

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

July 2015

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we live into the more relaxed days of summer, we are afforded time for constructive planning for our Lay Leadership Programs. We are a-buzz with activity and stretching to meet the challenges of building Christ's Kingdom!

Praying with St. Ignatius Retreat. Now that we have completed our spring retreats and our ministry reflection evenings in which leaders share "best practices" and revision suggestions, a committee will gather this month to revise our retreat materials as we plan for the 2015-2016 program year. The committee members include: **Margaret Balewski, Martha Campbell, Joan Carney, Kathy Haag and Jean Sullivan.** This fall, the retreat will be taken to **Gesu Parish, University Heights** and to **St. John Bosco Parish, Parma Heights.**

Nurturing the Call. **Janet Lehane and Martha Campbell** will join together to facilitate the fall program for our *Praying with St. Ignatius* and *Spirituality Program for Adults/ Encountering Christ* retreat leaders. The program will offer opportunity to hone the skills involved in small group facilitation as well as leading "Gospel Contemplation" and other prayer forms for large groups. (See pg. 2 for further details.)



Planning Committee for the Food for the Journey Program (from left to right): Mary Ann Burke, SND, Mary Lou Swinerton, Andrea McGovern, Patrick Cleary-Burns, Claudette Matero, Joan Nuth. (Not pictured: Martha Campbell)

Food for the Journey. A group of seven interested participants joined together in discerning our focus for the coming year. In the fall, we will reflect on *Accidental Theologians: Women who Shaped Christianity* by Elizabeth A. Dreyer. Discovering a universal spirituality in the world's religions will be the focus of our spring gatherings. In each series, the emphasis will be on deepening our understanding of Ignatian Spirituality in light of these perspectives. (See pg. 2 for fall program details.)

CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM

Now that all six modules of this program have been designed, developed and piloted, we are planning to offer each module during the 2015-2016 program year. Ignatian Foundations, Encountering Jesus Christ and Discernment and Decision-Making will be offered this coming fall. The remaining modules, The Christian at Work in the World, Living Prayer and Embracing the Mystery will be offered this coming spring.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER - IGNATIAN CURRENTS MEET DR. LAURIE CASSIDY Plan to Come and Bring a Friend!



Laurie Cassidy, PhD is a spiritual director and theologian. With a master's degree in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University she has ministered in the area of spirituality for the past thirty years through spiritual direction, retreats and workshops at the diocesan and parish levels, and in campus ministry. Laurie has guided people through the *Ignatian Spiritual Exercises* at Jesuit retreat houses throughout the United States. In addition, she holds a doctorate in Christian Ethics from Loyola University/Chicago. She has taught at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut and at Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where she was chair of the religious studies department. Laurie is an award winning author and editor; her writing explores how Christian spirituality provides practices for both personal and social transformation.

Laurie will be here at the Jesuit Retreat House on October 30th and 31st. The programs she will facilitate are meant for all who are "hungry for God" and seeking a deepening appreciation of the *Spiritual Exercises*. See page 2 of this newsletter for program details.



DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

GRATEFUL AWAKENINGS
A Reflection by Pegge Bernecker



To live a meaningful life of compassion and service, we need good guides! If we want to grow into our potential as vital, authentic human beings we need one another. Our ancestors, elders, friends, and the world itself teach us how to live. John O'Donohue said, "A friend is a loved one who awakens your life in order to free the wild possibilities within you." It is essential that we encounter people and creatures who awaken our *wild possibilities*. A good spiritual guide is able to look into our essence and convey *I see you*. This frees us to integrate our own life story.

There is magnificence in our ordinary, everyday life. And, it is easy to miss beauty and significance when we are busy and inattentive. Wise companions-and beloved friends-can guide us in the process of becoming fully human, embodied, and capable of transformative, mutual love. Occasionally we may have an experience that knocks us off our feet or awakens a wild possibility. At times like these, when the interwoven nature of the cosmos and our connectedness intersect, a flash of insight can lead us to gratefulness.

I live on a steep, tree-studded hillside overlooking a lake. Snow-frosted glaciers dominate the eastern horizon. One morning, I gazed at mist interweaving thousands of spruce trees. Daybreak shimmered into shadowed mountain peaks. Five minutes passed, then ten. I pondered a question in my heart - a creative, wild awakening. A sheer white flash caught my periphery vision. I rose, in utter stillness, taking one step forward. My breath hushed. Two trumpeter swans flew, side by side, wing tips inches from each other, in fluid motion. Within thirty seconds, they vanished. Their soaring, powerful presence was gone. I have not seen them since, and yet, my inner spirit remains awake to their untamed, precious gift. I am grateful.

In essence, this too is the gift of a spiritual companion. A spiritual director is rooted in both visible and invisible realities. Spiritual guides witness our beauty, fragility, and potential to become wildly alive. A spiritual companion reflects our truth and place in the community of life. The possibility for hope, healing, and love in our world is real. Spiritual friends remind us - *you belong, you matter*. For this, let us be grateful.

Adapted from "Grateful Awakenings," *Listen: A Seeker's Resource for Spiritual Direction*, Vol 4, Issue 2

QUESTIONS WORTH PONDERING

Who are your significant spiritual guides and ancestors? How do you listen to your potential, life patterns, and inner dreaming? Who listens with you? What *wild possibilities* dwell within you? How might your presence free an unexpected possibility for someone else?

- Pegge Bernecker

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION NETWORK

Under the leadership of Jean Sullivan, the Jesuit Retreat House has developed and is now updating a network for spiritual direction referrals. When a request for spiritual direction comes in to the retreat house, Jean receives the call and works with the inquirer to help meet his/her needs. If you are a spiritual director and would you like to be part of this ministry, contact Jean at jean.r.sullivan@gmail.com. In addition, Jean may be contacting you!

COMING THIS FALL ... NEW PROGRAMS SAVE THE DATES



FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

Accidental Theologians: Women Who Shaped Christianity
by Elizabeth A Dreyer

A Book Reflection Group Facilitated by Martha Campbell
Open to Spiritual Directors, Retreat Leaders, Pastoral Ministers and Those Who have Made the Full Sp. Exercises
Saturday Mornings from 9:30 - 12 noon
(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)

September 19

November 14

December 12

NURTURING THE CALL

Open to Leaders/Facilitators of *Praying with St. Ignatius*
and the St. Ignatius & Walsh Spirituality Program for Adults

Tuesday Evenings from 6:30 - 8:30

(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 6:00 p.m.)

September 15

September 29

October 13

Saturday Morning from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)

November 7

**IGNATIAN CURRENTS - OPEN TO ALL
KIDNAPPED BY BUSYNESS? AN IGNATIAN REMEDY**
Cultural "Busyness" and the Ignatian "Two Standards"

Facilitated by Laurie Cassidy, PhD

Friday, October 30th

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 31st

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



Lay Leadership Program - Martha Campbell, Director

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