

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

December 2016

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we begin a new liturgical year with the season of Advent we are encouraged to engage the “work of Advent” by giving birth to what is of God within us as did Mary of Nazareth. Wendy Wright offers us a way to engage this Advent practice (See “Something to Ponder,” page 2 of this newsletter). Witness how we are presently offering witness to this call:

Praying with St. Ignatius Retreats. The retreats at Holy Trinity, Avon and St. Dominic, Shaker Heights parishes concluded in November. Members of the two retreat teams that served at these parishes came together on November 29th to share stories of their experiences and to review “best practices.” Pictured below are the team members:



Back Row: Mary Ann Burke, SND, Joyce Gordon, Jean Sullivan, Margaret Balewski, Bill Hunt, Mary Downey, Claudette Metero, Ginny Pippin. Front Row: Agnes Strada, Susan Antall, Mary Lou Swinerton, Peggy Duffy, OSU. (not pictured: Carl Toomey)

Nurturing the Call. On November 15th, Sister Peggy Duffy, OSU concluded this 4-part program which began in September. 17 participants (all leaders of the Praying with St. Ignatius or the Spirituality Program for Adults Retreats) gathered to hone their skills in leading Gospel-based Ignatian prayer forms. Beginning on Thursday, February 9th, a team of six leaders including Margaret Balewski, Joan Carney, Jeannie and Patrick Cleary-Burns, Debbie Dacone and Liz Nau will begin a 5-part program, “Cultivating Effective Leadership Skills,” which will be offered to Leaders/Facilitators of *Praying with St. Ignatius* and the St. Ignatius & Walsh Spirituality Program for Adults. Martha Campbell and Janet Lehane are co-organizers of this program. If you are a leader for one of these retreats, watch for an invitation to participate!

Food for the Journey. On December 17th, we conclude the 3-part book reflection series based on John O’Donohue’s *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*. Beginning in January, we will focus our reflection on *Ignatius Loyola the Mystic* by Harvey D. Egan, S.J. This book reflection group is open to spiritual directors, retreat leaders, pastoral ministers and those who have made the full *Ignatian Spiritual Exercises*. Details for the program beginning in January are on page 2.

CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM - MODULE NEWS



IGNATIAN FOUNDATIONS

This 7-part, monthly module, begun this past September, will engage its 5th session this coming December 12th as 11 members of the St. Ignatius High School Board of Regents continue this spiritual formation program. Martha Campbell and Rich Jerdonek, co-leaders for the program, will be joined by Terry McCafferty, English teacher at St. Ignatius High School. Terry will reflect on how his relationship with Christ has had social implications for his living of the Gospel.

DISCERNMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

22 participants began this 7-part module on September 26th. It has been held every other week, throughout the fall season and will conclude this month with a day-long retreat focusing on Ignatian Decision-Making. Facilitated by Patrick Cleary-Burns and Janet Lehane, this module focuses on using Ignatian “Discernment of Spirits” in daily life and applying Ignatian Decision-Making principles to a current life decision.

THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK IN THE WORLD

Beginning in March, Sharon Bramante and Laura Fibbi will offer this module to the people of Blessed Trinity Parish, Cleveland. This Lenten program will engage the participants in a process of learning about the principles of “Catholic Social Teaching.” The participants will then create a practical plan to work to address a group-surfaced area of need in the Bellaire-Puritas neighborhood.

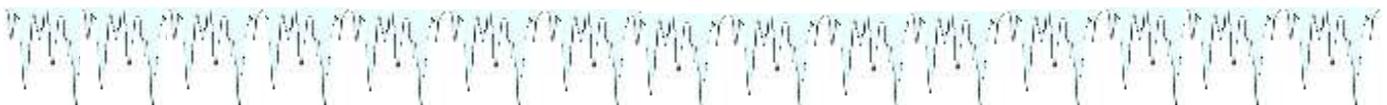
EMBRACING THE MYSTERY

Emma Krueger will engage the people of her parish, St. Noel, in this module. Reflecting on Jesus Christ’s passion, death and resurrection, the participants will see how this same pattern and process is lived in daily life. Monthly meetings held in February, March and April will conclude with a day-long retreat in May.

LIVING PRAYER



The six weekly sessions of this retreat-in-daily-life will be held at Celebration Lutheran Church, Chardon this coming Lent. Other local churches in the Chardon area will also participate in this ecumenical retreat. The retreat team will be led by Martha Campbell and Amy McKenna. Rev. Paul Barbins will participate in the retreat with a view to becoming a member of the leadership team in the future.



DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER



The Work of Advent* A Reflection by Wendy M. Wright

Sometime during the Advent season cycle, we will have heard proclaimed the familiar words of Luke's account of the Annunciation. This scriptural moment, understood in tradition as the moment when the Spirit of God descended and came to dwell in humankind, has been treasured over the centuries as one of the richest and most meaningful truths of the Christian revelation. Mary is seen not simply as an historical personage, the young Jewish wife of Joseph, who was the Mother of Jesus. She is also, in the shared understanding of our heritage, the archetype of all humankind. She is humanity responding to the breath of the Spirit, assenting to the indwelling of God. Contemplatives at prayer for centuries have gazed upon the posture and the words of Mary at the Annunciation to discern there the attitude characteristics of such assent. For it was assumed that this scriptural passage was multivalent. It referred, on the one hand, to a one-time event, which gives us a glimpse into a salvific mystery that was concretely located in place and time in Palestine two thousand years ago. Tradition also assumed that the indwelling of the Spirit was a continuing occurrence taking place within the hearts and minds of Christians in each age. Like Mary, each individual was visited by the divine Spirit who bore an invitation: to become the dwelling place of Christ. Each woman or man was invited to become a Mother of God.

...

Like Mary, we open to the Word. Like Mary, we gestate and give birth to the Word through the actions of our lives. Like Mary, we are involved in the process of bringing God into the world. Like Mary, we are the finite earthen vessels into which infinite divine life is poured. ... Our participation in this God-bearing is neither negligible nor passive.

Rather, we are active recipients, persons whose freedom of choice is never violated. The request that we allow the dynamics of divinity to be realized through the medium of our lives is a genuine one. We can refuse. Or we can assent and let the most intimate recesses of our lives be inhabited, transformed, made new by God. But the divine action is neither mechanical nor invasive. It requires our conscious cooperation. We must nurture the Spirit into maturity in our lives.

*Adapted from *The Vigil: Keeping Watch in the season of Christ's Coming*. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1992, pp.101 – 104.



An Advent "Hail Mary"

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for me that I too may give birth to what is of God within me.

- Lorraine Dykman

NEW PROGRAMS ... COMING IN 2017

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

Ignatius Loyola the Mystic
by Harvey D. Egan, S.J.

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.)
January 21, February 18, March 18 and April 22, 2017
Register with Martha at campbellmarthal@gmail.com
Deadline: December 21, 2016



NURTURING THE CALL Cultivating Effective Leadership Skills

Open to Leaders/Facilitators of *Praying with St. Ignatius* and the *St. Ignatius & Walsh Spirituality Program for Adults*
Facilitated by a Team of Six Leaders: Margaret Balewski, Joan Carney, Jeannie and Patrick Cleary-Burns, Debbie Dacone and Liz Nau
Thursday Evenings - February 9, 23, March 2, 1 and 30
from 6:30 - 8:30
(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 6:00 p.m.)
If you are a leader of one of these retreats, watch for an invitation to participate!

IGNATIUS CURRENTS PROGRAM with Anthony Moore, Ph.D.

SAVE THE DATES

SOUL WORK WITH IGNATIUS LOYOLA AND CARL JUNG

OPEN TO ALL

Friday, May 5th
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Coffee and Conversation from 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 6th
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Coffee and Conversation from 8:30 a.m.

DETAILS TO FOLLOW



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.

Lay Leadership Program - Martha Campbell, Director

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