

# LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2016

VOL VII NO 4

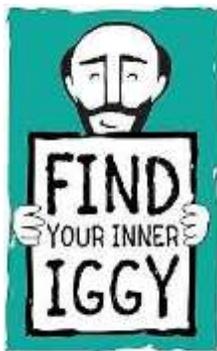


## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ignatius's counsel for "finding God in all things" is skillfully summarized in the conclusion to the essay by Howard Gray, SJ that we've been pondering since this past September. "Attention, reverence and devotion" are the attitudes we are encouraged to cultivate as we are on mission with Christ. (See details on how to nurture this attitude on page 2.) Here is where our Ignatian spirit is taking us this fall:

**Praying with St. Ignatius Parish Retreats.** Two retreats conclude during the month of November. 35 retreatants participated in the retreat held at Holy Trinity Parish, Avon. Team members for this retreat included: Susan Antall, Margaret Balewski, Peggy Duffy, OSU, Bill Hunt, Ginny Pippin, Agnes Strada and Mary Lou Swinerton. 25 retreatants participated in the retreat held at St. Dominic Parish, Shaker Heights. Team members for this retreat included: Mary Ann Burke, SND, Mary Downey, Joyce Gordon, Claudette Matero, Jean Sullivan and Carl Toomey.

Two Programs which are designed to support the ministries of our lay leaders continue to breathe new life into the ministries we offer. Drawing on a motto learned at the 2015 Summer Ignatian Spirituality Institute in St. Louis, MO, the effort in participating in these programs is to



**Nurturing the Call.** Peggy Duffy, OSU concludes 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) are gathering to hone their skills in leading Gospel-based Ignatian prayer forms. Details on page 2.

**Food for the Journey.** We continue this 3-part book reflection series based on John O'Donohue's *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*. This program which is open to spiritual directors, retreat leaders, pastoral ministers and those who have made the full *Ignatian Spiritual Exercises*, will continue through December. Details on page 2.

## CALLED AND SENT

### SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM Module News

#### IGNATIAN FOUNDATIONS

This 7-part, monthly module began on September 12<sup>th</sup> when 11 members of the St. Ignatius High School Board of Regents gathered to begin this spiritual formation program. Martha Campbell and Rich Jerdonek facilitated while Dan Baron, a theology teacher at St. Ignatius, offered reflections on the prayer forms found in the Spiritual Exercises. The series continues this month.



#### DISCERNMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

22 participants began this 7-part module on September 26<sup>th</sup>. It will be held every other week, throughout the fall season and concluding in December. 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 St. Noel Parish 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

### Letting God Shine Through Life's Realities

A Reflection by Howard Gray, SJ (Continued from last month)

In the Spiritual Exercises, and then later in the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus, Ignatius ... structured a way in which others might find God within their life experiences. In what I believe to be the best, most succinct description of how to live a life attuned to God's presence, Ignatius counseled his young novices to do the following.

First, bring focus to your life by taking time to listen to others and to see what lies before you. Bring yourself to a self-possession before reality. Then give your **attention** ... to what is really there.

For example, let that person or that poem or that social injustice or that scientific experiment become as genuinely itself as it can be. Then reverence what you see before you. **Reverence** is giving acceptance to, cherishing the differences of, holding in awe the uniqueness of another reality. So, before you judge or assess or respond, give yourself time to esteem and to accept what is there in the other. If you learn to do this, Ignatius urged, then you will gradually discover "**devotion**," the singularly moving way in which God works in that situation, revealing goodness and fragility, beauty and truth, pain and anguish, wisdom and ingenuity.

**Attention, reverence, and devotion** establish the process for finding God in all things. Sometimes this process is easy. ... [Sometimes it is a struggle.] For example, at school meetings, I find it hard to trust someone who does not listen to others and seeks to manipulate the group. Being attentive and reverent and looking for devotion is hard for me in cases like these. But I have found that when I check myself, when I look beyond the aggression and try to see something of the masked fear and deeper hurts that may well be part of that person's history, then I can listen and try to include him or her in my attention, reverence, and devotion. ... God has no enemies and neither should I. That makes the effort worthwhile. ...

I would add a caution. To find God is not simply to find a God who brings me peace and joy and contentment. It is also to be free enough to find a God who might challenge my comfort and unmask my prejudices.

Finding God in all things requires us to pause a bit to give our lives some focus, some frame of reference. That is probably the reason Ignatius emphasized taking time to look back on a day, to see where you were led, what moved you, what were your surprises. It need not be long; God is smart and knows what has happened to us. All we are doing is giving God a chance to have God's word too.

## IGNATIUS'S PROCESS FOR FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS

Attention, reverence, and devotion establish the process for finding God in all things.

- Howard Gray, SJ

## CONTINUING FALL PROGRAMS ...

### 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.)

Remaining Sessions: November 1 and 15

Registrations are closed.



### 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.)

Remaining Sessions: November 19 and December 17

Registrations are closed.



## COMING IN 2017 ...

### IGNATIUS CURRENTS PROGRAM

#### SAVE THE DATES!

#### SOUL WORK

WITH IGNATIUS LOYOLA AND CARL JUNG

Facilitated by Anthony Moore, Ph.D.

#### OPEN TO ALL

Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Coffee and Conversation from 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

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

Coffee and Conversation from 8:30 a.m.

*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.*



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