

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2016

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

An opportunity to serve Christ's mission awaits us as we begin another Lenten journey. In this month's "Something to Ponder," Thomas Keating invites us to practice the "asceticism of just being good to everybody." Bearing Christ's goodness, we will be serving God's people through these Lenten programs:

Praying with St. Ignatius, Parish Retreat. On January 13th, 12 retreat team members gathered to prepare for the Lenten retreats to be held this coming winter/spring at **St. Christopher Parish, Rocky River** and **Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Lodi Worship Site.**



Winter/Spring 2016 Praying with St. Ignatius Retreat Leaders

From left to right (back row): Bill Hunt, Debbie Dacone, Mary Lou Swinerton, Margaret Balewski, Rev. Bob Meyer, Marian Durkin, CSA, Rev. George Shunk, Patrick Cleary-Burns, Rev. Liz Nau (front row) Rose Kaval, Kathy Haag, Susan Antall

Meeting for 8 consecutive weeks, the retreat at St. Christopher began on January 27th. The retreat at Our Lady Help of Christians will begin on February 17th.

Nurturing the Call. The new 5-part pilot program for retreat leaders of the *Praying with St. Ignatius* and the *Encountering Christ* retreats at Jesuit Retreat House and St. Ignatius High School begins on February 11th. Organized by **Martha Campbell** and **Janet Lehane**, the program will be offered by a team of skilled leaders including, **Jeannie and Patrick Cleary-Burns, Liz Nau, Margaret Balewski, Joan Carney and Debbie Dacone.**

Food for the Journey. 21 participants gathered on January 16th to begin this new 4-part series, "Accidental Theologians ... A Continuing Exploration." Based on *An Interrupted Life: The Diaries and Letters of Etty Hillesum*, the sessions explore the "theology of hope" found in the writings of this victim of the Jewish holocaust.

The Pilgrim Way of Ignatius Loyola. This four-part introduction to the *Spiritual Exercises* will be offered at **St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Parma** during the Lenten season beginning on February 9th. Program leaders include: **Martha Campbell, Robin Craig, Rich Jerdonek, Amy McKenna and Sue Palmer.**

CALLED AND SENT

SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM Module News



Four programs of the six-module Called and Sent Spiritual Formation Program will be offered during this Lenten season. They are:

ENCOUNTERING JESUS CHRIST

This 6-session module will conclude this coming month with a day of retreat to be held on Saturday, February 20th. 20 parishioners are participating in this program which is being offered at **Blessed Trinity Parish, Cleveland.** Facilitated by **Andy Kereky**, the module focuses on an immersion in the Gospel narratives through Ignatian imaginative prayer. **Margaret Balewski** has participated in the module with a view to supporting Andy's leadership in the future.

THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK IN THE WORLD

This module, facilitated by **Sharon Bramante and Claudette Matero**, will begin on Monday, February 1st with 32 parishioners from **St. Dominic Parish, Shaker Heights** registered. 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 begin this module which is being offered to the staff at **Regina Health Center, Richfield** on Tuesday, February 2nd. Monthly meetings held in February, March and April will conclude with a day-long retreat in May. **Mary Ann Burke, SND** and **Emma Krueger** are participating in the module with a view to supporting Karen and Joan's leadership in the future.



LIVING PRAYER

The six weekly sessions of this Lenten retreat-in-daily-life will begin at **Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, Cleveland Heights** on Sunday, February 7th. The retreat team is comprised of **Paul Barbins, Mary Ann Burke, SND, Martha Campbell, Patrick Cleary-Burns, Mary Downey, Claudette Matero, and Amy McKenna.**



TAP INTO THE JESUIT RETREAT HOUSE

Come and join in the fun, conversation and raffle on **Thursday, February 18th from 6 - 9 p.m. at The Great Lakes Brewing Tasting Room (2701 Carroll Avenue, Cleveland 44113).** Guest Speaker: **Karl Ertle, President of Walsh Jesuit High School.** Tickets include appetizers and two beer tickets: \$30 pre-register online (www.jrh-cleveland.org) or \$35 at the door. Welcome all you who are 21 years of age ... or older!





OPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

GOD IS ALREADY HERE

A Reflection by Thomas Keating, OCSO

We used to think that time and space were limited. But now we know the galaxies are going beyond space as we know it and are going away so fast that in another generation, we are told, their light will no longer be seen by planet earth. They are traveling faster than light, and will soon get so far away that their light can never again get back to us.

So take a good look at the sky. It's our last chance to see the oldest galaxies. Where are they going? We don't know. The realization that we know very little about the universe grows as we experience the presence of God everywhere. When we see God everywhere, we don't care about knowledge. That divine presence enables us to forget ourselves and enter into collaboration with the creation of the universe. Apparently we have been given an enormous capacity to affect it. We are accountable for everyone else in the human family and for all living things. For all practical purposes, how we treat other people is what we are doing to ourselves.

God is already here. Hence, to search for God at a certain point in our spiritual evolution is a mistake. It is no longer the proper time for that kind of effort. The most productive effort is to accept the endless humiliations of the false self. The spiritual journey is not a career, but a succession of "diminutions of self," as Teilhard de Chardin put it. This has nothing to do with the neurosis of a low self-image. It is simply the fact that we are completely dependent on the love of God. We are always in the arms of the beloved, whatever we may feel or think.

A new asceticism for people of good will might be the practice of goodness; that is, just being good to everybody. It presupposes the immense evolutionary process from matter in its most primitive form to the transformation of developing human intelligence and freedom into the divine life itself. God, out of his infinite mercy, made himself equal to us in the Incarnation by identifying with the human condition. God makes us equal to him by transforming us into his own unconditional love.

What maintains our growth on the spiritual journey are not ideas but insight. Such are the inspirations of the Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit. In prayer, not thinking but being is the primary practice. Thinking about ourselves, the ups and downs of the present moment is not it.

Doing out of the sense of being lived in by God is getting close.

Reflection is taken from *Contemplative Outreach News*, Vol. 32, Number 1, December 2015.



A Lenten Practice - Just Being Good to Everybody

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God makes us equal to him by transforming us into his own unconditional love.

— Thomas Keating, OCSO

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LAY LEADERSHIP OFFERINGS

NURTURING THE CALL

This pilot program is being offered to those who have been called to lead JRH's *Praying with St. Ignatius Retreat* and/or *St. Ignatius High School's Encountering Christ Retreat*
Five Thursday evenings: February 11, 25, March 10, April 7 & 21
Held at St. Ignatius High School - SPA Adult Formation Room
Registrations are closed.

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

Accidental Theologians ... A Continuing Exploration
Etty Hillesum (1914 - 1943)

A Book Reflection Group for spiritual directors, retreat leaders, pastoral ministers and those with experience of the full Spiritual Exercises



Facilitated by Martha Campbell

Monday Mornings from 9:30 - 12 noon

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

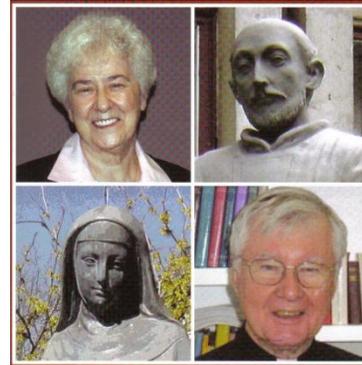
February 20, March 19 and April 16

Held at Franciscan Center, Garfield Heights

Registrations are closed.

IGNATIAN CURRENTS PROGRAM

Facilitated by Constance FitzGerald, OCD
and Brian McDermott, SJ



Christ Consciousness:

Carmelite and Ignatian Spiritualities in Dialogue

Friday, May 6th (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.) through

Saturday, May 7th 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 will be posted online later this month.

