

# LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

August 2011

VOL II NO 1



## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



Lay Leadership Program seeds planted in early spring are showing growth as the upcoming program year takes shape. Here is a summary of what is developing:

This issue marks the second year of publishing this monthly e-newsletter, *Lay Leadership Update*, which has become an effective means of staying in touch with one another. The monthly gatherings for Spiritual Directors, Retreat Leaders and Pastoral Ministers will continue. This program, now called **Food for the Journey**, will expand to include all those who have completed the full *Spiritual Exercises* (See next page for details on the fall program.) Our Parish Retreat Program, **Praying with St. Ignatius**, begins its 7<sup>th</sup> program year with some revisions based on the program review which has taken place during these summer months. In addition, we will be offering a new program, **Nurturing the Call**. For Leaders/Facilitators of the Parish Retreat Program and the Spirituality Program for Adults at St. Ignatius High School, this program will be co-led by Martha Campbell and Janet Lehane. (See the "Save the Dates" announcement on the next page).

## LAY LEADERSHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council (Andy Bramante, Rita Carfagna, Marie Gillich, CSJ, Nancy Rowell and Phil Sterrett) had its final meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup> when it completed its work of creating a "skeleton outline" of a Lay Leadership Program offered as an aspect of the ministry of the Jesuit Retreat House. We have named the new program **Called and Sent**.

At our July meeting, we reviewed and revisited aspects of our work which included our program vision, mission and values as well as the proposed program outline. This new program is based on the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius* and will be offered in modules to all those who are seeking deepening spiritual grounding for life and leadership through engaged prayer based on the *Spiritual Exercises*. Aspects of our new program have arisen organically out of expressed need and continue to evolve. This spring, we will be piloting two modules, one with our JRH Board of Directors and the other with one of our local parishes.

## COMING IN SEPTEMBER ...

Two Programs offered by Canadian Jesuit,  
**JOHN GOVAN, SJ**

Friday, September 23, 2011  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
**AUTHENTIC PRAYER**

Ignatius of Loyola encouraged a form of prayer that engaged the senses (seeing, hearing, tasting, touching and smelling) as well as the imagination. This evening's program will describe Ignatius' method of Gospel Contemplation through a contemporary analogy and then invite you into an actual experience of praying Scripture in this way. You will be invited to encounter the Living Christ in the present moment, just as you are.

Saturday, September 24, 2011  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Contemplative Eucharist at 4:15 p.m.  
**TRANSFORMATION INTO CHRIST**

Ignatius of Loyola says in his autobiography that "God taught him like a school child." How does God teach us? It is no different. If we come to the Exercises "like a school child," they will become an instrument through which God teaches us and transforms us into Christ. We will look at the dynamic of the four weeks of the *Spiritual Exercises* and through engaging in the practice of Ignatian prayer (Gospel Contemplation), we will open ourselves to an experience of the transforming work of God in our personal lives.

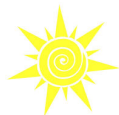
Both programs will be conducted in an atmosphere of prayer and will include input as well as small and large group sharing. Participants are invited to attend one or both programs, since they are independent of one another. See details on the next page.

A Weekend Retreat offered by Itinerant  
Retreat Leader, **PATRICK CLEARY-BURNS**

September 9 - 11, 2011  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**IGNATIUS LOYOLA: THE ACCESSIBLE MYSTIC**

Using the wisdom of *An Ignatian Pathway: Experiencing the Mystical Dimension of the Spiritual Exercises* by Paul Coutinho, SJ as well as readings from Ignatius' autobiography, spiritual journal and *The Spiritual Exercises*, the retreat will invite prayer with Ignatius' mystical graces about the Trinity, Creation, the Humanity of Jesus and the Eucharist. For details go to [www.jrh-cleveland.org](http://www.jrh-cleveland.org)



## DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER



### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE IGNATIAN / JESUIT VISION

What is the Ignatian vision? Here is a description authored by George W. Traub, SJ of Xavier University.

“Drawing on a variety of contemporary sources, ... one can construct a list of rather commonly accepted characteristics of the Ignatian / Jesuit vision. It ...

- sees life and the whole universe as a gift calling forth wonder and gratefulness;
- gives ample scope to imagination and emotion as well as intellect;
- seeks to find the divine in all things - in all peoples and cultures, in all areas of study and learning, in every human experience, and (for the Christian) especially in the person of Jesus;
- cultivates critical awareness of personal and social evil, but points to God’s love as more powerful than any evil;
- stresses freedom, need for discernment, and responsible action;
- empowers people to become leaders in service, men and women for others, whole persons of solidarity, building a more just and humane world.

“... Like the living tradition of Christian faith, of which it is a part, no number of thematic statements can adequately articulate [the living Ignatian tradition.] At the heart of both traditions stands the living person of Jesus, who cannot be reduced to a series of ideas.

“... It is rather the combination of [these characteristics] and the way they fit together that make the Ignatian vision distinctive and so appropriate for an age in transition - whether from the medieval to the modern in Ignatius’s time, or from the modern to the postmodern in ours.”

*How are you called to embody this vision in your life and work / ministry as colleagues in ministry with the Jesuit? Something to ponder ...*



## COMING THIS FALL ... NEW PROGRAMS

### GOSPEL CONTEMPLATION AND THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES FACILITATED BY JOHN GOVAN, SJ

Open To All

Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Authentic Prayer  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.



Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>  
Transformation into Christ  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
(Followed by Eucharistic Liturgy at 4:15 p.m.)

#### Program Options

Friday Evening only: \$20.00  
Saturday including lunch: \$45.00  
Friday Evening and Saturday including lunch: \$60.00  
Friday Evening and Saturday including lunch + overnight accommodations including breakfast: \$95.00

To Register: Contact Barbara Leggott at [jrhcleve@att.net](mailto:jrhcleve@att.net)  
OR (440) 884- 9300 X10 or register online: [www.jrh-cleveland.org](http://www.jrh-cleveland.org)

### FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

#### FACILITATED BY MARTHA CAMPBELL

Open To Spiritual Directors, Retreat Leaders, Pastoral Ministers, and Those Who Have Experienced the Full Spiritual Exercises

Book Reflection Gatherings ... Details to Follow  
*Spirit of Fire: The Life and Vision of Teilhard de Chardin*  
by Ursula King

Saturday Mornings from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)

October 15, November 19, December 17

We will gather in a spirit of prayer to share reflections and insights based on this biography of Teilhard making application to our lives and ministry.

### NURTURING THE CALL

#### FACILITATED BY MARTHA CAMPBELL AND JANET LEHANE

Open To Leaders/Facilitators of the Parish Retreat Program and the Spirituality Program for Adults

Save These Dates ... Details To Follow

Tuesday Evenings at the JRH from 6:30 - 8:30  
October 25, November 8, November 22, December 6

## This is what we are about ...

We plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development ... We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. ... It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, ... an opportunity for God’s grace to enter and do the rest. + Bishop Ken Untener

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