

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

JULY 2016

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

July is upon us ... and with it we prepare as a city to welcome the Republican National Convention. John O'Donohue offers an inspiring message on "the inestimable power of intention" in this month's *Something to Ponder*. (See page 2). As we develop our upcoming programs, let's set our intention on blessing all we meet with the love we have received from Christ thus contributing our part to a peaceful and loving world.

JRH Celebrates Lay Leaders. On June 30th, JRH celebrated the 43 individuals who contributed to 16 program series during this past program year. Through JRH's outreach programs, 569 individuals were served in 7 parishes, 1 Presbyterian church and 1 health care facility. 15 individuals served on the Lay Leadership Advisory Committee and 14 individuals offered administrative and program support. All shared in an evening of fun, food and entertainment. **Mary Lou Swinerton** directed a Readers' Theater Play, "In a College Room." This play, written by Eric Jensen, SJ, describes the initial coming together of the first Jesuits at the University of Paris in 1530.



Readers' Theater Players: (from the left) Laura Kuhn (Servant), Matt Roche, SJ (Doctor Juan de la Peña), Rose Kaval (Pierre Favre), Mary Lou Swinerton (Director and Francisco de Javier) and Rev. George Shunk (Íñigo de Loyola)

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.

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 THIS FALL - IGNATIAN CURRENTS MEET DR. STEPHANIE RUSSELL Plan to Come and Bring a Friend!



Stephanie Russell, Ed.D., serves as the vice president for Mission Integration for the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU). She designs and implements programs to help Jesuit colleges and universities enhance their mission effectiveness. Prior to her work with the AJCU, Dr. Russell was the vice president for Mission and Ministry at Marquette University. She has worked in Jesuit ministries for more than 30 years, including 11 years as the provincial assistant for lay formation and social ministry with the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus. Dr. Russell maintains in her work a strong focus on Catholic social teaching and intellectual tradition, the Ignatian spiritual and educational heritage, and interreligious dialogue as means for deepening the mission of Jesuit schools. She holds a bachelor's degree in social work, a master of arts in pastoral studies and a doctorate in higher education management.

Dr. Russell will be here at the Jesuit Retreat House on September 30th and October 1st. The programs she will facilitate are meant for all who are "hungry for God" and seeking a deepening appreciation of the *Spiritual Exercises*. See page 2 of this newsletter for program details.



DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

THE INESTIMABLE POWER OF INTENTION*

A Continuing Reflection by John O'Donohue

There is incredible power in the mind when it directs its light toward an object. I heard recently of an ongoing experiment in an American university. There is a sealed-off room; in that room there is a coin-flipping machine. All day and all night it flips coins. The results are usually fifty per-cent heads and fifty percent tails. Nearby there is another room into which people are invited. Each person is asked to make an intention. Which would they prefer? Heads or tails? Having made their choice, they then write it down on a page that is put in a sealed envelope and addressed to the team who conducts the research. The results are astounding. If a person wishes for heads, the machine flips up to a seventy-five percent majority of heads and vice versa. They found the distance that the power of the intention to affect the outcome held for up to a hundred-and- fifty-mile radius around the experimentation room. If human intention can substantially affect the outcome of something as cold and neutral as the working of a coin- flipping machine, how much more must our human intentions achieve as they relate to one another?

I have also heard of an experiment in meditation. For a certain number of days, some years ago, a group of people made a circle around the city of Washington and meditated continually. Gathered unknown to itself within this circle of loving kindness, Washington changed. The statistics for that period in the city showed a remarkable and unprecedented decrease in violence and crime. The power of intention to bless is not some utopian fantasy; it can be shown factually to effect concrete and transformative action.

We have no idea the effect we actually have on one another. This is where blessing can achieve so much. Blessing as powerful and positive intention can transform situations and people. The force of blessing must be even more powerful when we consider how the intention of blessing corresponds with the deepest desire of reality for creativity, healing, and wholesomeness. Blessing has pure agency because it animates on the deepest threshold between being and becoming; it mines the territories of memory to awaken and draw forth possibilities we cannot even begin to imagine!

*Adapted from *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*, by John O'Donohue (New York: Doubleday, 2008), pp. 216 - 217

A THOUGHT AS WE PREPARE TO WELCOME THE RNC TO CLEVELAND ...

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— John O'Donohue

OPPORTUNITY TO “STAND FOR LOVE”

Join the public display of unity on the Hope Memorial Bridge on Sunday, July 17th. A half hour of silent prayer will take place from 3:00 - 3:30 as we intercede for peace and cover the city with loving intention for God's blessing on our city and country. For details and to register go to www.circlecitywithlove.com

COMING THIS FALL ... NEW PROGRAMS ... SAVE THE DATES

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 - OPEN TO ALL

Liberating Love: Spiritual Freedom and Solidarity for Ignatian Pilgrims

Facilitated by Stephanie Russell, PhD

Friday, September 30th

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 1st

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



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

Lay Leadership Program

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