

# LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

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## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

This month of November sees the completion of our fall retreats and the Discernment and Decision-Making module of the Called and Sent Program. Our team mentoring of one another continues. As we complete each program, we need to reflect together on the call to MAGIS as we companion Christ on mission. Here is an update of where we stand with our fall programming.

**Praying with St. Ignatius Retreat.** Two retreats conclude during the month of November. 31 retreatants participated in the retreat held at **Gesu Parish, University Heights**. Team members for this retreat included: **Sandy Appeldorn, Paul Barbins, Joan Carney, Peggy Duffy, OSU, Emma Krueger, Aida Mandapat, Claudette Matero and Sue Palmer**. 28 retreatants participated in the retreat held at **St. John Bosco Parish, Parma Heights**. Team members for this retreat included: **Patrick Cleary-Burns, Bill Hunt, Marian Durkin, CSA, Rose Kaval, Laura Kuhn and Jean Sullivan**.

**Ignatian Currents Program: Cultural "Busyness" and the Ignatian Two Standards Meditation.** 44 participants joined with **Dr. Laurie Cassidy** to explore the role of Sabbath in our Christian lives. From reflection on the *Spiritual Exercises* Meditation on the "Two Standards" we gained insight into the subtle ways in which cultural values of efficiency and accomplishment undermine our living of Christ's values of reverence for persons and gratitude for all of life.



Fall Ignatian Currents Program

Dr. Laurie Cassidy, Facilitator with Martha Campbell, Lay Leadership Director

**Food for the Journey.** 35 participants continue their reflection on Elizabeth Dreyer's, *Accidental Theologians*. This month we will reflect of the Theology of Incarnation in the writings of Catherine of Siena, 14<sup>th</sup> century mystic and church reformer. The series concludes in December.

**Nurturing the Call: A Practicum Series.** Open to leaders of *Praying with St. Ignatius* and *Spirituality Program for Adults*, this 4-part series, begun in September and continuing in October will be completed on December 5<sup>th</sup> when **Peggy Duffy, OSU** will facilitate the session on Leading Gospel Contemplation for Large Groups. *See next page for details and registration information.*



## CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM Module News

### DISCERNMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

12 participants completed this module with a day-long retreat which was held at **St. Ignatius High School** on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Facilitated by **Patrick Cleary-Burns and Janet Lehane**, this module focused on using Ignatian "Discernment of Spirits" in daily life and applying Ignatian Decision-Making principles to a current life decision.

### ENCOUNTERING JESUS CHRIST

This module will be offered to the people of **Blessed Trinity Parish, Cleveland**, beginning in January. Designed and developed by **Andy Kereky**, the module will immerse the participants in Gospel narratives through Ignatian imaginative prayer. **Margaret Balewski** will participate in the module with a view to supporting Andy's leadership in the future.

### THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK IN THE WORLD

Beginning in February, **Sharon Bramante and Claudette Matero** will offer this module to the people of **St. Dominic Parish, Shaker Heights**. This Lenten program will engage the participants in a process of "finding God in daily work."

### EMBRACING THE MYSTERY

**Karen Broer and Joan Carney** will offer this module to the staff at **Regina Health Center, Richfield**. Monthly meetings held in February, March and April will conclude with a day-long retreat in May. **Mary Ann Burke, SND and Emma Krueger** will participate in the module with a view to supporting Karen and Joan's leadership in the future.

### LIVING PRAYER

The six weekly sessions of this retreat-in-daily-life will be experienced by the people of **Forest Hill Church, Presbyterian, Cleveland Heights** this coming Lent. The retreat team is comprised of **Mary Ann Burke, SND, Martha Campbell, Patrick Cleary-Burns, Robin Craig, Mary Downey, Claudette Matero, and Amy McKenna**. The team will meet in January to plan for the retreat.

## IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY COLLABORATIVE

**September Meeting.** Our fall meeting which included 9 northeastern Ohio Ignatian ministries took place at **Walsh Jesuit High School** with **Fr. Don Petkash, SJ** welcoming us to this beautiful school. One action step from the meeting includes engaging membership in a survey which will help us plan for the future.



## DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER



### SEEKING THE ONE WHO HAS ALREADY FOUND US\* A Reflection by Gerald G. May, MD

Scripture says that God is endlessly involved in active, intimate love with us. ... If God is indeed so closely involved with our lives, more intimate than a mother with her unborn child, the idea of "seeking" God seems paradoxical.

This paradox is echoed and refined in the words of the great contemplatives. They say that spiritual formation, the process of deepening our conscious, responsive relationship with God, is really the work of God within us. It is already happening; it has been since before we were born, and nothing will stop it. Yet it also involves our willingness, our consent. In the freedom of our choosing, we say Yes to a relationship that already exists, and we join in its process of deepening. ...

We are participant co-creators. God will be active within us irrevocably, but we bring immeasurable beauty to that process when we affirm it, choose it, and actively join in it. Spiritual formation, the deepening of love in life, is very different from learning a subject, mastering a task, or behaving in correct ways. It is not a matter of achievement or of "getting it right." The spiritual life is a movement of love and light, and there is no success and no failure here.

So how do we go about searching for the One who is already with us? I am convinced that the most important thing we can do is simply to claim our care, to feel our desire. In the process of caring, we can seek some appreciation of how God is already happening within us. What has been going on all along, beneath our resistances and compulsions? What are the simple ways in which we most naturally experience love and truth and light? What is there already within us that we can most deeply affirm and appreciate? Then, with our eyes on this light instead of on our self-judged deficiencies and failures, we can follow God's lead toward growing fulfillment of the two great commandments. ...

It is God's work, God's labor of love that we join. It is God's always-given gift to us that we open our hands to receive. It is God's dance of creation in which we participate. And it is God's already existing presence within us that we seek to realize more fully. For this, the most perfect participation is simply to feel our desire and offer our willingness to God. ... To sense and know our desire is the most beautiful gift we can both receive and give. It is the ground of our loving participation with God, our mirror of God's love for us.

[\*Adapted from *Living in Love*, a compilation of Jerry May's writings. Available from the Shalem Institute: <http://store.shalem.org>]

### The Most Beautiful Gift

Sometimes our desire is a happy love, joyous beyond all description. Sometimes it is exquisitely painful, a yearning so deep and empty that it seems almost unbearable. But always, to sense and know our desire is the most beautiful gift we can both receive and give.

- Gerald G. May, MD

## FALL PROGRAMS CONTINUE ...

### FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY PROGRAM

Accidental Theologians:

Four Women Who Shaped Christianity  
by Elizabeth A Dreyer

A Book Reflection Group Facilitated by Martha Campbell  
Saturday Mornings from 9:30 - 12 noon  
(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)  
November 21, December 12  
Held at Franciscan Center, Garfield Heights  
Registrations are closed.

### NURTURING THE CALL PROGRAM

Open to Leaders/Facilitators of *Praying with St. Ignatius*  
and the St. Ignatius & Walsh Spirituality Program for Adults  
Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

from 9:00 - 12 noon

Leading Large Groups in Gospel Contemplation

Facilitated by Peggy Duffy, OSU

(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 8:30 a.m.)

Register with Martha Campbell

([campbellmarthal@gmail.com](mailto:campbellmarthal@gmail.com))

Held at St. Ignatius High School



## MARK YOUR 2016 CALENDAR ...

### IGNATIAN CURRENTS PROGRAM

Constance FitzGerald, OCD  
and Brian McDermott, SJ

### CHRIST CONSCIOUSNESS:

CARMELITE AND IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITIES IN  
DIALOGUE

OPEN TO ALL

Friday, May 5, 2016

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. through

Saturday, May 6, 2016

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

Followed by optional Liturgy of the Eucharist

*This program begins on Friday evening and is completed on Saturday. Please plan to sign up for the full program. More information following ...*



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