

HONG KONG, September 14, 2013 **/24-7PressRelease/** -- The speaker is Hong Kong born Fr. Joseph Wong OSB Cam. He is now on the international board of his Benedictine monastic community in Italy and teaches frequently in China.

In the Seminar he will explore the wisdom of the early Christian monks, known as the Desert Fathers, and compare it with the wisdom of the Chinese Taoist tradition in which he is also an expert.

This marriage of the wisdom of East and West is an important contribution to the economic and cultural globalization of the 21st century.

This is the first time that the JMS has been held in Hong Kong. The John Main Seminar is the major annual event of The World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) (www.wccm.org).

It has been held annually since 1984 in various cities in the world in honour of Dom John Main (1926-1982), the founder of WCCM. It brings together Christian meditators and others interested in global spiritual dialogue.

Cardinal Tong of Hong Kong is a Patron of the WCCM and will be opening this year's Seminar.

Previous presenters of the John Main Seminar have included the philosopher Charles Taylor, winner of the Templeton Prize, Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, and the Dalai Lama.

400 meditators will be coming to Hong Kong for the Seminar from 17 countries.

The event venue will be at St. Paul's Convent School, 140, Leighton Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong (School Hall, 3rd Floor).

Pre-Seminar Retreat: The seminar will be preceded by a retreat, lead by Fr. Laurence Freeman

OSB, director of WCCM. The theme of the retreat is "East-West: The Two Halves of the Soul".

Inter-faith Journey: After the Seminar, there is a 3-day Inter-faith Journey to see how the different faiths live in harmony in Hong Kong. This trip includes visits to the Big Buddha at the Buddhist Po Lin Monastery and also to the Christian monks living in the serene surroundings of the Trappist Monastery.

About Fr. Laurence Freeman OSB Fr Laurence Freeman a Benedictine monk and spiritual successor to John Main is the Director and spiritual guide of the community. He is the author of many books and leads retreats worldwide. He launched Meditatio in 2010 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the community.

About Joseph Wong OSB CamA Chinese from Hong Kong, Fr. Joseph is a Benedictine monk of the Camaldolese Congregation. He holds MTh from the University of London and STD from the Gregorian University, Rome, and is a member of the Pontifical Academy of Theology. Periodically he teaches theology and spirituality at the seminaries in Beijing and Shanghai. Fr. Joseph is Assistant to the Prior General of his Congregation and Novice Master of the Monastery of Camaldoli near Florence where he also conducts retreats on contemplative prayer.

For more information about the events and media enquires please email leonardo@wccm.org

For daily updates on this event, visit the JMS website and WCCM's Website, Facebook, Google + and Twitter pages

About WCCM The World Community for Christian Meditation is inspired by the vision of John Main a spiritual teacher and Benedictine monk and was formed in 1991. He revived the contemplative prayer of the desert tradition of early Christianity and made it available to everyone. Today, people from all walks of life, of all ages meditate in weekly groups in over 100 countries. Groups meet in a variety of places - schools, universities, churches, homes, workplaces, prisons, hospitals. The Community is a kind of 'monastery without walls' which has as its spiritual foundation the local meditation group and the daily practice of meditation. The Mission Statement of the Community is to communicate and nurture meditation passed on through the teaching of John Main in the Christian tradition and in the spirit of serving the unity

of all.