In 2008, a group of Minnesotans who had a passion for assisting military personnel, their families and veterans launched an initiative to assist veterans who were suffering from the psychological and spiritual affects of their combat experiences. This diverse group of volunteers sponsored their first Healing of Memories for Veterans Workshop in the United States, which was created by Father Michael Lapsley, an Anglican missionary priest from Africa. Since that time, there have been eight successful workshops conducted for Veterans, with the first one in Arizona occurring in the fall of 2013.

The Workshop

The Healing of Memories Workshop is a response to the emotional, psychological and spiritual wounds inflicted by war, human rights abuses and other traumatic circumstances, and is a major step that helps veterans begin the healing journey. It provides a safe place for participants to explore personal histories and gain insight and empathy for themselves and others.

Workshop Goals

Participation provides a safe experiential and interactive way to overcome of anger, loss, grief and guilt and can be one step on the journey to healing and wholeness. It contributes not only to personal healing, but also to the healing of interpersonal relationships.

The key to the workshop is that it provides a safe environment for participants to tell their stories. Many veterans have kept these buried deep inside themselves and this has been a barrier to their healing. As they tell their stories and listen to others, they realize that they share a common human bond and that we are all wounded in some way by our past experiences.

Free to Veterans

Funding for this workshop is provided by the Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation in honor of Fr. Ray Bucher, OFM.

We are all in need of healing, because of what we have done, what has been done to us, and what we failed to do. This is true of individuals, communities and nations.

Institute for the Healing of Memories

“The Workshop definitely gave me hope and gave me awareness of where to go from here ... and identified where I should focus.”

Institute for the Healing of Memories
A Retreat for Veterans
created by Fr. Michael Lapsley
September 23 - 25, 2016

Franciscan Renewal Center

Nestled in the lush desert valley at the base of Camelback Mountain in Scottsdale, Arizona, the Franciscan Renewal Center (also known as “The Casa”) is a unique and engaging venue. With comfortable sleeping accommodations, flexible meeting spaces, and exceptional food, the Casa nourishes the body, inspires the mind and soothes the spirit. For over 60 years, the Franciscan Renewal Center has been renewing lives through spiritual growth, healing and transformation, and serving others.

Franciscan Renewal Center

5802 East Lincoln Drive
Scottsdale, Arizona 85253
480.948.7460 phone
800.356.3247 toll free
thecasa.org

ALL ARE WELCOME

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Funding for this workshop is provided by the Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation in honor of Fr. Ray Bucher, OFM.
Schedule of Events

Friday, September 23, 2016
The first night, the first step

Check-in from 4 - 6 pm, followed by a 6 pm welcome dinner. Opening session introduces the workshop concepts, outlines the ground rules and provides an opportunity for participants to meet each other.

Saturday, September 24, 2016
The next day: storytelling and discussions

Individuals have time to share their experiences in small facilitated groups with an emphasis on safety, respect and confidentiality. There will be time for quiet personal reflection and integration. The evening is for relaxing together.

Sunday, September 25, 2016
The final day: the journey continues

Storytelling and group discussion continue. The group now shares experiences, common themes and lessons learned. The first step has been taken on the rest of the journey, and it is now time to look to the future.

Facilitators

Margaret Fell has worked with the Institute for the Healing of Memories and its founder, Fr. Michael Lapsley, since 2007. She served as Chair of the Institute for Healing of Memories-North America from 2011- 2014 and has been a Healing of Memories workshop facilitator since 2011. Margaret is an Episcopal priest. She holds a Master of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary/Seabury Western Theological Seminary. The focus of her ministry is working with Healing of Memories workshops.

Sheila Laughton is a program manager and spiritual director for the veterans Welcome Home Program at the Loyola Spirituality Center in St Paul, Minnesota. She is involved with the Women Veterans Initiative and has worked with Healing of Memories for five years. A retired officer, married to a veteran and with sons in the Army and Air Force, she has experienced military life from multiple perspectives. Sheila holds an MA in Theology, an MS in Guidance and Counseling and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction. She brings more than ten years experience as a director, teacher and group facilitator plus 25 years in management.

Founder: Father Michael Lapsley, SSM

In 1990, Father Lapsley, an Anglican Priest, lost both hands and an eye as a result of a letter bomb sent to his home during his involvement in the antiapartheid struggle in South Africa. Accompanied by prayers, love and support from around the world, he then began a journey from victim to survivor to victor. He worked with South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and later founded the Institute for the Healing of Memories. He works internationally in areas of conflict with others who have experienced violence of many kinds. Father Lapsley has U.S. based facilitators trained by the Institute for the Healing of Memories. healing-memories.org

Healing of Memories Registration

Participation in the Healing of Memories workshop is limited to Veterans, and is FREE to all Veterans of any age. The Workshop includes two nights’ lodging and meals. Following registration from 4 - 6 pm, the program begins with dinner at 6 pm on Friday, and ends at 2 pm on Sunday. If you are a veteran, and would like to attend the Healing of Memories Workshop at no cost, please register by contacting Mike Wold, or for more information, to underwrite a future workshop, or any other questions, please contact Mike as well. Mike can be reached in any of the following ways:

Mail P.O. Box 1463 Carefree, Arizona 85377
Phone 651.687.9767
Email michael_w_wold@msn.com

Mike is a Navy Vietnam veteran active in the support of active duty military personnel, their families and veterans.

“ I learned that the feelings I have were shared and experienced by others. I learned I wasn't alone. I learned I was more normal than I thought based on my experiences.”

“I have a better grasp of my experiences from my last deployment and the negative hold they have had on me. I feel as if I have made progress in working through these experiences, owning what I am, letting go of the rest and moving toward freedom and healing.”