

St. Matthew's Women's Retreat



Becoming Beguines (The First Women's Movement)

*with Sr. Greta Ronningen
Prior of the Community of Divine Love*

- WHEN** **January 19-21, 2018 (NOT MLK weekend)**
- WHERE** **Serra Retreat Center, Malibu**
- COST** **\$280 (shared room). Some single rooms available at \$370**
- REGISTER** **Sunday November 12, 19, and 26 on the Patio.** First come, first served; registration is effective when payment is received.

Beginning in the 13th century, the Beguines founded communities in northwestern Europe where women lived lives of poverty, chastity, and service to the poor and sick. Independent of the male Church hierarchy, at times persecuted, the movement lasted 800 years and included more than one million women. The last of the Beguines died in 2013. "How is it possible," members of the Retreat Committee wondered aloud, "that we know nothing about all this?!"

Sister Greta's presentations will explore the Beguines' history and theology and reveal why this history was "lost." She will lead us in contemplative practices and modes of worship used by the Community of Divine Love that share characteristics with practices of the Beguines. Our own Rev. Christine Purcell will also participate, and celebrate the closing Eucharist on Sunday.