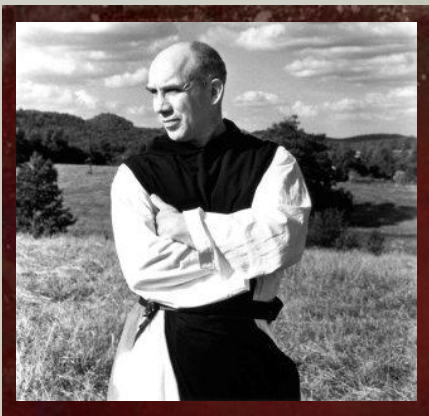


# Tenth Endowed Lecture in American Catholic Thought and Culture

## MONK, MYSTIC & PROPHET:



## The Expanding Vision of Thomas Merton

Sponsored by  
The MSU College  
of Arts and Letters  
and  
St. John Church &  
Student Center  
of East Lansing



**Presented by Monica Weis SSJ, PhD**

**Thursday, October 8, 2015,**

**7:00pm:** *Light Refreshments begin at 6:30pm*

**Ballroom:** *2nd Floor, MSU Student Union Building*

**Free and Open to the Public**

*Free Parking at the Grand River Avenue Ramp after 6:00pm*

To mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Trappist monk, Thomas Merton, Professor Weis will examine some of the particulars of Merton's life in the monastery at Gethsemani, KY; how his spirituality deepened by extended contact with nature; and how Merton's vision expanded to include social responsibility toward humans and non-humans alike. Merton's vocation to contemplation and his graced way of seeing the world was not an exclusive gift to an exceptional individual; rather, the inspiration of his life remains as an invitation and challenge to us to discover that we, too, are "one" with creation and called to live out of that realization.

**Monica Weis SSJ, PhD**, is professor emerita of English at Nazareth College in Rochester, NY where she taught American literature, British and American romanticism, rhetoric, and was Director of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program. She is a past vice-president of the International Thomas Merton Society, a frequent speaker at national and international conferences, and author of numerous articles on Merton and American writers. Her most recent books are *Thomas Merton's Gethsemani: Landscapes of Paradise* (UPK, 2005) with fine art photographer Harry L. Hinkle and *The Environmental Vision of Thomas Merton* (UPK, 2011). She is currently working on a book on Merton and Celtic monasticism.