

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

JUNE 2016

VOL VI NO 11



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we begin the summer season, we look back at our past program year in gratitude and forward with an eye to the future, learning from our experience. What is the "something new" that God will inspire? We are open, listening and ready!

Ignatian Currents Program. On May 6th and 7th, 68 people gathered to share community and to experience the spiritual insights of Constance FitzGerald, OCD and Brian McDermott, SJ who offered a program entitled "Christ Consciousness: Carmelite and Ignatian Spiritualities in Dialogue." Due to illness, Sr. Connie was unable to be present. Many participants expressed appreciation that the program continued despite Sr. Connie's inability to be present as well as appreciation for Fr. Brian's willingness to present Sr. Connie's material.



Program Participants, Francis Therese Woznicki, SSJ/tosf, Jane Blabolil, SSJ/tosf, Chris Schenk, CSJ, Maureen Grady, OSU, Joan Nuth and Carolyn Nickerson, share a moment with Brian McDermott, SJ

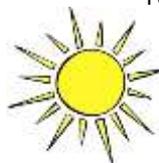
The *Praying with St. Ignatius* Retreat. Members of the retreat teams for **St. Christopher** and **Our Lady Help of Christians Parishes** gathered in early May for a Ministry Reflection Evening. We took time to prayerfully reflect on inspiring moments that occurred during these retreats as well as those challenging times which led to new insights for change. Subsequently, **Margaret Balewski, Martha Campbell, Kathy Haag and Jean Sullivan** met to discuss revisions to the retreat handbook. Feedback from the 26 leaders who served as retreat team members during this past year will be included in the revision process.

Nurturing the Call. Sr. Peggy Duffy, OSU will lead our fall program which will consist of four sessions to be held on Tuesday evenings focusing on leading Gospel Contemplation for large groups. See details on page 2.

Food for the Journey. This program offered for spiritual directors, retreat leaders, pastoral ministers and those who have made the full Spiritual Exercises, will resume in the fall. We will focus our reflections on John O'Donohue's *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*. See details on page 2.



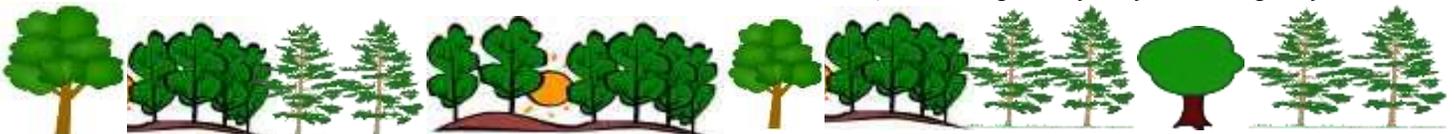
Food for the Journey participants, Judy Cauley, CSJ and Linda Catanzaro, pause to compare notes on their reflections.



CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM Module Update

The Lay Leadership Communications Committee, **Margaret Balewski, Martha Campbell, Rev. Doug Koesel, Claudette Matero and Jean Sullivan** have begun planning for the new program year. We will offer two modules of the Called and Sent Program in the fall and three in the winter/spring.

Ignatian Foundations, co-led by **Martha Campbell** and **Rich Jerdonek** will be offered to the Board of Regents at St. Ignatius High School beginning this September. **Patrick Cleary-Burns** and **Janet Lehane** will team up to present the **Discernment and Decision-Making** module this fall to those who have completed the 8 week Ignatian retreat, *Praying with St. Ignatius* (generally offered in our diocesan parishes) or *Encountering Christ* (offered at St. Ignatius High School for adult family and friends of the students). These modules will be offered in the winter / spring: **The Christian at Work in the World, Embracing the Mystery and Living Prayer.**



DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

THE LOST ART OF BLESSING*

A Reflection by John O'Donohue



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

What is a blessing? A blessing is a circle of light drawn around a person to protect, heal, and strengthen. Life is a constant flow of emergence. The beauty of blessing is its belief that it can affect what unfolds.

To be in the world is to be distant from the homeland of wholeness. We are confined by limitation and difficulty. When we bless, we are enabled somehow to go beyond our present frontiers and reach into the source. A blessing awakens future wholeness. We use the word *foreshadow* for the imperfect representation of something that is yet to come. We could say that a blessing "forebrightens" the way. When a blessing is invoked, a window opens in eternal time.

The word *blessing* comes from the Old English ... which means "to sanctify or consecrate with blood." It is interesting that though the word *blessing* sounds abstract, a thing of the word and the air, in its original meaning it was vitally connected to the life force. In ancient traditions blood was life; it connected the earthly, the human, and the divine. To bless also means to invoke divine favor upon.

We never see the script of our lives; nor do we know what is coming toward us, or why our life takes on this particular shape or sequence. A blessing is different from a greeting, a hug, a salute, or an affirmation; it opens a different door in human encounter. One enters into the forecourt of the soul, the source of intimacy and the compass of destiny.

Our longing for the eternal kindles our imagination to bless. Regardless of how we configure the eternal the human heart continues to dream of a state of wholeness, a place where everything comes together, where loss will be made good, where blindness will transform into vision, where damage will be made whole, where the clenched question will open in the house of surprise, where the travails of a life's journey will enjoy a homecoming. To invoke a blessing is to call some of that wholeness upon a person now.

*Adapted from "To Retrieve the Lost Art of Blessing," as found in *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*, by John O'Donohue (New York: Doubleday, 2008), pp. 198 - 199

A BLESSING FOR SUMMER

May you, by God's grace, taste eternal Sabbath in the warm pleasures of these summer days
and slowly savor the flavor of your reward in the nectar of these summer nights.

— Edward Hays (Adapted from *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim*, p. 117)

Lay Leadership Program

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