

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

March 2016

VOL VI NO 8



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our Lenten journey continues ... The spiritual challenge of “waking up to our whole heart” (See *Something to Ponder*, pg. 2), engages us in the ongoing conversion needed if our ministry is to inspire “waking up” in others. Here are the places where we are sent to serve this month:

Praying with St. Ignatius, Parish Retreat. This 8-week adaptation of the *Spiritual Exercises* is being offered during the current Lenten season at St. Christopher Parish, Rocky River and Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Lodi Worship Site. 12 lay leaders are accompanying the 68 engaged retreatants.

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 continues on March 10th. Organized by **Martha Campbell** and **Janet Lehane**, the program is being offered by a team of skilled leaders including, **Margaret Balewski**, **Joan Carney**, **Jeannie and Patrick Cleary-Burns**, **Debbie Dacone** and **Liz Nau**.



Participants in the Nurturing the Call Program

(from left to right) Jackie Krejcik, Debbie Dacone, Bill Hunt, Mary Ann Burke, SND, Rev. Liz Nau, Sandy Appeldorn, Patrick Cleary-Burns, Susan Antall, Jeannie Cleary-Burns, Joan Carney, Margaret Balewski and Janet Lehane

(Not shown: Martha Campbell, Mary Downey and Amy McKenna)

Food for the Journey. 18 participants gathered on February 20th to continue this 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. 85 people from St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Parma have participated in this four-part introduction to the *Spiritual Exercises* during the current Lenten season. The program will conclude this month with **Rev. Robin Craig’s** witness to the effects of the *Spiritual Exercises* in her Life. Other program leaders include: **Martha Campbell**, **Rich Jerdonek**, **Amy McKenna** and **Sue Palmer**.

CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM Module Update

Three of the six modules of the Called and Sent Spiritual Formation Program are being offered during this Lenten season. They are: **The Christian at Work in the World: Finding God in Daily Work** at St. Dominic Parish, Shaker Heights (30 participants), **Embracing the Mystery** at Regina Health Center, Richfield (26 participants), and **Living Prayer** at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, Cleveland Heights (33 participants). 13 lay leaders are accompanying the participants in these programs. On February 20th, 20 participants completed the **Encountering Jesus Christ** program which was held at Blessed Trinity Parish, Cleveland.

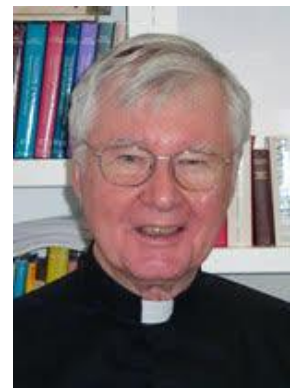
COMING IN MAY ... IGNATIAN CURRENTS CHRIST CONSCIOUSNESS: CARMELITE AND IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITIES IN DIALOGUE May 6 - 7, 2016

Meet Our Presenters



Constance FitzGerald, OCD, is a contemplative theologian and a member of the Carmelite Community in Baltimore where she has served as prioress and formation director. For more than fifty years, Sr. Constance has devoted her intellectual life to the explication and interpretation of the writings of the great Carmelite mystics.

Brian McDermott, SJ is a Jesuit of the Maryland Province and a systematic theologian. He was on the faculty of the Weston School of Theology for twenty-seven years and academic dean for eight. He is currently a special assistant to the President of Georgetown University and adjunct professor of Catholic Studies. Fr. McDermott is an esteemed spiritual director and an experienced teacher of spiritual direction and discernment.



See details on the next page



DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

WAKING UP TO YOUR WHOLE HEART* A Reflection by Johnny Sears

Too many people, churches and institutions are asleep to the reality of God's presence in the world because they live in survival mode. They've forgotten their identity in Christ. They've forgotten the ultimate reality that the kingdom of God is already here and that they are God's beloved child. To me, this situation is a matter of urgency.

The world has become dangerous and is deeply divided. The world needs people who are awake to that which is of God within them, to God's love and the power of that love to transform and heal. The world needs churches and institutions that are awake to the same. Thankfully, I also believe, along with many others, that we are in a time of spiritual awakening, and the good news is that people who are awake to their whole hearts are in a position to help others awaken to theirs.

The difficulty, as Brené Brown has noted, is that it requires a lot of vulnerability and surrender to let go of the illusions that keep us from being human beings fully alive. Unfortunately, we've largely forgotten how to create safe space and permission for folks to be vulnerable. We are called to create such spaces in our ministries and we can start with these suggestions:

- ❖ Find an environment, a trusted companion, a spiritual director, a covenant group, or a retreat program where you can be completely honest with yourself and risk acknowledging and letting go of the illusions and myths that influence your life.
- ❖ Read and reflect on the stories of the saints and mystics and how they were able to embrace their ultimate belovedness regardless of their circumstances.
- ❖ Use tools like the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator or the Enneagram to learn more about your personality type. Spend time learning what your "shadow side" has to teach you. A spiritual guide can be very helpful with this.
- ❖ Learn and practice "prayers of consent" (for instance, Centering Prayer and The Welcoming Prayer). These prayer practices can help us let go of our illusions and rest in our belovedness. Contemplative Outreach is a good source for learning these practices. (www.contemplativeoutreach.org)
- ❖ Give yourself regular times apart for retreat to be in silence and solitude. Silence and solitude open us up to the unattended parts of our being.

*Adapted from "Waking Up to Our Whole Heart," *Weavings: A Journal of the Christian Spiritual Life*, Vol. XXXI, No. 1

WAKING UP

The good news is that people who are awake to their whole hearts
are in a position to help others awaken to theirs.

- Johnny Sears

COMING THIS MONTH ... HELP SPREAD THE WORD

Ignatian Spirituality for the Ecumenical Community Monday, March 14th from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Jesuit Retreat House

Facilitated by Rev. Robin Craig and Sue Palmer

This evening retreat is designed to introduce Ignatian spirituality and traditions of imaginative, Scripture-based prayer to the ecumenical community. Rev. Robin Craig and Sue Palmer, graduates of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute at John Carroll University, are both experienced retreat leaders and spiritual directors.

Cost: \$20

Register on-line: www.jrh-cleveland.org

Finding God in Film Series

Sundays from 4:30 – 7:30 at

John Carroll's Dolan Science Center

Sunday, March 6th - Straight Story - Discussion: Don Petkash, SJ

Sunday, March 13th - Little Boy - Discussion: Tom Schubeck SJ

Sunday, March 20th - Babette's Feast - Discussion: Rev. Don Cozzens

Pizza/Salad supper follows

RSVP is encouraged at [216-574-6300](tel:216-574-6300) or cduer@ivcusa.org

Freewill offering appreciated

IGNATIAN CURRENTS ... SOME DETAILS

CHRIST CONSCIOUSNESS: CARMELITE AND IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITIES IN DIALOGUE

Presented by Constance FitzGerald, OCD
and Brian McDermott, SJ

OPEN TO ALL - SPACE IS LIMITED

Friday, May 6th

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (Coffee at 6:30 p.m.)

Saturday, May 7th

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Coffee at 8:30 a.m.)

Followed by optional Liturgy of the Eucharist at 4:30 p.m.

Program Options

Commuter: \$80.00

Overnight: \$120.00

Note that registration is for both Friday and Saturday.

To Register: Contact Barbara Leggott at

jrhcleve@att.net OR (440) 884-9300 OR register online:

www.jrh-cleveland.org

Lay Leadership Programs - Martha Campbell, Director

Jesuit Retreat House
5629 State Road

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