

# LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2014

VOL IV NO 7



## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Exhortation, reminds us that we have been “entrusted with a treasure” as we bring the Gospel Good News to the people we serve. Here is a sampling of where we are called this month:

**Praying with St. Ignatius, Parish Retreat.** On January 16<sup>th</sup>, retreat leaders gathered to begin preparations for our Lenten 8-week retreats. The retreat at **St. Basil the Great, Brecksville** will begin on March 4<sup>th</sup> and the retreat with the parents of the elementary school children at **Lakewood Catholic Academy** will begin on March 6<sup>th</sup>. This month of February is a time of preparation for these retreats.



Retreat leaders from left to right:

(Back Row: Sr. Marian Durkin, CSA, Marcia Lewan, Patrick Cleary-Burns, Judith Wood, ssj-tosf, Rich Jerdonek, Laura Kuhn Joan Carney. Front Row: Claudette Matero, Dottie Rieman, Mary Mondello, Margaret Balewski, Peggy Duffy, osu and Mary Ann Burke, snd. Not pictured: Deborah Zawislant)

**The Pilgrim Way of Ignatius Loyola.** This month begins a four-part monthly series which will be offered at **St. Angela Merici Parish, Fairview Park**. The program addresses the question, “Why is the spirituality of Ignatius and his *Spiritual Exercises* so popular today?” Retreat Team members include: **Martha Campbell** and **Ignatian Spirituality Institute graduates Rich Jerdonek, Amy McKenna, Sue Palmer and Valierie Stultz.** **Joan Nuth**, Director of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute, has been a consultant on this program. To begin the series, **Rich Jerdonek** will focus his reflections on the question, “What happens when you encounter Christ?” He will include not only reflections on Ignatius’s experience of Christ but his own.

**Food for the Journey.** Last month, 21 leaders braved frigid temperatures to participate in this program designed to support ministry reflection and personal spiritual deepening. The series will continue this month as several new participants our reflection on the process of conversion in the Life of Francis of Assisi. In addition, participants will observe God’s unique way of engaging the transformative process of conversion in the life of Ignatius Loyola and each participant’s experience as well.



## CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM Module News

### IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY: GROUNDING FOR LIFE

The six monthly sessions of this spiritual formation module will be offered to the Associates and Sisters of the Incarnate Word beginning this month and extending through next fall. Co-facilitators are **Martha Campbell** and **Matt Roche, SJ**

### LIVING PRAYER: MY LIFE IN GOD

Co-facilitators, **Martha Campbell** and **Laura Kuhn** attended Masses at St. Mary Parish, Bedford on February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to invite parishioners to attend this retreat-in-daily life. Members of the retreat team (**John Carlson, Patrick Cleary-Burns, Jackie Krejcik, Claudette Matero** and **Amy McKenna**) will meet later this month to prepare for the retreat.

### Round Table Meeting

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, those involved in the ongoing design and development of the following modules will meet in round table to offer support and creative ideas for incorporation into the developing modules.

### DISCERNMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

**Patrick Cleary-Burns** and **Megan Wilson-Reitz** are in the process of adapting this module for a general population of interested participants. It will be offered in late spring at **Jesuit Retreat House**.

### THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK IN THE WORLD

**Sharon Bramante** continues to explore options and make concrete plans for offering this module in fall 2014. **Claudette Matero** will co-facilitate this fall’s program which will focus on workplace spirituality. In addition, **Brian Dean**, a business professional, former JRH board president and member of St. Basil the Great Parish, is offering consultation to Sharon and Claudette as they plan for the fall session.

### ENCOUNTERING THE LIVING GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

**Dr. Andy Kereky**, pastoral associate at St. Raphael Parish, Bay Village, and graduate of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute at John Carroll University, continues to design and develop this module. The pilot of this program will be offered in fall, 2014.



### 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

### PERSONAL ENCOUNTER WITH THE SAVING LOVE OF JESUS A Reflection from Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel

The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him. What kind of love would not feel the need to speak of the beloved, to point him out, to make him known? If we do not feel an intense desire to share this love, we need to pray insistently that he will once more touch our hearts. We need to implore his grace daily, asking him to open our cold hearts and shake up our lukewarm and superficial existence.

Standing before him with open hearts, letting him look at us, we see that gaze of love which Nathaniel glimpsed on the day when Jesus said to him: "I saw you under the fig tree" (Jn 1:48). How good it is to stand before a crucifix, or on our knees before the Blessed Sacrament, and simply to be in his presence! How much good it does us when he once more touches our lives and impels us to share his new life! What then happens is that "we speak of what we have seen and heard" (1 Jn 1:3). The best incentive for sharing the Gospel comes from contemplating it with love, lingering over its pages and reading it with the heart. If we approach it in this way, its beauty will amaze and constantly excite us. But if this is to come about, we need to recover a contemplative spirit which can help us to realize ever anew that we have been entrusted with a treasure which makes us more human and helps us to lead a new life. There is nothing more precious which we can give to others.

Jesus' whole life, his way of dealing with the poor, his actions, his integrity, his simple daily acts of generosity, and finally his complete self-giving, is precious and reveals the mystery of his divine life. Whenever we encounter this anew, we become convinced that it is exactly what others need, even though they may not recognize it: "What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you" (Acts 17:23). Sometimes we lose our enthusiasm for mission because we forget that the Gospel responds to our deepest needs, since we were created for what the Gospel offers us: friendship with Jesus and love of our brothers and sisters. If we succeed in expressing adequately and with beauty the essential content of the Gospel, surely this message will speak to the deepest yearnings of people's hearts.



## OUR MISSION ARISES FROM PERSONAL ENCOUNTER WITH THE PERSON OF CHRIST

The best incentive for sharing the Gospel comes from contemplating it with love, lingering over its pages and reading it with the heart. If we approach it in this way, its beauty will amaze and constantly excite us. ... [W]e need to recover a contemplative spirit which can help us to realize ever anew that we have been entrusted with a treasure ... There is nothing more precious which we can give to others.

- Pope Francis

Jesuit Retreat House  
5629 State Road  
Parma, OH 44134

Lay Leadership Programs - Martha Campbell, Director

Phone - (440) 884-9300 X 316

Fax - (440) 885-1055

E-mail: [campbellmarthal@gmail.com](mailto:campbellmarthal@gmail.com)

## LAY LEADERSHIP OFFERINGS

### FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

#### The Process of Conversion in the Life of Francis of Assisi

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.)

February 15, March 15, April 12

Held at The Franciscan Center, Garfield Heights, OH



### NURTURING THE CALL

#### Announcing a New Program

#### Leading Contemplative Group Retreats Based on The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius Loyola

A Pilot Program facilitated by Martha Campbell and Joan Nuth

Taking place in May, this program will be offered to a small  
group of Ignatian Spirituality Institute graduates.

Once the pilot is completed, the program will be open to a  
broader group of interested participants.

### IGNATIAN CURRENTS

Facilitated by Howard Gray, SJ



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

OPEN TO ALL

Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(With Eucharist 4:00 p.m.)

