

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

March 2014

VOL IV NO 8



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our Lenten journey begins ... again. Following the lead of Pope Francis who encourages us to minister out of our relationship with Christ, we are encouraged to allow our being to ground our doing. Here are the places where Christ is sending us this month:

JRH Lay Leadership Advisory Committee. This newly established committee had its first meeting this past January. Sharing with the director a commitment to promoting spiritual formation programming based in the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*, the committee began its work by getting to know one another, hearing the various life-giving Lay Leadership experiences each has had and then identifying common aspects of these life-giving experiences so that we can find ways to build on what we've identified. Members include: Rita Carfagna, Joan Carney, Adam Green, Kathy Haag, Ed Hahnenberg, Rich Jerdonek, Andy Kereky, Mary Rose Kocab, SIW, Rev. Doug Koesel, Janet Lehane, Joan Nuth, Matt Roche, SJ, Nancy Rowell and Jean Sullivan.



JRH Lay Leadership Advisory Committee

The Pilgrim Way of Ignatius Loyola. On a frigid February evening, 100+ members of St. Angela Parish, Fairview Park, gathered to pray together and to hear the witness of Rich Jerdonek who addressed the question, "What happens when you encounter Christ?" The series continues this month when Amy McKenna will address the question, "What is my deepest desire?"

The Praying with St. Ignatius Retreat. 57 members of St. Basil the Great Parish, Brecksville, will begin this Lenten Retreat on March 1. The Leadership Team includes: Margaret Balewski, Mary Ann Burke, SND, Joan Carney, Patrick Cleary-Burns, Rich Jerdonek, Laura Kuhn, Claudette Matero, Mary Mondello, Dottie Rieman and Deborah Zawislak.

Food for the Journey. 22 participants gathered this past month to continue reflection on spiritual conversion in the life of Francis of Assisi, in the life of Ignatius Loyola and in our own lives. The series continues this coming month.

CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM

Module Update

Ignatian Spirituality: Grounding for Life and Leadership. Snowed out last month, this module will have its initial session this month when 37 members of the Sisters and Associates of the Incarnate Word will gather to begin this six month formation program. Co-facilitators are Martha Campbell and Matt Roche, SJ.

Living Prayer: My Life in God. 35 members of St. Mary Parish, Bedford, will begin this Lenten Retreat-in-Daily-Life this coming month. Retreat Team Members include: Martha Campbell, Laura Kuhn, John Carlson, Patrick Cleary-Burns, Jackie Krejcik, Claudette Matero and Amy McKenna.

Continuing Developments. Leaders of the six modules of this spiritual formation program continue to work on marketing efforts as well as design and development of the final two modules.

COMING IN MAY ... IGNATIAN CURRENTS

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

Meet Our Presenter



Howard Gray, SJ is presently the Assistant to the President at Georgetown University, Washington DC. Prior to this assignment, he has served in a variety of leadership roles within the Jesuit community including rector of the Jesuit Community, Assistant for Mission and Identity at John Carroll University, founder of the Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Boston College, Director of Jesuit Tertiationship, Provincial Superior of the Detroit Province, Rector and Dean of the Weston Jesuit School of Theology. He has lectured throughout the USA and in Europe, East Asia, and India on Ignatian spirituality, ministry, and theology and literature.. He is also the author of numerous articles on Ignatian government, spirituality, and on the mission of Catholic higher education.

See details on the next page



DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

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

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. ... But this conviction has to be sustained by our own constantly renewed experience of savoring Christ's friendship and his message. It is impossible to persevere in a fervent evangelization unless we are convinced from personal experience that it is not the same thing to have known Jesus as not to have known him, not the same thing to walk with him as to walk blindly, not the same thing to hear his word as not to know it, and not the same thing to contemplate him, to worship him, to find our peace in him, as not to. It is not the same thing to try to build the world with his Gospel as to try to do so by our own lights. We know well that with Jesus life becomes richer and that with him it is easier to find meaning in everything. This is why we evangelize. A true missionary, who never ceases to be a disciple, knows that Jesus walks with him, speaks to him, breathes with him, works with him. He senses Jesus alive with him in the midst of the missionary enterprise. Unless we see him present at the heart of our missionary commitment, our enthusiasm soon wanes and we are no longer sure of what it is that we are handing on; we lack vigor and passion. A person who is not convinced, enthusiastic, certain and in love, will convince nobody.

In union with Jesus, we seek what he seeks and we love what he loves. In the end, what we are seeking is the glory of the Father; we live and act "for the praise of his glorious grace" (*Eph. 1:6*). If we wish to commit ourselves fully and perseveringly, we need to leave behind every other motivation. This is our definitive, deepest and greatest motivation, the ultimate reason and meaning behind all we do: the glory of the Father which Jesus sought at every moment of his life. As the Son, he rejoices eternally to be "close to the Father's heart" (*Jn. 1:18*). If we are missionaries, it is primarily because Jesus told us that "by this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit" (*Jn. 15:8*). Beyond all our own preferences and interests, our knowledge and motivations, we evangelize for the greater glory of the Father who loves us.

*http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium_en.pdf

GROUNDING OUR ACTIONS IN CHRIST ... A LENTEN PRACTICE

This is our definitive, deepest and greatest motivation, the ultimate reason and meaning behind all we do: the glory of the Father which Jesus sought at every moment of his life.

Pope Francis

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LENTEN ON-LINE RETREAT ... MOVED TO GREATER LOVE

This program of prayer for Jesuit Communities and Jesuit Apostolic works in the United States will take place beginning in Lent and continue through Easter. Say "yes" to this invitation to greater Magnanimity, Silence, Creativity and Depth as we consider how God's love burns away fear and opens us to respond generously and wholeheartedly. Learn more and sign on at: www.Jesuit.org/GreaterLove.

COMING SOON ... NURTURING THE CALL

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 ... SOME DETAILS

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

Presented by Howard Gray, SJ

OPEN TO ALL - MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Friday, May 30th

We Are a People Formed Through Our Stories

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

Saturday, May 31th

Our Stories Constitute the Celebration of God's Ongoing
Revelation in Our Lives

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Coffee at 8:30 a.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.

To Register: Contact Barbara Leggott at jrhcleve@att.net OR
(440) 884-9300 OR register online: www.jrh-cleveland.org