
An Approach to Spirituality

Roots & Branches exists to provide guidance to those who seek ways to be more firmly rooted in The Source, that they may be more fully themselves and offer life-giving service to others.

Roots & Branches, grounded in the Christian tradition, offers customized programs, spiritual direction, and consultations to guide persons to develop a spirituality informed by Biblical narratives, universal wisdom, and the arts. Through our programs many will discover these to be resources for their on-going spiritual renewal.



About the Director



Episcopal priest, musician and educator, Masud Ibn Syedullah TSSF, integrates resources of Christian spirituality, the arts, and liturgical worship to create experiences that facilitate spiritual growth. For more than thirty years he has designed and led conferences, retreats, and workshops, nationally and internationally, to strengthen and enhance Christian community.

He has served on the Liturgical Commission, and currently serves on the Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of New York; is co-author of Liturgical Resources to Parishes; and is a consultant to congregations to develop strategies to enhance programs for worship, spiritual formation, congregational life and mission.

A member of the Third Order, Society of Saint Francis, a Christian Community of the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion, he emphasizes themes of praise of God, peace-making, reconciliation, and respect for all God's creation. Programs that Father Syedullah offers invite participants into a celebration of God and life.

For further information about programs and fees contact:

Roots & Branches

The Rev. Masud Ibn Syedullah, Director

35 Circle Drive

Hyde Park, NY 12538

Phone: (646) 401-2790

Email: info@rootsandbranchesprograms.org

Website: rootsandbranchesprograms.org



Roots & Branches

Programs for Spiritual Growth

Like the trees,
we are created
to be firmly rooted
in the ground of our being,
the source of all, God.
And like their branches,
we are created
to extend towards all
the gift of life.

**RESOURCES
FOR DIOCESES, PARISHES,
& RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES**

To renew

a spiritual experience of God
that inspires and brings joy to life

To experience

ways that scripture, prayer, and meditation
can be practical resources for faith
as we struggle with the questions, doubts,
and fears in our life

To celebrate

the reality of the Real Presence of God
among us in the natural world,
community, and the Sacraments

Conferences Workshops

Consultations Programs Retreats

including:

A Day of Reflection (Traditional Quiet Day)

Workshops & Consultations
to Enhance Christian Formation

Faith Formation & Liturgy
Conferences or Workshops

Lay Ministry Development Events

Youth & Young Adult Ministry Events

Renewal Conferences & Retreats
for Clergy & Monastic Communities

Topical Programs & Classes
for Advent, Lent, Eastertide

Spiritual Pilgrimage

Specially Created Programs



EXAMPLES OF PROGRAMS

*All programs can be designed
to meet your specific needs*

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS: A Music and Liturgy Workshop – This practical and inspirational workshop demonstrates how liturgy can be more than just well-orchestrated services, but authentic experiences of worship through the creative and prayerful use of scripture, music, space, and silence.

YOU ARE THE BODY – The Apostle Paul refers to the Church as the Body of Christ which has many “members” – hands, feet, ears, eyes, etc. – each necessary to accomplish God’s work in the world. Often the clergy are thought of as the primary “members”, but the laity’s purpose in the Church is equally vital. This workshop guides parish lay-leaders to discover and use their gifts and talents, and to discern how to more fully express the Life and Presence of God in and through their congregations.

RISEN WITH CHRIST – This Eastertide retreat for clergy and members of monastic communities uses the Orthodox icon of *Jesus Harrowing Hell* and post-resurrection events in scripture to assist participants to experience the Good News of Resurrection for their own lives: that we are also being raised to new life – with him.

PILGRIMAGE TO TAIZE, FRANCE – Each year, thousands of youth and young adults experience a unique week-long retreat at the modern monastic Ecumenical Community of Taizé in France. They share the riches of Christian scripture, prayer, and community life in an ecumenical and international setting. This pilgrimage, for youth and young adults ages 16 through 30, also includes two days in Paris to explore religious and other cultural sites.

MY NEIGHBOR – A GIFT OF GOD: Relating to Those Who Are Different from Us – Prior to the attacks of 9/11, many felt secure among people “like us.” Increasingly, we are challenged to think about and to interact with “those people.” Often we look upon anyone of another culture, race, ethnicity, or religion as “the other.” What does Christian spirituality offer us to be both faithful to God and appreciative of our neighbors? Participants experience ways Christian spirituality guides us to regard our neighbors.

LECTIO DIVINA: The Use of Scripture for Prayer and Meditation – This time-honored use of the Bible connects scripture to one’s daily life, informs one’s personal prayer and meditation, and leads one to further transformation of life in Christ.

GOLD FROM THE SILVER SCREEN: Reel Religion – Movies make profound impact on popular culture by portraying life in strikingly bold and poignant ways. Participants view and discuss contemporary movies and explore ways their themes relate to Christian faith and life.