayer, a sort of handing off, as we are not responsible for outcomes. Perhaps you practice the daily examen before bed, briefly overviewing the day and where you met Christ in others.

For more on this topic, please join the "Leaning In" series on Zoom Jun 3, 2023 - Expanding the Definition of Pastoral Care.

I believe that by realizing how much impact you have on others in a given day, week, or month, will be profound for you. Not all encounters look the same, and that is okay. In the words of Desmond Tutu, "Do your little bit of good where you are, it's those bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."





Stunning and Personal Community Building Activity

DEvised BY THE REV. LAURA MASTERSON

At the May 2022 in-person COHI board meeting at Camp Capers in San Antonio, the Rev. Laura Masterson displayed a writing prompt similar to one below with blanks throughout. She explained that we would write a collect to one of the other friends in attendance using the prompt.

Almighty God, you have given us the gift of your servant, _____. Thank you for her (him) who shares so freely of her (his) _____ in you, bringing _____ to many who are in need of comfort and kindness. Thank you for her (his) _____ and _____ and her (or his) deep devotion to you through her (or his) gift of _____. Continue to bless _____ in all _____ and hold her (him) close as she (he) strives to _____. Grant her (him) _____ and _____ as she (he) serves others in your name. In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We drew names, and Rev. Laura proposed that we observe the person whose name we had drawn through the next day and work on the personal collect. On the last morning of the gathering we read the collects aloud to the group, and the effect was stunning! To hear a friend offer a blessing to you alone, using your own characteristics was a deeply personal spiritual moment.

Carolyn Cockroft graciously offered to share her experience below as well as the collect written for her.

Carolyn's comments and collect:

Jennifer Sassin wrote the collect about me, and I was so moved to see myself from another person's view of me. See me in ways that I did not see myself. It inspired me to be a better servant. The names were drawn at random--not chosen by the collect writer. And I was overcome with joy that, by sheer coincidence, a deeply cherished friend happened to draw my name.

Here is the prayer:

Almighty God, you have given us the gift of your servant, Carolyn Cockroft. Thank you for Carolyn who shares so freely of her constant love and trust in you, bringing hope and joy to many who are in need of comfort and kindness. Thank you for her gentle touch and generous spirit and her deep devotion to you through music which enlightens our souls.

Continue to bless Carolyn in all endeavors and hold her close as she strives to live the Gospel of Christ. Grant her mercy and grace as she serves others in your name. In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Community of Hope Retreat

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

**St. Margaret's Episcopal Church and Arkansas House of
Prayer**

April 22, 2023

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Keynote Speaker:

***Sarah Roberts*, President of Community of Hope International**

Registration deadline is April

To register, contact kvhuber@mac.com





St. Barnabas on the Desert Commissioning

STEVE BARTLETT, TRAINING FACILITATOR
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA



Congratulations to St. Barnabas for commissioning six new Lay Chaplains on March 5, 2023.

New Lay Chaplains on the top row of the photo include Elizabeth Jamison, Anil Coelho, Suzanne Gentry, Robert Carr, Nancy Rozak, and John Stone. In the foreground are Rector Jim Clark and Training Facilitator Steve Bartlett.

Welcome New Centers!

What a joy it is to welcome a new center and a center renewal into the COHI family!



New Center: The Cathedral of All
Souls, Asheville NC



Center Renewal:
Christ Church, Greenwich CT



**The newest video password
has been released!
Please check with your
regional rep. for more
information.**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

**Tell us about books & blogs you like, ways
of reaching care-receivers, and training
ideas that work!**

DEADLINE: 4/28/2023

Email Pam Piedfort at pamelapiedfort@gmail.com
to share your story!
