

# LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2012

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## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

With the coming of fall, we begin another ministry year. We take as our inspiration Ignatius Loyola, the "Imperfect Pilgrim," who challenges us to radical trust in Christ whose mission we embrace. Here is where you will find us serving Christ's mission in northeast Ohio:



Praying with St. Ignatius Retreat Leaders - August 2012

**Praying with St. Ignatius Parish Retreats.** On August 18<sup>th</sup>, three leadership teams were commissioned to take the retreat to three sites: **Assumption Parish (Broadview Heights)** will host this 8-week retreat on Tuesdays beginning September 18<sup>th</sup>. The leadership team includes co-leaders Kathy Haag and Bill Hunt and facilitators Pat Cleary-Burns, Joan Gucwa, and Dottie Rieman. **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (West)** will be the hosting site where its parishioners along with members of Sts. Malachi, Colman, Patrick and Wendelin Parishes will gather on Sunday afternoons beginning September 30<sup>th</sup> for the retreat experience. The retreat team is comprised of co-leaders Jackie Krejcik and Jan Leitch and facilitators Marcia Lewan, Dottie Rieman and Deborah Zawislan. In addition, **Jesuit Retreat House** welcomes interested participants to come on Tuesday evenings beginning September 24<sup>th</sup>. Co-leaders, Jean Sullivan and Peggy Duffy, OSU will be joined by facilitators, Sandy Appeldorn, Carl Toomey, John Carlson and Kathy Michael. Back-up facilitators include: Rita Carfagna, Joan Carney, Andrea McGovern and Ginny Pippin.

**Nurturing the Call.** Leaders from St. Ignatius and Walsh Jesuit High Schools' *Spirituality Program for Adults* will join 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 fall and continuing into the winter/spring, we will 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. There are still a few spaces left. (See page 2 for details.)

## 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, will begin on September 5<sup>th</sup> and continue through October 10<sup>th</sup> at Blessed Trinity Parish. Please pray for the 8-member team and the 36 parishioners who will be 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 August 30<sup>th</sup>, Sharon Bramante, Pat Cleary-Burns and Eileen Biehl joined me for our first Round Table brainstorming and planning group in 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 MONTH ... IGNATIAN CURRENTS

**Dr. Elizabeth Dreyer**

**Register Now! Come and Bring a Friend!**

Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (Coffee and Conversation - 6:30 p.m.)

**IGNATIUS' WORLD: SIXTEENTH-CENTURY EUROPE**

It is impossible to understand Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) without delving into the context in which he lived. We will engage the art (eyes) and music (ears) of the period, as well as learn about key challenges and opportunities related to politics, social mores, ministry, laity, and women.

Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Coffee and Conversation - 8:30 a.m.)

**IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY PAST AND PRESENT: DOCTRINES OF CREATION AND INCARNATION**

When Christianity moved into the Greek world, it absorbed negative attitudes toward matter and the body. But a number of spiritual writers, including Ignatius of Loyola, were able to see the world as good and blessed by God. Through a process of presentation, personal reflection and group sharing we will retrieve from Ignatius Loyola's teaching a more radical notion of creation and incarnation.



## A NEW CLOUD OF WITNESSES: THE LAITY 50 YEARS AFTER VATICAN II

OCTOBER 5 - 7, 2012

A conference to explore the challenges and opportunities facing Christian laypeople today, featuring John Allen, Jr., Margaret Steinfels, E.J. Dionne, Richard Gaillardetz, Edward Hahnenberg and others. Held at John Carroll University. Information and registration at [www.jcu.edu/laity](http://www.jcu.edu/laity)



## DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER



### An Imperfect Pilgrim

Adapted from a Reflection by Margaret Silf \*

What distinguishes Ignatius Loyola from other saints in our Christian history? Well, he might forgive us for recalling that he is probably the only canonized saint who has a police record—for anti-social behavior in his youth. Another distinguishing feature would be his famous limp—the legacy of his knee injury, inflicted by a cannon ball while he was stubbornly defending the indefensible fortress of Pamplona against an overwhelming French attack. If he had not had his limp, we would have had to invent it, so powerfully does it speak of imperfection—his own, ours and the world's.

But the truly distinguishing feature of Ignatius Loyola is not the extent of his imperfection, but the fact that such imperfection could, and did, become the channel of an amazingly powerful flow of divine love and transformation. This is what happens when grace and imperfection meet.

When God goes on a recruitment drive, it seems, God is not looking for those who can do the job, whatever the job might be, but for those who know they cannot. The competent achievers will likely proceed under their own steam, just as the stubborn defender of Pamplona fiercely stood his ground, utterly confident that he could single-handedly overcome the French army. Those who know that they cannot, by their own strength, conquer life's challenges will necessarily fall back on God's power, not their own, as Ignatius would learn through painful experience.

Grace is a mysterious thing. It seeps through the cracks in our defenses and can all too easily be blocked by our imagined self-sufficiency.

Ignatius, intuiting this truth, moved on from the trauma of defeat at Pamplona and the agony of a long convalescence in the castle of Loyola to the heights of Montserrat, where he dramatically lay down his defenses at the altar of the Black Madonna in the Benedictine Abbey there. He still had everything to learn about "how the Creator deals with the creature," but already his heart was telling him that his own defenses would not cut the mustard and were a hindrance to his onward journey in God's service. So sword, dagger and rich clothes were left behind and exchanged for the garb of a beggar.

To be present to this scene in imagination, as we are invited to do when we pray, is to ask ourselves some searching questions. What defenses could I not live without? What accessories define who I think I am, or who I want others to think I am? What might a 21st-century Black Madonna find on her altar? Credit cards? Smart phones? Other status symbols?

In Ignatius we recognize how the erratic, limping progress of a very imperfect pilgrim led him to surrender his self-reliance, fall back on God and allow the Spirit free, transforming passage through his life, acknowledging his faith in the simple affirmation: "Give me only your love and your grace; that is enough for me."

\*Full article can be found in *America Magazine* (July 30-August 6, '12)

## COMING THIS FALL ... NEW PROGRAMS

### IGNATIUS CURRENTS PROGRAM

#### THE INCARNATIONAL THEOLOGY OF IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

Facilitated by Elizabeth Dreyer, PhD

Open To All

Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>

Ignatius' World: Sixteenth Century Europe

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

Ignatian Spirituality Past and Present: Doctrines of

Creation and Incarnation

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



### Program Options

Friday Evening only: \$25.00

Saturday including lunch: \$50.00

Friday Evening and Saturday including lunch: \$65.00

Friday Evening and Saturday including lunch + overnight accommodations including breakfast: \$98.00

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

### Time to Register!

On line at [www.jrh-cleveland.org](http://www.jrh-cleveland.org) or by phone with Barbara Leggott at the JRH, 440-884-9300

### 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

Held at the Franciscan Center, Garfield Heights

Registration Deadline: September 13th

Register with Martha Campbell at [campbellmarthal@gmail.com](mailto:campbellmarthal@gmail.com)

### 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)



## WHEN GRACE AND IMPERFECTION MEET ...

The truly distinguishing feature of Ignatius Loyola is ... the fact that his imperfection could, and did, become the channel of an amazingly powerful flow of divine love and transformation.

- Margaret Silf

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