

# LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

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## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

In essence, our ministry is a ministry of listening ... to God, to self, to one another, to all God's People. Here is where our ministry of listening has and will take us this month:

**Ignatian Currents.** Dr. Elizabeth Dreyer, professor emerita of Religious Studies at Fairfield University and adjunct professor at Hartford Seminary, joined a gathering of 55 participants this past month for a two part program on The Incarnational Theology of Ignatius Loyola. Inspiring us to realize the radical nature of St. Ignatius' theology of incarnation, she challenged us to a deeper realization of the non-dual nature of reality. She empowered her listeners to be "grass roots theologians" as we live into a realized understanding of God-with-us.



Ignatian Currents Participants: Diane Michutka Fraser, Elizabeth Dreyer, Martha Campbell, Mary Ann Flannery, SC and Joan Nuth

**Praying with St. Ignatius Retreats.** Two retreats are being offered this fall: **Assumption Parish (Broadview Heights)** is hosting this 8-week retreat on Tuesdays evenings through November 13<sup>th</sup>. The leadership team includes Kathy Haag, Bill Hunt and Pat Cleary-Burns. Parishioners from **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (West)** are inviting members of Sts. Malachi, Colman, Patrick and Wendelin Parishes to join them on Sunday afternoons through November 18<sup>th</sup> for the retreat experience. The retreat team is comprised of Jackie Krejcik, Jan Leitch and Dottie Rieman. Joan Carney coordinates these retreats.

**Nurturing the Call.** Leaders from St. Ignatius and Walsh Jesuit High Schools' *Spirituality Program for Adults* are joining with retreat leaders from JRh *Praying with St. Ignatius* Retreat to strengthen their leadership skills while building community. A prayerful, hands-on approach will encourage a radical stance of allowing the Spirit to guide us. (See page 2 for details)

**Food for the Journey.** This month and continuing into the winter/spring, we gather to explore Teresa of Avila's *Interior Castle*. We will apply Teresa's teaching to our ministries of spiritual direction, retreat leadership and pastoral ministry. 25 participants will be part of this fall program. (See page 2 for details.)

**Ignatian Spirituality Collaborative.** This collaborative is comprised of northeast Ohio Ignatian ministries including representatives from Gesu Parish, the Ignatian Spirituality Institute, John Carroll University Campus Ministry, Jesuit Retreat House, Jesuit Retreat House Lay Leadership Program and the Spirituality Program for Adults at St. Ignatius High School and Walsh Jesuit High School. It will convene for its fall meeting on **Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>** from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. in the Lounge at the Jesuit Retreat House.

## CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM

**Living Prayer: My Life in God.** This 6-week retreat-in-daily life, a module of the Called and Sent Program, began in early September and will conclude on October 10<sup>th</sup> at Blessed Trinity Parish. Please pray for the 8-member team and the 33 parishioners who are attending this retreat.

**Ignatian Spirituality: Grounding for Life and Leadership.** Plans continue as we look forward to taking this 7-part module to the St. Ignatius High School Board of Directors.

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, Sharon Bramante, Pat Cleary-Burns and Eileen Biehl will join me for another Round Table brainstorming and planning time to support of the design and development of two new modules, **Discernment and Decision Making** and **The Christian at Work in the World**. Both modules will be piloted in the spring.

## COMING THIS SPRING ... SAVE THE DATES

### IGNATIUS CURRENTS

**Dr. Edward Hahnenberg**

May 17 & 18, 2013

### THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK IN THE WORLD: OUR CALLING



Ed Hahnenberg, PhD is the Jack and Mary Jane Breen Chair in Catholic Systematic Theology at John Carroll University. He is the author of numerous books and articles. A dynamic and passionate speaker, layman and theologian, Dr. Hahnenberg's message is grounded in conviction, knowledge and experience. (See page 2 for details)





## DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

### The Lost Art of Listening By Kay Lindahl \*

Listening is becoming a lost art. The information age and the revolution in technology are a mixed blessing, bringing awareness of our global community, and giving us the tools to communicate with each other twenty-four hours a day. They have also influenced how we learn to listen. In years past, most people ate dinner together, where they learned the art of communication, including listening. We also had more silence in public spaces—a time to listen. Even television and movies had more silence in them—a time to absorb and listen. However, watching television today offers poor examples of listening: interruptions, shouting, and lack of attention to the speaker.

Many of us are seduced by multi-tasking, trying to do at least two things at once. The research by neuroscientists, psychologists, and management professors suggests that our brains function better if we stay focused on one thing at a time. Multi-tasking slows us down and greatly increases the chance of mistakes, according to Dr. David E. Mayer, a cognitive scientist at the University of Michigan, USA.

As a result several new syndromes are emerging. One is called Continuous Partial Attention (CPA), described as when a person continues to e-mail, text message, and blog, while purportedly listening to someone else. Surfers Voice is another: talking or listening to someone on the telephone while continuing to surf the Internet, read e-mail, instant message, or text. Keyboard typing can be heard in the background. Absent Presence is another name for these syndromes. Ironically, constantly being accessible makes us inaccessible.

How do we restore the art of listening? To become a listening presence we need to prepare—not only to listen to others but also to listen to ourselves, and to that which is beyond words. Just as we take time to write, practice, and polish a speech, we need to take time to practice and prepare to listen. Three practices are essential elements of this discipline: cultivating silence, slowing down to reflect, and becoming present.

There is no listening without silence, and yet silence is often hard to come by in our society. It requires taking time to slow down and listen. It is similar to a farmer who allows the soil to be fallow for a time, plowing, yet not planting—only resting. Silence is how we nurture our capacity to listen.

**Contemplative invitation:** Take time each day to practice being silent. There are all kinds of contemplative practices from which to choose, such as being at ease with silence, a practice that will transform your capacity to listen. You will find you have more space around you to hear those who are not like you or whose opinions you disagree with.

**A simple practice:** Stop, breathe deeply, and attend to the moment.

\*Reprinted from *Listen: A Seeker's Resource for Spiritual Direction*, V. 6. # 2

### A SIMPLE PRACTICE

There is no listening without silence, and yet silence is often hard to come by in our society ...  
Stop, breathe deeply, and attend to the moment.

- Kay Lindahl

## COMING THIS FALL ... NEW PROGRAMS

### FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY EXPLORING THE INTERIOR CASTLE WITH TERESA OF AVILA

Fall Gathering Focusing on the First Three Mansions  
Facilitated by Martha Campbell  
Open to Spiritual Directors, Retreat Leaders, Pastoral Ministers  
and Those Who have Made the Full Spiritual Exercises

Saturday Mornings from 9:30 - 11:30  
(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)

October 13, November 10, December 8

Please note: This program is being held at  
The Franciscan Center, Garfield Heights  
Program is Filled. Registration is Now Closed.



### NURTURING THE CALL

Facilitated by Martha Campbell and Janet Lehane  
Open to Leaders/Facilitators of the Parish Retreat Program and  
the St. Ignatius & Walsh Spirituality Program for Adults

Thursday Evenings from 6:30 - 8:30  
(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 6:00 p.m.)

October 11, October 25, November 8

Held at St. Ignatius High School

Register with Janet Lehane at [jlehane@ignatius.edu](mailto:jlehane@ignatius.edu)

### ENGAGING LARGE GROUPS WITH SKILL AND EASE: A MORNING PRACTICUM FOR RETREAT LEADERS

Facilitated by Mary Ann Flannery, SC

Open to Leaders/Facilitators of the Parish Retreat Program and  
the St. Ignatius & Walsh Spirituality Program for Adults

Saturday Morning, December 1, 2012

From 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 8:30 a.m.)

Held at St. Ignatius High School

Register with Janet Lehane at [jlehane@ignatius.edu](mailto:jlehane@ignatius.edu)

### IGNATIAN CURRENTS

Facilitated by Ed Hahnenberg, PhD  
The Christian at Work in the World: Our Calling

Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Although these programs can be taken separately, it is  
encouraged that you participate in both to receive the full  
benefit of the experience.



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