

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

February 2015

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Prayer and action are entwined aspects of our call to mission. Action discerned out of our prayer defines our unique role in Christ's mission. Dr. Gerald May challenges us (See essay page 2) to be heedful of lurking willfulness as we live into a call to radical dependence on God's guidance as we minister. Our call to serve Christ's mission continues this month in these ministries:

Praying with St. Ignatius Retreats. 29 retreatants from St. Barnabas Parish (Northfield) will conclude this 8-week winter retreat this coming month. The team consists of Joan Carney and Deborah Zawislan (co-leaders) and Pat Dubiel, Peggy Duffy, osu, Jan Leitch, Dottie, Rieman and Karen Zeleznik (Table Companions). Beginning this month, the retreat will be offered to the people of Forest Hill Church (Presbyterian, USA). Re-named "Living in the Spirit," the retreat has been adapted for this ecumenical setting. Team members consist of: Kathy Haag (retreat leader) and Margaret Balewski, Paul Barbins, Mary Downey, Claudette Matero and Liz Nau. Eric Muller-Girard, a Forest Hill member and also an Ignatian Spirituality Institute graduate will be our retreat liaison, facilitating communication between Forest Hill Church and Jesuit Retreat House leadership.



Some participants in the December program, Nurturing the Call: Guiding Gospel Contemplation for Large Groups, from Left to Right: Jean Sullivan, Patrick Cleary-Burns, Ginny Pippin, Liz Nau, Carl Toomey, Janet Lehane, Amy McKenna and Mary Downey

Nurturing the Call: Leading Contemplative Group Programs and Retreats. Joan Nuth, Ignatian Spirituality Institute Director and Martha Campbell, JRH Lay Leadership Programs Director, began this completely revised program with a retreat day, "Silence - Our Homeland," held on Sunday, January 25th. 8 participants who are graduates of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute are participating in this 10-part program. The program prepares individuals to lead Ignatian Contemplative Group Retreats.

CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM - MODULE NEWS

These modules are currently being offered:

Ignatian Foundations. The 11 members of the St. Ignatius High School Board of Regents who have been participating in this module will welcome the members of the full board to a day of retreat which will focus on "Becoming Contemplatives in Action Through the Practice of Examen." Held on Sunday, March 8th, the retreat is being planned by Mike Franz, Board Chair and Jerry Skoch, VP and Chief Mission Officer, under the direction of module facilitators, Rich Jerdonek and Martha Campbell.

The Christian at Work in the World. Claudette Matero will join with Sharon Bramante, who designed and developed this module, in co-leading one part of this module, "Finding God in Daily Work." The parishioners at St. Basil the Great Parish, Brecksville will begin this program on Tuesday evening, February 17th. Comprised of three two-hour sessions and a half-day retreat, the module will explore ways to serve Christ more effectively at work and at home.

Embracing the Mystery. Continuing this month for the second session of this three three-hour program and an overnight retreat, the module addresses the participants' lived experience of Christ's paschal mystery in their own lives. Karen Broer and Joan Carney, who collaborated in the design of this module, have gathered a learning community of 20 participants drawn from the ministries of spiritual direction, retreat leadership, pastoral ministry and those who have made the full *Spiritual Exercises*.

Living Prayer. Co-led by Martha Campbell and Amy McKenna, this 6-session retreat-in-daily-life will offer a diversity of prayer practices and focus on the theme of "gratitude." The people of St. Clarence Parish, North Olmsted, will experience this Lenten retreat beginning on February 17th. Team members include: Mary Ann Campbell, Patrick Cleary-Burns, John Carlson, Jackie Krejcek and Susan Antall.

Two Modules were offered this past fall. **Encountering Jesus Christ**, designed, developed and led by Andy Kereky and **Discernment and Decision-Making**, co-led by Janet Lehane and Patrick Cleary-Burns, who designed and developed this module.

THE PILGRIM WAY OF IGNATIUS LOYOLA

This Lent, a four-part introduction to Ignatian Spirituality will be offered to the people of St. John Neumann Parish, Strongsville. Program leaders include: Martha Campbell, Robin Craig, Rich Jerdonek, Amy McKenna and Sue Palmer. Joan Nuth is consultant to this new program.





DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER



The Propaganda of Willfulness
by Gerald G. May, M.D.

There is a philosophy that has been infecting spiritual communities for at least four centuries. You may have heard it: "Pray as though everything depended on God and act as though everything depended on you." It appears to encourage prayer and intimacy with God, but before you know it, it tells you to act as though God weren't in the picture at all.

Yet people continue to quote this adage without question, as if Jesus himself had said it. Who, I wondered, had come up with this? St. Ignatius is among the most frequently cited sources, and it is likely that he did inspire the saying. What Ignatius said, however, is essentially the opposite of the popular version. According to Jesuit scholar John W. Padberg, the following aphorism is attributed to Ignatius:

Let this be the first rule of your undertakings: confide in God as if the success of those undertakings depended completely upon you and not at all upon God; nonetheless give your whole self to the undertakings as if you yourself would be doing nothing in them but God alone would be doing everything.

Padberg explains that if you can decipher Ignatius's paradoxical language, the emerging meaning comes close to "Pray as if everything depended upon you; and act as if everything depended upon God."

I think the original saying is popular because it rationalizes our mistrust of God and our subsequent desire to master our own destinies. It is propaganda for willfulness. The falsehood of the adage is so acceptable precisely because the Gospel truths they undermine are so radical. The Gospel truths invite a degree of trust in God that seems impossible in the so-called real world. And they require the most awful and awesome spiritual sacrifice: letting-go of control.

If we are honest, we don't need a fraudulent aphorism to rationalize that the Gospel is too much for us. Instead, let us just admit that we cannot accomplish our own faith. We cannot help ourselves, not where it counts the most. We need God's grace even to trust God's grace. And much as our willfulness might want to deny it, God is far too intimate and loving for us to utter a single silly word about how to pray or who God does or doesn't help.

*Full article can be found in *Living in Love: Articles from Shalem News, 1978-2005*, pp. 122-124

Radical Dependence

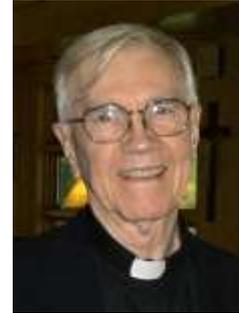


“Pray as though everything depended on you; act as though everything depended upon God.’ ...
We cannot help ourselves, not where it counts the most. We need God’s grace even to trust God’s grace.”

- Gerald G. May, M.D.

COMING IN 2015 ... SAVE THESE DATES

IGNATIAN CURRENTS PROGRAM
SAVE THE DATES - AT JESUIT RETREAT HOUSE
Fr. Joseph A. Tetlow, SJ



WHAT HAS CHRIST TO DO WITH LUNCH?
Living the Christ-Life in the World Based on Pope Fr. 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
More details to follow ...

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE
SAVE THE DATES - AT ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY
July 16 - 19, 2015

Saint Louis University and the Jesuits of the U.S. Central and Southern province are excited to host the triennial Ignatian Spirituality Conference, **July 16-19, 2015**. The theme, *Ignatian Silence: Heart of Mission*, is drawn from a topic articulated by the General Superior of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Adolfo Nicolás, SJ.



Find out more about the Conference at:
<http://www.slu.edu/x37857.xml>



To register go to:
<https://connect.jesuitscentralandsouthern.org/ignatianspiritualityconference>

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