



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER Reverend Sandra Casey-Martus, MEd, MTS

Rev. Sandra Casey-Martus recently retired after twenty-four years of full-time parish ministry and moved to Easton Maryland this past July. During her tenure Sandy led parishes in Wyoming, California, and three in Texas. Her “retirement” didn’t last very long. Six months after moving to Maryland to be near family and once again enjoy “4 seasons,” Sandy was asked by the Very Reverend Gregory Powell to serve with him as his Assistant Dean at the Episcopal Cathedral in Easton, Maryland. Sandy accepted the invitation with renewed enthusiasm. So much for retirement! Called initially by now retired Bishop John S. Thornton to plant St. Francis of the Tetons Episcopal Church in Alta, Wyoming, and found the Alta Retreat Center (as an outreach mission of the parish) Sandy also served for many years with the (now) Right Rev. Eugene Sutton, the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, on the late Thomas Keating’s Contemplative Outreach’s National Formation/Faculty and Retreat Leadership Teams.

For many years as an adjunct faculty member of the Seminary of the Southwest, Casey-Martus introduced seminaries and laity to the history, theory, art and practice of Christian contemplative prayer. Her courses included 10-day silent retreats held at the Alta Retreat Center in Wyoming and Wellsprings Conference Center in Blanco, Texas. After completing 10 years of parish/retreat ministry nestled in the foothills of the Grand Tetons, Sandy received the seminary’s Hal Brook Perry Award for Outstanding Alumni Service even as she set her sails in response to a new call to serve All Saint’s Church in Austin, Texas. Sandy is no stranger to Louisiana as she has led retreats at Solomon Conference Center and various workshops for folks from St. James in Baton Rouge and Trinity NOLA.

Her passion for teaching, preaching, and praying continues to this day. The Christ-centered prayer, Sandy’s simplification of ancient contemplative practice, is now the focus of her teaching and its fruit finds concrete expression in her relationships, interpretation of the gospels, preaching and writings. Casey-Martus is a published author and co-founder of the Contemplative Invitation Teaching. She holds a Bachelor of Science and Masters of Education from Springfield College in Massachusetts; a Masters of Theological Study from Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas; and a Certificate of Independent Theological Study from the Seminary of Southwest in Austin, Texas.

Her recent books, co-authored with Carla Mancari, can be found on Amazon: “The Lessons: How to Understand Spiritual Principles, Spiritual Activities, and Rising Emotions, (Second Edition)” “Your ‘Other Heart’: The Best Kept Secret,” “Christ Centered Prayer: Revelation — Strait Gate and Narrow Way (Second Edition)” and “The Disciple’s Consent: When Jesus is the Guide.”