

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2013

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Personal discernment, informed by regular reflection on experience (the practice of the Examen) becomes a way of life, a habit. As we live into the program year, this process is informing our communal sense of call as well. How are we called to stay flexible to the needs of God's people? Here are the people and places we've engaged.

Ignatian Currents. 45 participants experienced in the October Program, "Embracing God's Love in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola" which was facilitated by Janice Bachman, OP. Participants welcomed reflections on freedom and God's transforming love offered from a Jungian perspective. One participant reflected: *"I thought this program would enrich my ministry but never expected the personal validation and new insights for my own prayer life."* Another shared, *"It was a perfect rhythm of prayer, input, reflection and sharing and far exceeded my expectations. It awakened in me something I dare not ignore any longer."*



Ignatian Currents Participants

Back Row: Julie Michelson, Joan Nuth; Front Row: Janice Bachman, OP, Carolyn Nickerson, Diane Vreuls Friebert

Praying with St. Ignatius Retreats. During this month 72 retreatants will complete the retreats held at Jesuit Retreat House, Gesu Parish and St. Mary Parish, Hudson. We will be meeting to review our experience in early December, making plans for our Lenten retreats which will take place at Lakewood Catholic Academy and St. Basil the Great Parish.

Nurturing the Call. Our three-part series concludes this month as we focus on "Guiding Gospel Contemplation for Large Groups." 18 participants have engaged the process. In addition, a Saturday morning session will be held. See next page for some additional information. Time to register!

Food for the Journey. This program which focuses on "The Process of Conversion in the Life of Augustine of Hippo" continues this month. See more details on the next page.

Ignatian Spirituality Collaborative met at Jesuit Retreat House on September 25th. Participants from 6 Ignatian ministries in northeast Ohio gathered to coordinate and support one another in our various ministries.

CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM



Module News

Four of the six modules have been developed and piloted and will be offered to new groups this coming spring.

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY: GROUNDING FOR LIFE

The six monthly sessions of this spiritual formation module will be offered to the Associates of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word beginning in February 2014. Co-facilitators are Martha Campbell and Matt Roche, SJ

LIVING PRAYER: MY LIFE IN GOD

The six weekly sessions of this retreat-in-daily-life will be experienced by the parishioners of St. Mary Parish, Bedford this coming lent. The pastor, Fr. Dan Begin, and his pastoral staff met this past September 4th with co-facilitators, Martha Campbell and Laura Kuhn, to prepare for the retreat.

WELCOME TO IGNATIAN ADULTHOOD: A PROGRAM IN DISCERNMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

This module designed for young adults and facilitated by Patrick Cleary-Burns and Megan Wislon Reitz, will conclude with a day-long retreat on November 16th. The program has been adapted for a general audience with hopes of taking this to one of our diocesan parishes in the spring.

THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK IN THE WORLD

Sharon Bramante has adjusted the module based on feedback from pilot participants. The program can now be offered in two parts: Catholic Social Teaching and Workplace Spirituality. John Carroll University business students, mentored by Professor Tina Facca, are conducting research analysis which will provide input for adapting this program for persons in the JCU business school.

The final two modules of this spiritual formation program are being designed and developed during this program year.

ENCOUNTERING THE LIVING GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST



This module is being designed and developed by Dr. Andy Kereky who is pastoral associate at St. Raphael Parish, Bay Village and also an Ignatian Spirituality Institute graduate. It will be piloted in the spring.

EMBRACING LIFE, EMBRACING DEATH

Dr. Karen Broer and Joan Carney, both graduates of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute at John Carroll University, are teaming up to design and develop this module which will focus on aspects of the spiritual journey such as suffering and death, redemption and grace. The pilot is planned for fall, 2014.





**DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS -
SOMETHING TO PONDER
DISCERNMENT***

According to Pope Francis

Discernment is one of the things that worked inside St. Ignatius. For him it is an instrument of struggle in order to know the Lord and follow him more closely. I was always struck by a saying that describes the vision of Ignatius: *non coerceri a maximo, sed contineri a minimo divinum est* ("not to be limited by the greatest and yet to be contained in the tiniest—this is the divine"). I thought a lot about this phrase in connection with ... becoming the superior of somebody else: it is important not to be restricted by a larger space, and it is important to be able to stay in restricted spaces. This virtue of the large and small is magnanimity. Thanks to magnanimity, we can always look at the horizon from the position where we are. That means being able to do the little things of every day with a big heart open to God and to others. That means being able to appreciate the small things inside large horizons, those of the kingdom of God.

This motto offers parameters to assume a correct position for discernment, in order to hear the things of God from God's 'point of view.' According to St. Ignatius, great principles must be embodied in the circumstances of place, time and people. ...

This discernment takes time. For example, many think that changes and reforms can take place in a short time. I believe that we always need time to lay the foundations for real, effective change. And this is the time of discernment. Sometimes discernment instead urges us to do precisely what you had at first thought you would do later. And that is what has happened to me in recent months. Discernment is always done in the presence of the Lord, looking at the signs, listening to the things that happen, the feeling of the people, especially the poor. My choices, including those related to the day-to-day aspects of life, like the use of a modest car, are related to a spiritual discernment that responds to a need that arises from looking at things, at people and from reading the signs of the times. Discernment in the Lord guides me in my way of governing.

But I am always wary of decisions made hastily. I am always wary of the first decision, that is, the first thing that comes to my mind if I have to make a decision. This is usually the wrong thing. I have to wait and assess, looking deep into myself, taking the necessary time. The wisdom of discernment redeems the necessary ambiguity of life and helps us find the most appropriate means, which do not always coincide with what looks great and strong.

*Excerpted from "A Big Heart Open to God," *America Magazine*, 9/30/13



The Wisdom of Discernment

The wisdom of discernment redeems the necessary ambiguity of life and helps us find the most appropriate means, which do not always coincide with what looks great and strong.
+ Pope Francis

FALL PROGRAMS CONTINUE ...



**FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY
The Process of Conversion in the Life of
Augustine of Hippo**

A Book Reflection Group Facilitated by Martha Campbell
Open to Spiritual Directors, Retreat Leaders, Pastoral Ministers and Those Who have Made the Full Exercises
Saturday Mornings from 9:30 - 11:30
(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)
November 9, December 14
Held at The Franciscan Center, Garfield Heights, OH

NURTURING THE CALL

Open to Leaders/Facilitators of *Praying with St. Ignatius* 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.)
**Guiding Gospel Contemplation for Large Groups
November 7, November 21**

THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES: RENEWAL AND DYNAMICS

Hear Jesuit scholars discuss their extensive research leading to a renewal of the way the *Spiritual Exercises* are practiced.



Includes DVD and discussion.
Saturday Morning from 9:30 - 11:30
(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)
December 7
Register with Janet Lehane @ jlehane@ignatius.edu

MARK YOUR 2014 CALENDARS ...

IGNATIAN CURRENTS - 2014
Facilitated by Howard Gray, SJ

**SEARCHING FOR GOD THROUGH IMAGINATION AND STORY:
LIVING OUT THE IGNATIAN TRADITION**

OPEN TO ALL

Friday, May 30th from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 31st from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(with Eucharist at 4:00 p.m.)



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.

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