

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

AUGUST 2016

VOL VII NO 1



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

News in these last months has chronicled repeated episodes of violence both in the US and the world. While our ministry in northeast Ohio does not directly address this violence, what we are doing contributes to our becoming "an active force of renewal and encouragement in the world." Here is an update on our activities as we prepare for a new program year and respond to the encouraging message of John O'Donohue. (See "Something to Ponder," on page 2 of this newsletter.)

Praying with St. Ignatius Retreat. We continue to plan for our fall retreats as we incorporate suggested changes and improvements based on the recent experience and feedback from our recent retreat teams. The Communications Committee, **Margaret Balewski, Martha Campbell, Rev. Doug Koesel, Claudette Matero and Jean Sullivan** continue to make contact with potential parishes and Christian communities as we plan for our coming program year.



Taking a refreshing summer break at the Lay Leaders' Celebration are : (from left to right) Susan Antall, Pat Cleary-Burns and Jeannie Cleary-Burns

Nurturing the Call. See details on page 2.

Food for the Journey. See details on page 2.

CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM

Five of the six modules of this program will be offered during the 2016 - 2017 program year. Ignatian Foundations and Discernment and Decision-Making will be offered this coming fall. Three modules, The Christian at Work in the World, Living Prayer and Embracing the Mystery will be offered this coming spring. The sixth module, Encountering Jesus Christ, will be offered in fall 2017.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ...

Ignatian Currents Program



Facilitator, Stephanie Russell, Ed.D

Liberating Love: Spiritual Freedom and Solidarity for Ignatian Pilgrims

Friday, September 30th

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Embracing Spiritual Freedom: New Life in Christ

Retreatants who make the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius* are led to progressively deeper levels of spiritual freedom, peeling away the fear and isolation that have inhibited their full response to God, and opening themselves to new life and possibility in Christ. By focusing on the First Week of the Exercises, and the longing for liberation that is "hardwired" in every human heart, we will examine the conditions and consequences of spiritual freedom, discuss ways in which we can become freer, and consider the need for liberation in our own communities. The evening will include input and time for sharing.

Saturday, October 1st

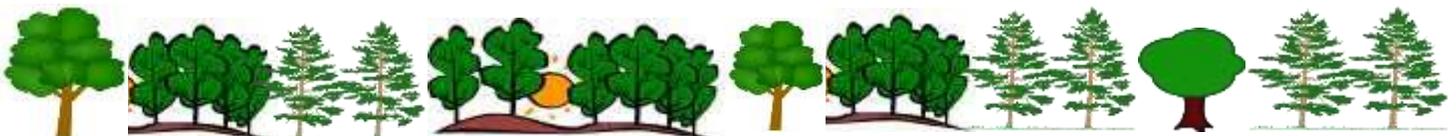
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Casting Our Lot with Jesus:

Responding to the Needs of the Real World

How does spiritual freedom issue in a life of justice and commitment? What does the Ignatian tradition have to say to those affected by poverty, racism, or climate change? By casting our lot with Jesus in his life, death, and resurrection, we Christians are called to immerse ourselves in the needs of the *real* world. In this day-long workshop, we will explore the Second Week of the *Spiritual Exercises* as a clear expression of the liberating Christ, draw connections between Ignatian spiritual practice and social justice, and discuss the ways in which Jesuit ministries are responding to pressing social needs in the U.S. and internationally. Ignatian spirituality leads each of us to action. This day will weave together input, small and large group sharing and times of quiet and prayer.

See registration details on the next page.



DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

BLESSING OUR WORLD NOW *

A Continuing Reflection by John O'Donohue

Sometimes when we look out, the world seems so dark. War, violence, hunger, and misery seem to abound. This makes us anxious and helpless. What can I do in my private little corner of life that could have any effect on the march of world events? The usual answer is: nothing. We then decide to do what we can for our own, and leave the great events to their domain. Thus, we opt out, and join the largest majority in the world: those who acquiesce. Believing ourselves to be helpless, we hand over all our power to forces and systems outside us that then act in our names; they go on to put their beliefs into action; and ironically these actions are often sinister and destructive. We live in times when the call to full and critically aware citizenship could not be more urgent. We need to rediscover the careless courage, yet devastating simplicity, of the little boy who, in the middle of the numbed multitude, in naive Socratic fashion, blurts out: "But the emperor has no clothes." When spoken, the word of truth can bring down citadels of falsity.

Real presence is the ideal of all true individuation. When we yield to helplessness, we strengthen the hand of those who would destroy. When we choose indifference, we betray our world. Yet the world is not decided by action alone. It is decided more by consciousness and spirit; they are the secret sources of all action and behavior. The spirit of a time is an incredibly subtle, yet hugely powerful force. And it is comprised of the mentality and spirit of all individuals together. Therefore, the way you look at things is not simply a private matter. Your outlook actually and concretely affects what goes on. When you give in to helplessness, you collude with despair and add to it. When you take back your power and choose to see the possibilities for healing and transformation, your creativity awakens and flows to become an active force of renewal and encouragement in the world. In this way, even in your own hidden life you can become a powerful agent of transformation in a broken, darkened world. There is a huge force field that opens when intention focuses and directs itself toward transformation.

*Adapted from *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*, by John O'Donohue (New York: Doubleday, 2008), pp. 215 - 216

COMING THIS FALL ... NEW PROGRAMS ...

NURTURING THE CALL

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

Facilitated by Sr. Peggy Duffy, OSU

Tuesday Evenings from 6:30 - 8:30

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

September 27

October 18

November 1

November 15

IGNATIAN CURRENTS PROGRAM

LIBERATING LOVE

Spiritual Freedom and Solidarity for Ignatian Pilgrims

Facilitated by Stephanie Russell, PhD

OPEN TO ALL

Friday, September 30th

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Coffee and Conversation from 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 1st

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

Coffee and Conversation from 8:30 a.m.

Program Options

Friday Evening Only: \$26

Saturday Only including lunch: \$52

Friday Evening and Saturday including lunch: \$68

Friday Evening and Saturday including lunch + overnight

accommodations including breakfast: \$102

Although the programs can be taken separately, we encourage you to participate in both the Friday and Saturday programs to receive full benefit of the experience.

Register online at www.jrh-cleveland.org or by phone with

Barbara Leggott at the JRH, 440-884-9300 X310

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom

by John O'Donohue

A Book Reflection Group Facilitated by Martha Campbell

Open to Spiritual Directors, Retreat Leaders, Pastoral

Ministers and Those Who have Made

the Full Spiritual Exercises

Saturday Mornings from 9:30 - 12:00 noon

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

October 15

November 19

December 17



WHAT WE DO WITH OUR HEARTS AFFECTS THE WHOLE UNIVERSE ...

When you choose to see the possibilities for healing and transformation, your creativity awakens and flows to become an active force of renewal and encouragement in the world.

— John O'Donohue

Lay Leadership Program

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