

Jennifer Lewis Priestley

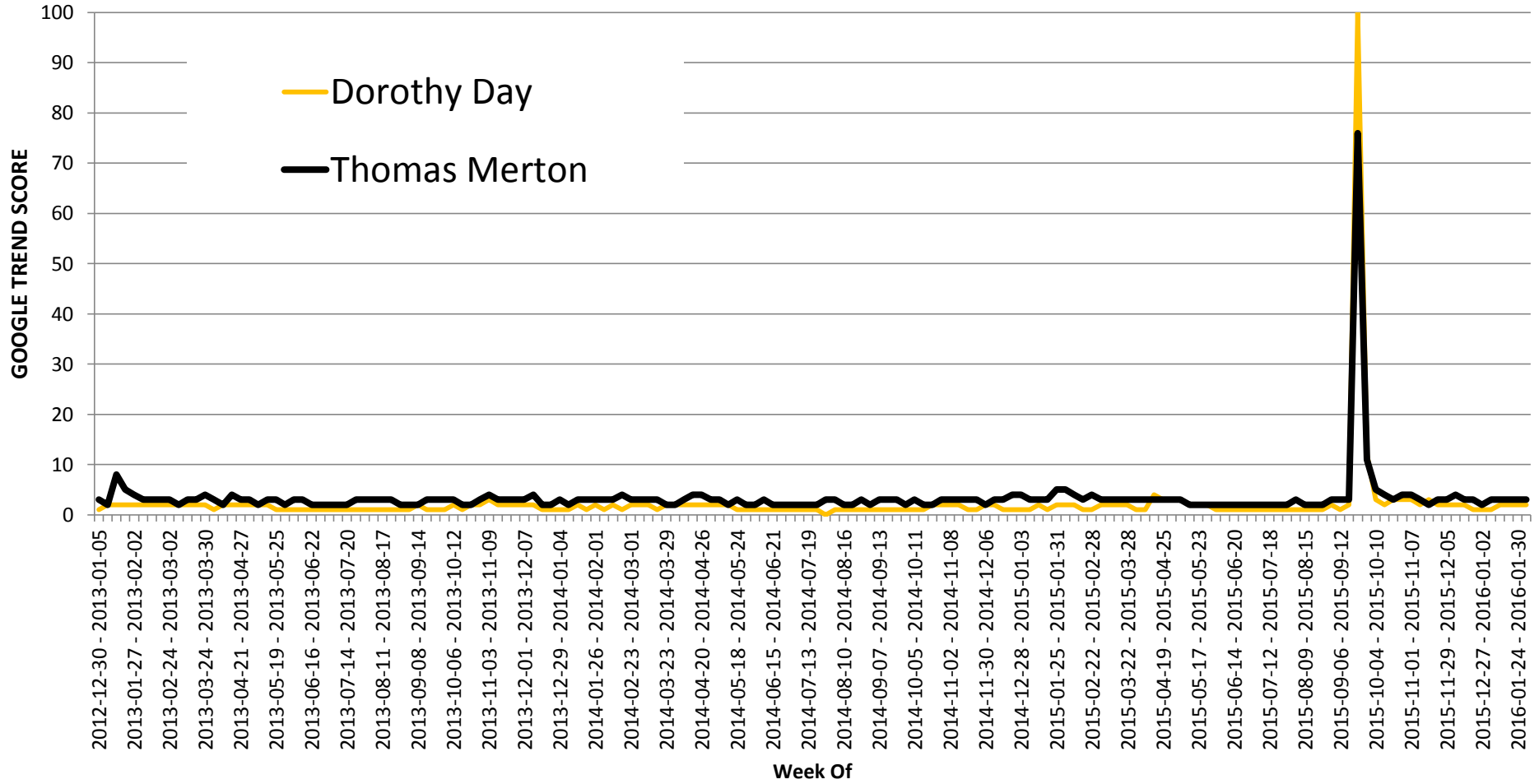
Thomas Merton

January 8, 2017



I would like to mention four Americans... Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton.

Google Trend Results by Week





The Reverend Canon Ulla Monberg



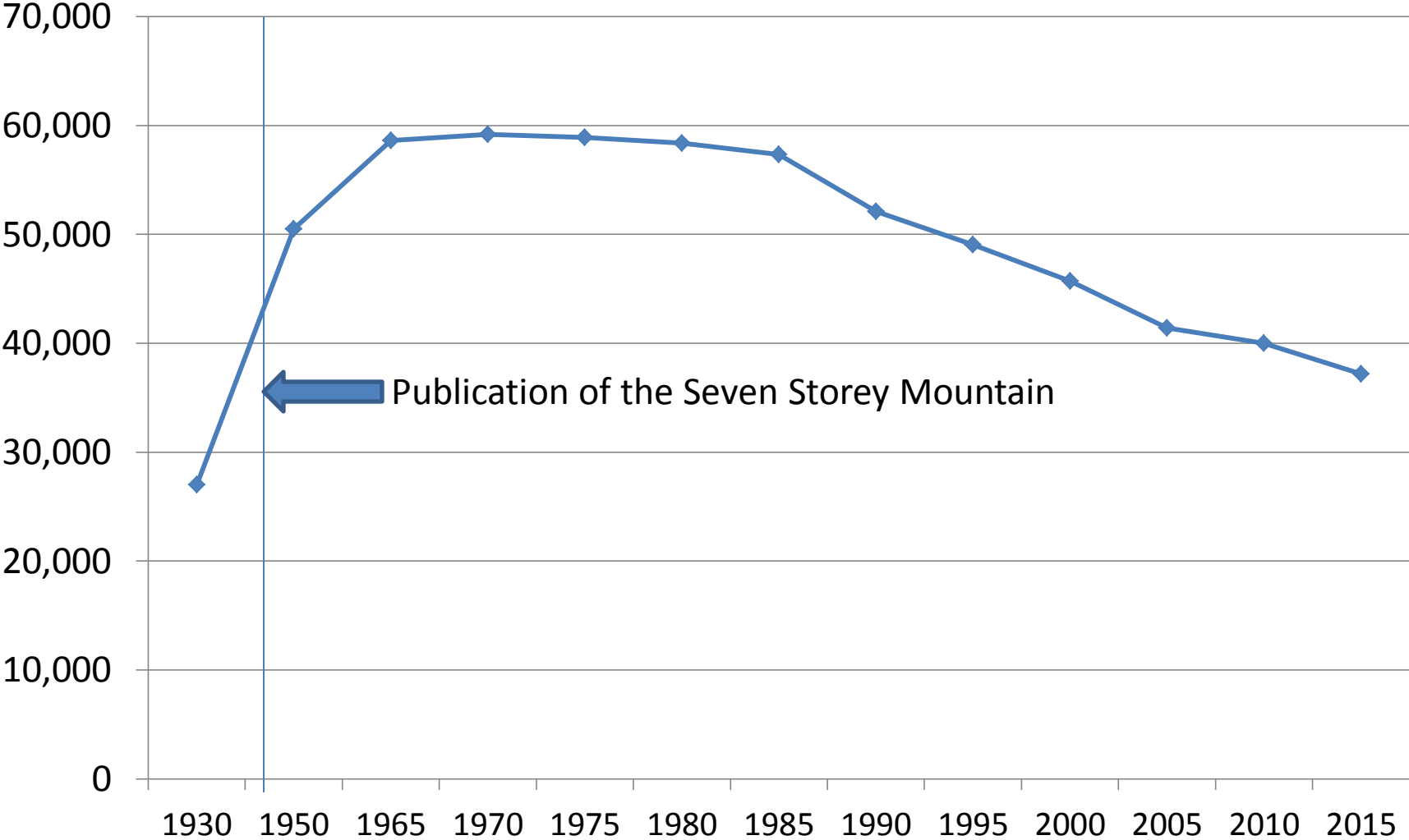
The Seven Storey Mountain

- ✓ Published in 1948.
- ✓ First printing planned for 7,500 copies...
- ✓ Pre-publication sales exceeded 20,000.
- ✓ By May 1949, 100,000 copies were in print.
- ✓ Original hardcover edition eventually sold over 600,000 copies, and paperback sales exceeded 5 million copies.
- ✓ The book has remained continuously in print since 1948.
- ✓ Translated into more than fifteen languages.
- ✓ On the [*National Review*](#)'s list of the 100 best non-fiction books of the century.
- ✓ Listed as *100 Christian Books That Changed the Century* (2000).
- ✓ Amazon ranking holds steady around #3,100 (There are over 11million books for sale on Amazon).



COUNT OF MEN IN US CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS ORDERS

Source: cara.georgetown.edu



TIME Subscribe to TIME Magazine today!

 groceries online. Pick up curbside at your store.

Rhythm of the Saints

A list of figures who will probably make sainthood in the next few years, plus a few who won't, but should

Like 5 Tweet G+1 0 in Share

DESERVING, BUT NOT LIKELY CANDIDATES

Thomas Merton

11 of 12
VIEW ALL

Dates: 1915-1968

Status of Cause: No cause

Prognosis: Too complex to make it

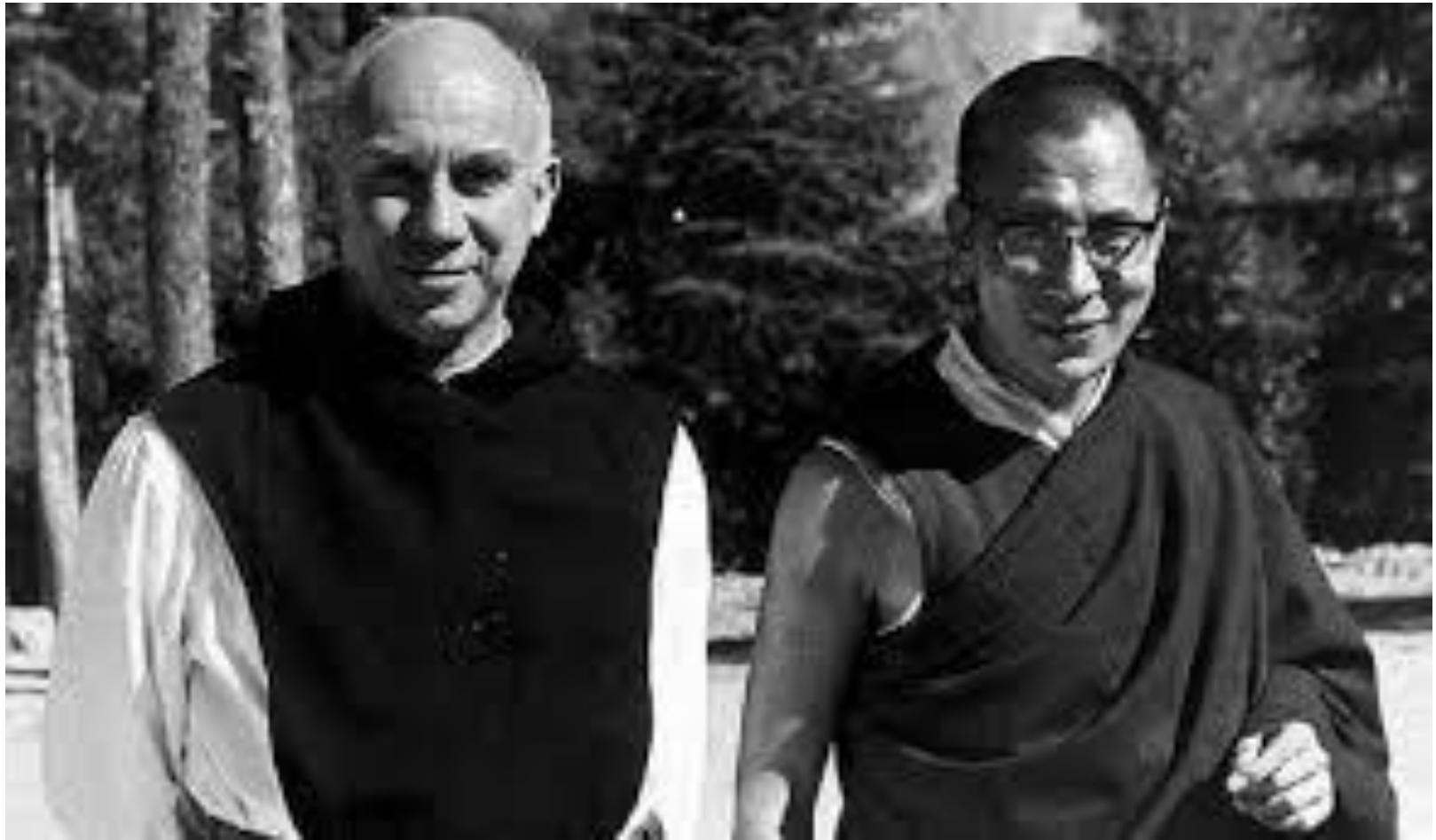
Merton's first great public act of holiness was his best-selling autobiography of conversion, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, which showed how the most seemingly-secular sophisticate might find his soul's ultimate expression — and a remarkable clarity of thought — within the intentionally ascetic confines of a medieval-style trappist monastery in Kentucky. The book bestowed on the Christian contemplative life a modern relevance (even glamour); subsequently Merton redefined monasticism — not as an escape, but as advantage point from which to diagnose the larger life of our time and respond with a near-prophetic compassion and passion. He will not become a saint because of his radical pacifism, which caused him to be censored even in his lifetime; because his curiosity regarding Eastern contemplative traditions struck some as heretical; and because he admitted to a variety of sins throughout his career that would give ammunition to his opponents. Certain intellectually-inclined Catholics, however, will continue to regard his wrestling with faith as holier than the boring compliance of some others well along the path to canonization.



John Howard Griffin / Used by permission of the Griffin Estate and the Thomas Merton Center



“one can find the deeper roots of one’s own religious tradition by becoming immersed in other religions--and then returning “home” to see one’s own heritage in a transformed way, with a transformed consciousness.”



Thomas Merton and The Dalai Lama

"The Dalai Lama is most impressive as a person. He is strong and alert... A very solid, energetic, generous, and warm person, very capably trying to handle enormous problems...The whole conversation was about religion and philosophy and especially ways of meditation...and to consult qualified Tibetan scholars, uniting study and practice. (Asian Journal, p.101)".

In turn, the Dalai Lama would later say about Merton that...“more striking than his outward appearance which was memorable in itself, was the inner life which he manifested. I could see that he was a truly humble and deeply spiritual man. This was the first time I had been struck by such a feeling of spirituality by anyone who professed Christianity...As a result of meeting with him, my attitude toward Christianity was much changed... Thomas Merton is someone Buddhists can look up to.”

The Dalai Lama visited Merton's grave in 1994...



The Dalai Lama kneels at the grave of Merton, along with Abbot Timothy Kelly, and prays. When he rises from the ground, he says: "Now our spirits are one; I am at peace."



Thomas Merton and Vietnamese Buddhist Monk Thich Nhat Hanh