

# LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2014

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## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we move through the final days of autumn, we conclude our series of fall programs. Having witnessed the living Christ in the faces of so many people, we have experienced the wisdom offered by Cardinal Walter Kasper who has applied meaning to our ministry, "As God by his mercy always gives us a new future, our mercy gives future to the other, and to a world that needs it so much." (See essay on page 2.) Here is a summary of our ministry activities:

**Praying with St. Ignatius Parish Retreats.** The 8-week retreats which have been offered at **Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Euclid** and at **Blessed Trinity Parish, Cleveland** will conclude during this month of November. The members of the two retreat teams that served at these parishes will come together for a Ministry Reflection Evening on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will gather in prayer, in thanksgiving, in reflection and review as we share stories of encounter and as we witness to Christ's presence in our ministry.



Food for the Journey Participants, Janet Lehane and Mary Lou Swinerton share reflections on the process of conversion.

**Food for the Journey.** Spiritual directors, retreat leaders, pastoral ministers and those who have made the full Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius Loyola will continue this three-session fall book reflection group during the month of November, concluding on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Reflecting on the process of conversion as seen in the life of a contemporary spiritual leader, Karen Armstrong, the participants continue to glean personal insights about the process of conversion which are applicable to their ministry.

**Nurturing the Call.** Martha Campbell and Janet Lehane completed a three-part series on Faith Sharing Facilitation for 14 Leaders/Facilitators of the *Praying with St. Ignatius and the St Ignatius High School Spirituality Program for Adults*. On **Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** we will gather for a morning practicum on "Guiding Gospel Contemplation for Large Groups." **Registration Deadline: Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.** To register contact Martha Campbell at [campbellmarthal@gmail.com](mailto:campbellmarthal@gmail.com)

## CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM - FALL MODULE NEWS

**Ignatian Foundations.** The Sisters and Associates of the Incarnate Word concluded this 7-part monthly formation program with a day-long retreat on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Facilitated by **Martha Campbell** and **Fr. Matt Roche, SJ**, the retreat focused on "Becoming Contemplatives in Action." The event was captured in this photo taken by Isabel Gaudiz-Tobey, an Associate of the Incarnate Word



Participants are holding icons of Ignatius Loyola and Jeanne Chézard de Matel, foundress of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word.

Members of the **St. Ignatius High School Board of Regents** participated in session two of this series. **Fr. Larry Ober, SJ** joined **Rich Jerdonek** in facilitating an understanding of the *Spiritual Exercises* as rooted in the life experience of Ignatius Loyola. The series continues this coming month.

**Encountering Jesus Christ.** 47 retreatants will complete this 6-week module, facilitated by **Andy Kereky** and piloted at **St. Raphael Parish, Bay Village**, with a day-long retreat which will be held on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Discernment and Decision-Making.** Facilitated by **Pat Cleary-Burns** and **Janet Lehane**, this 6-week module attended by 25 participants will conclude with a day-long retreat on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

## COMING IN 2015

**The Christian at Work in the World** facilitated by **Sharon Bramante** and **Claudette Matero** will be offered at **St. Basil the Great Parish, Brecksville** beginning on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Retreat team members: **Martha Campbell, Amy McKenna, Mary Ann Campbell, Patrick Cleary-Burns, John Carlson, Marian Durkin, CSA** and **Jackie Krejciak** will offer the module, **Living Prayer**, to the people of **St. Clarence Parish, North Olmsted** beginning on February 17<sup>th</sup>. **Embracing the Mystery** facilitated by **Karen Broer** and **Joan Carney** will begin on Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. See page 2 for details on this module.





## DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

### The Message of Mercy

A Reflection by Cardinal Walter Kasper \*

The precept of mercy applies not only to individual Christians but to the church as a whole. Many ask: If God is always merciful, why is the church not the same? Or, why does the church not seem to be as merciful as God? The question expresses the uneasiness of many Christians. ... The command for the church to be merciful is grounded in the identity of the church as the body of Christ. It is the sacrament of mercy as the "total Christ" - that is, Christ in head and members. Thus the church encounters Christ himself in its own members and in people who are in need of help.

The church is not only the agent of God's mercy; it is also the object of God's mercy. As the body of Christ, it is redeemed by Jesus Christ. But the church encompasses sinners in its bosom and therefore must be purified time and again in order to be able to stand pure and holy (Eph 5:23). Consequently, the church must self-critically and repeatedly ask itself whether it actually lives up to what it is and should be. ... The message of mercy, therefore, has far-reaching consequences for the teaching, life and mission of the church. ...

The customary perspective in theology starts from above. We know a doctrine or a rule, and we start from there in order to apply it to concrete reality, which is usually complex and manifold. Mercy leads us to a different perspective, to start not from above but from below, to undertake a consideration of a concrete situation to which we are applying the law or rule. ... This is the method taught by St. Ignatius Loyola in his Spiritual Exercises; this is how Pope Francis, as a good Jesuit, practices it. He starts from the situation and then undertakes a discernment of the spirits.

The same approach is shown to us by Jesus. When he was asked, "Who is my neighbor?" he did not give an abstract answer. He told a concrete story, the story of the good and merciful Samaritan (Lk 10:30-37). ... This is exactly how God himself deals with us. God bends down in order to raise us up; to comfort us and to heal our wounds; and to give us a new chance, to bestow on us new life and new hope. ... Mercy is the name of our God. Mercy is the call to be a human being, who feels with other human beings who suffer and are in need. ... As God by his mercy always gives us a new chance, a new future, our mercy gives future to the other, and to a world that needs it so much.

\*The full text of this essay can be found in the September 15, 2014 issue of *America Magazine*.

## THE MESSAGE OF MERCY

Mercy is the call to be a real Christian, who follows the example of Christ and meets Christ in our suffering brothers and sisters. Mercy is the essence of the Gospel and the key to Christian life. Mercy is the best and most beautiful news that can be told to us and that we should bring to the world.

- Cardinal Walter Kasper

## WINTER / SPRING PROGRAM OFFERINGS

### EMBRACING THE MYSTERY

A Module of the Called and Sent Spiritual Formation Program  
Open to Spiritual Directors, Retreat Leaders, Pastoral Ministers  
and Those Who have Made the Full Spiritual Exercises

3 Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

January 10, February 14 and March 14

Held at The Franciscan Center, Garfield Heights, OH  
and an Overnight Retreat, Friday evening, April 10 - Saturday  
Afternoon, April 11, 2015

Held at Jesuit Retreat House, Parma, OH

Facilitated by Karen Broer and Joan Carney

Reduced price for early registration by December 3, 2014  
Register on-line at [www.jrh-cleveland.org](http://www.jrh-cleveland.org) or call Barb Leggott  
at 440-884-9300

### NURTURING THE CALL: LEADING CONTEMPLATIVE GROUP PROGRAMS AND RETREATS

Open to Graduates of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute

Beginning with a day-long retreat held at Jesuit Retreat House  
on Sunday, January 25, 2015 (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) and continuing  
on 10 Thursday from 7 - 9 p.m. at John Carroll University

January 29, February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 19, 26,

April 9, 23, and 30, 2015

(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 6:30 p.m.)

Facilitated by Martha Campbell and Joan Nuth

Contact Martha Campbell [campbellmarthal@gmail.com](mailto:campbellmarthal@gmail.com) for an  
application form. Application deadline: December 1, 2014.

Further details are on-line at [www.jrh-cleveland.org](http://www.jrh-cleveland.org)

Scholarship Assistance is available for the above programs.  
Contact Martha Campbell [campbellmarthal@gmail.com](mailto:campbellmarthal@gmail.com) to apply  
for scholarship assistance.



## IGNATIUS CURRENTS PROGRAM SAVE THE DATES

Fr. Joseph A. Tetlow, SJ

### WHAT HAS CHRIST TO DO WITH LUNCH?

Living the Christ-Life in the World based on Pope Francis'  
Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*

OPEN TO ALL

Friday, May 29, 2015

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 30, 2015

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



Followed by optional Liturgy of the Eucharist

Both sessions begin with Coffee and Conversation one-half hour  
before the start-time.

Jesuit Retreat House  
5629 State Road  
Parma, OH 44134

Lay Leadership Program - Martha Campbell, Director

Phone - (440) 884-9300 X316

Fax - (440) 885-1055

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

