



~ Welcome ~

A Celebration of Gratitude  
for the Labyrinth

June 21, 2010  
Summer Solstice



On the grounds of Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality  
Carondelet Center, Sisters of St. Joseph

[www.wisdomwayscenter.org](http://www.wisdomwayscenter.org) ☎ 651-696-2788



## A CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE FOR THE LABYRINTH

*Gather near the entrance to the labyrinth*

### Gathering Song: "Summer Solstice"

Summer solstice - the longest day of the year  
Together we gather, there's no place I'd rather be  
Than with you on this summer solstice  
The longest day of the year.

### Welcome

**Readings:** In my turning and returning, Take me in and let me go.  
At the center of the spinning, Root me deep and set me loose.  
At the still point of the spiral, Draw me close and send me forth.  
In the passage of the season, Hold me fast and set me free.  
*(Jan Richardson, In Wisdom's Path)*

Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies,  
and walk in it and find rest for your souls. *(Jeremiah 6:16)*

A Wheel was shown to me, wonderful to behold . . . Divinity is in its omniscience and  
omnipotence, like a wheel, a circle, a whole, that can neither be understood nor divided,  
nor begun, nor ended. Just as a circle embraces all that is within it, so does the Godhead  
embrace us all. You are embraced by God. You are encircled by the arms of the Mystery  
of God. *(Hildegard of Bingen, Illumination 1 :The Man in Sapphire Blue)*


**Song:** "Now I Walk in Beauty" ~ Navajo Blessing

**Readings** from the labyrinth journals interspersed with verses of "Walking The  
Labyrinth" (words on insert)

**Litany of Gratitude** ~ adapted from Jill K. H. Geoffrion for this gathering

**One:** We are gathered to offer thanks for all that has been given and received in  
this space and on this labyrinth during the past 13 years. In the silence, let us  
remember the times of meaning, community, creativity, care, healing, tears,  
and joy that we have shared in this sacred space of this labyrinth. (One  
minute of silence.) If you would like, you are invited to share ONE word  
that expresses what this labyrinth has meant to you.

**Community:** Sharing . . .

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- One: Let us honor our experience as we express our gratitude.
- Community: For this labyrinth and the many gifts we have received here, we offer our thanks to God, the Sisters of St. Joseph, Wisdom Ways, and all those who have been the labyrinth's caretakers.
- One: We are gathered to release this labyrinth back to the earth. I invite as you are able, standing in the labyrinth place your hands upon it.
- Community: (with hands on the ground) We honor this gift with gratitude. We release this space, offering it to all that will be. (release of hands)
- One: We are gathered here to bless this space.
- Community: We pray for those who will live here, work here, and visit here. May their needs be graciously met. May this piece of sacred earth be a spiritual and physical support for all. May the beauty of this place continue to make all things new.
- All: May it be so!
- Song: "Web of Beauty"  
Praise to God, who has spun the threads of being and turns the universe before my eyes. Who has woven this tangled web of beauty that binds me to the earth and sky. *(words and music by Bret Hesla)*

### Blessing Of What Will Be:

- One: As we gather here, we seek to offer up this space to welcome a new labyrinth.
- Community: We ask you, Holy One, to bless this space as a place of your divine work in the world. Be with all who seek to discern the place of a new labyrinth on the Carondelet Center grounds.
- One: Bless everyone who walks searching for You, for deeper meaning in life, and for the healing of all creation. May each of us walk in the presence of the Holy now and always.
- Song: "I Shall Walk in The Presence of God"  
I shall walk in the presence of God. I shall walk. With the sun and the rain upon me I shall walk. In the land of the living, living land I shall walk. With my sisters and my brothers around me I shall walk. *(text adapted from Psalm 116, tune by Larry Dittberner)*



## WALKING THE LABYRINTH

To your open mouth we come,  
Pausing with expectancy.  
Posing questions, praying dreams,  
gath'ring courage, hope and faith.  
Circle, you hold life indeed.  
With thanksgiving we proceed.

Stepping in, the way is sure,  
Pacing comes in its own time.  
Breathing slows, awareness dawns,  
Trusting, longing fill our hearts.  
Pathway, you hold life indeed.  
With thanksgiving we proceed.

In the center we are held,  
Deeply knowing, deeply known.  
Healing wholeness rising up,  
Wisdom, insight overflow.  
Center, you hold life indeed.  
With thanksgiving we proceed.

Back we go, the way we came,  
Weaving, winding in and out,  
Moving t'ward the world beyond.  
Op'ning hearts to needs perceived.  
Pathway, you hold life indeed.  
With thanksgiving we proceed.

Once outside we gaze within,  
Wond'ring at the peace we know.  
Spending moments filled with awe,  
Taking leave with strength renewed.  
Circle, you hold life indeed.  
With thanksgiving we proceed.

Text: Jill K. H. Geoffrion

Tune: For the Beauty of the Earth

Dedicated with gratitude to Madeleine Sue Martin





## HISTORY

- 1997 Lila Parrish first suggested the labyrinth be created on the grounds of the Sisters of St. Joseph.
- May 1997, Pentecost Sunday, Stu and Mary Bartholomaeus created and mowed it for the Wisdom Ways Summer Spirituality Institute, *Simple Gifts: The Spirituality of Simplicity*.
- Dedication of the Labyrinth September 17, 1998—Feast of Hildegard of Bingen
- Dedication of Wisdom Ways canvas labyrinth, September 17, 2000—Feast of Hildegard of Bingen
- Jean Houston, who introduced Lauren Artress to the labyrinth, visited this labyrinth in 2005.
- Rededication of the Wisdom Ways Labyrinth June 16, 2007
- Lauren Artress opened the mysteries of the labyrinth to thousands of people including programs at Wisdom Ways.
- MJ McGregor faithfully mowed the labyrinth through the years.
- The labyrinth work at Wisdom Ways of Jill K. H. Geoffrion, Barbara Kellet, Marilyn Larson, Mary Kaye Medinger, and Lisa Moriarty, has deepened and expanded broadly in this context and internationally.
- Many labyrinth programs at Wisdom Ways through the years including Midwest Labyrinth Festivals
- Thousands of walkers—women, men, and children—have walked this path into the earth during the last 13 years.

The labyrinth, a 77' diameter replica of the labyrinth in Chartres Cathedral in France, remained on the grounds of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Carondelet Center, following the Wisdom Ways 1997 Summer Spirituality Institute. The labyrinth was not part of the original plan of Wisdom Ways. As people learned about it and began walking it as a form of prayer, the labyrinth became a significant image and metaphor for Wisdom Ways mission and vision.

**THANK YOU** to all who helped with this gathering:

Song Leader: Mary Preus

Dancer and reader: Jessica Lopez Lyman

Readers: Barbara Kellet, MJ McGregor, Mary Kaye Medinger, Lisa Moriarty, Julie Neraas, and Kathleen Olsen.

The CSJs for the beautiful space and welcome.

Wisdom Ways staff: Barbara Lund, Erika Hiller, and Jean Witte.