

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

OCTOBER 2015

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we engage in our ministries, we are reminded of the need for “fallow” time, time for replenishment. (See reflection by Wayne Muller (pg 2 - Deepening Our Awareness - Something to Ponder) Consider coming to Laurie Cassidy’s Ignatian Currents program on cultural “busyness” and the need for Sabbath rest. Aspiring to live in the life-giving rhythm of rest and work, you will find us engaged in these ministries:

Praying with St. Ignatius Retreat. Team members met on September 10th in preparation for retreats that are being held at **Gesu Parish, University Heights** and **St. John Bosco Parish, Parma Heights**. Under the leadership of **Margaret Balewski**, the Team Mentoring Committee has refined a process for leadership development which was presented at the fall meeting.



Praying with St. Ignatius Retreat Team Members

(From left to right) Martha Campbell, Marian Durkin, CSA, Ginny Pippin, Sue Palmer, Peggy Duffy, OSU, Laura Kuhn, Susan Antall, Rose Kaval, Emma Krueger, Jean Sullivan, Claudette Matero, Sandy Appeldorn, Rev. Paul Barbins, Joan Carney, Pat Cleary-Burns, Aida Mandapat, Bill Hunt and Rev. Liz Nau.

Called and Sent Spiritual Formation Program. Twelve participants began their participation in The **Discernment and Decision-Making** module on October 5th. Meeting weekly for six sessions and concluding with a day-long retreat on November 14th, the program participants will focus their attention on the application of the Ignatian “Rules for Discernment.”

Food for the Journey. 35 participants have begun the book reflection group based on Elizabeth Dreyer’s, *Accidental Theologians*. This 3-session fall series began in September with a reflection on the heritage of Hildegard of Bingen, a 12th Century Benedictine abbess, whose teaching is now recognized as ageless wisdom for our times. The series continues in November.

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 5th when **Peggy Duffy, OSU** will facilitate the session on Leading Gospel Contemplation for Large Groups. See next page for details and registration information.

COMING THIS MONTH ... Time to Register!

Ignatian Currents Program



Facilitator, Laurie Cassidy, PhD



Kidnapped by Busyness? An Ignatian Remedy

Cultural “Busyness” and The Ignatian “Two Standards”

Friday, October 30th
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

With What Standard Do I Measure My Life?

Mary people in America are busy, very busy. As a result we seem to have dis-ease with not being occupied, which can take a toll on all our relationships. Does this everyday reality have anything to do with being Christian? The Second Week of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius is an invitation to explore the dynamism of responding to Christ’s call to discipleship. Ignatius reveals the radical nature of this call in his meditation on the Two Standards. This evening’s program will examine what Ignatius intended in this challenging prayer on accepting the standard of Christ amidst our, at times, overwhelming everyday life. We will pray together about the risky business of not being busy.

Saturday, October 31st
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



The Kingdom is Here and Now!

This program aims to retrieve Jesus’ message about the Kingdom of God. For Jesus the Kingdom is not the result of our good or perfect behavior -but is Passionate Love breaking into our world *right now*. We need to question the messages that reduce Christian discipleship to just one more responsibility added to a growing “to do list”. We will explore how American culture reduces Christian life into a “spiritual way” to be more efficient, accomplished and “busy about many things”. How do we allow God to transform our vision of discipleship? St. Ignatius offers a path to freedom helping us to notice, to celebrate and to participate in God’s Kingdom breaking through *here and now*. This day will include input, group sharing and times of quiet and prayer.

See further details on the next page.



DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

REMEMBER THE SABBATH A Reflection by Wayne Muller



Sabbath time can be a revolutionary challenge to the violence of overwork, mindless accumulation, and the endless multiplication of desires, responsibilities, and accomplishments. Sabbath is a way of being in time where we remember who we are, remember what we know, and taste the gifts of spirit and eternity.

Like a path through the forest, Sabbath creates a marker for ourselves so, if we are lost, we can find our way back to our center. "Remember the Sabbath" means "Remember that everything you have received is a blessing. Remember to delight in your life, in the fruits of your labor. Remember to stop and offer thanks for the wonder of it." *Remember*, as if we would forget. Indeed, the assumption is that we will forget. And history has proven that, given enough time, we will.

"Remember the Sabbath" is not simply a life-style suggestion. It is a spiritual precept in most of the world's spiritual traditions – ethical precepts that include prohibitions against killing, stealing, and lying. How can forgetting the Sabbath possibly be morally and socially dangerous? How can forgetting to be restful, sing songs, and take delight in creation be as reprehensible as murder, robbery, and deceit? Why is this so important?

Sabbath honors the necessary wisdom of dormancy. If certain plant species, for example, do not lie dormant for winter, they will not bear fruit in the spring. If this continues for more than a season, the plant begins to die. If dormancy continues to be prevented, the entire species will die. A period of rest – in which nutrition and fertility most readily coalesce – is not simply a human psychological convenience; it is a spiritual and biological necessity. A lack of dormancy produces confusion and erosion in the life force.

We, too, must have a period in which we lie fallow, and restore our souls. In Sabbath time we remember to celebrate what is beautiful and sacred; we light candles, sing songs, tell stories, eat, nap, and make love. It is a time to let our work, our lands, our animals lie fallow, to be nourished and refreshed. Within this sanctuary, we become available to the insights and blessings of deep mindfulness that arise only in stillness and time. When we act from a place of deep rest, we are more capable of cultivating what the Buddhists would call right understanding, right action, and right effort. In a complex and unstable world, if we do not rest, if we do not surrender into some kind of Sabbath, how can we find our way, how can we hear the voices that tell us the right thing to do? (*Sabbath*, by Wayne Muller, pp. 6-7)

COMING THIS FALL ... NEW PROGRAMS ...

IGNATIAN CURRENTS PROGRAM KIDNAPPED BY BUSYNESS? AN IGNATIAN REMEDY Cultural "Busyness" and The Ignatian "Two Standards" Facilitated by Laurie Cassidy, PhD OPEN TO ALL

Friday, October 30th
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Coffee and Conversation from 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 31st
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Coffee and Conversation from 8:30 a.m.

Program Options

Friday Evening Only: \$25

Saturday including lunch: \$50

Friday Evening and Saturday including lunch: \$65

Friday Evening and Saturday including lunch + overnight accommodations including breakfast: \$98

Although the programs can be taken separately, it is encouraged that you participate in both the Friday and Saturday programs to receive full benefit of the experience.

Time to Register!

Register online at www.jrh-cleveland.org or by phone with Barbara Leggott at the JRH, 440-884-9300 X310

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.)

September 19, 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 5th

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)

Held at St. Ignatius High School

Where Does God Find Us?

A quiet, efficient and busy life spent continuously in good works
can shield us effectively from any plunge into the depth where the Divine can find us.

- Morton Kelsey

Lay Leadership Program - Martha Campbell, Director

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