

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

April 2013

VOL III NO 9



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Resurrection is a faith reality ... and the signs are all about us as spring emerges from the winter thaw. Our program year concludes with the new life of programs being piloted, returning ministers sharing stories of Christ alive in God's people and new horizons in sight as we continue our program development. Here is where we witness the Spirit at work in our ministries:

Praying with St. Ignatius Retreats. Our Lenten retreat at Lakewood Catholic Academy (LCA) concluded this past month.



Witness the smiling faces of the retreat team members (from left to right): Mary Ann Campbell (Retreat Liaison), Marcia Lewan, Sr. Marian Durkin, Patrick Cleary-Burns, Sr. Peggy Duffy and Claudette Matero. The retreat at St. Basil the Great will continue during this coming month.

Nurturing the Call. Ignatian Spirituality Institute participants and grads along with leaders/facilitators of the *Praying with St. Ignatius* Retreat and the St. Ignatius Spirituality Program for Adults will join with our facilitator, **Joe Konen**, for the program: *Exploring Personality Type for Personal Growth and Ministerial Effectiveness*. This three-part program begins on April 11th.

Food for the Journey. Our spring program, *Exploring the Interior Castle with Teresa of Avila*, will conclude this month when participants will find themselves in the Seventh Dwelling Places. Teresa of Avila and Ignatius Loyola have much in common! We have seen how God uses our human gifts and limitations to inform and interpret the spiritual journey.

CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM Module News

Ignatian Spirituality: Grounding for Life and Leadership. This monthly program continues with the Board of Regents at St. Ignatius High School. In addition to our regular monthly session, we will gather for a day of retreat in late April.

Discernment and Decision Making. The pilot program, offered to young adults (ages 25-35), begins this month with an initial session on Saturday, April 13th. There is still time to register.

Contact Pat Cleary- Burns pclearyburns@gmail.com or Eileen Biehl embxcmom@yahoo.com for more information.

The Christian at Work in the World. Participants in this pilot program have experienced a half-day retreat in March with a focus on "A Contemplative Look at the Plight of the Poor." Sharon Bramante, who has designed and developed this program, continues to receive rave reviews for the programs content and design!

**COMING IN MAY ...
IGNATION CURRENTS PROGRAM with
EDWARD P. HAHNENBERG, PhD
Come and Bring a Friend!**

THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK IN THE WORLD: OUR CALLING

Friday, May 17, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Vatican II on the Life of the Laity in the World

At the heart of the renewal called for by the Second Vatican Council was a renewed role for the laity. No other council in the history of the Catholic Church gave such sustained attention to the contributions of the ordinary believer. This evening's program will explore the vision of the council, and ask what it means for each of us as we strive to live out our faith in the midst of our daily lives.

Saturday Program, May 18, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Living Out Our Many Callings

Is my work meaningful? Is my home a site of grace? Are my friendships a form of fellowship with the divine? Do we even consider these ordinary, everyday realities as central to our Christian vocation? For so long we have limited the notion of "vocation" to priesthood and religious life. In the process we have forgotten a basic truth: We are all called by God. Today's program seeks to reclaim the rich notion of vocation and apply it to all aspects of our lives. Through a wide-ranging conversation that draws on history, theology, contemporary culture, and—in a special way—the spiritual vision of St. Ignatius of Loyola, we will each begin to discover our own answer to the poet Mary Oliver's pressing question: "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" The day will include input, time for personal prayer, as well as small and large group sharing.

See registration details on p. 2 of this newsletter.



DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

RESURRECTION

A Reflection by Willigis Jager. OSB

Easter was an event that took place *in* the disciples. *Resurrection* is not a word for an experience that can be integrated into the categories of time and space. Anyone who removes the Resurrection from the level of symbolism and forces it into the historical domain has misunderstood the message. The message of Easter is attested to by men and women who experienced Jesus as the survivor, as the deathless One. The empty tomb, the angel, the journey to Emmaus, are expressions for this inner experience. The Greek word *ophthe* (reveal) in 1 Corinthians 15:5 suggests that Jesus wasn't simply seen by his disciples. He was revealed or announced to them.

Hence it was not a meeting with a physical interlocutor, even though the gospels describe it that way: Thomas laid his hand *in* Jesus' side, Jesus ate with them, and so on. Rather, it was an inner experience. "Then their eyes were opened." So we aren't talking about magical, parapsychic, miraculous experiences, but inner certainty. Resurrection is the disciples' experience that this life isn't everything, that, just as Jesus entered a new existence, they, too, would enter a new existence. Life can't die. It will go on. ...

Our superficial ego doesn't enter the new existence. In that existence this life of God emerges once more in a form, but it doesn't have to be the form that we have now. We are so tensed up in our ego that we think we have to save it forever. But our true identity isn't wed to this ego. We overstress it. Our true identity lies much deeper. We can't comprehend that it's the divine life itself, regardless in what form we rise again. Basically we aren't giving God, this divine life, a chance. We are constantly trying to stem its flow and keep it in check.

The inner experiences are what the accounts of Jesus' appearances aim to express. Paul meets the risen Christ as a persecutor and through his experience becomes a different person. At the same time the risen Christ identifies himself with humans: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

In the Resurrection of Jesus the disciples experientially crossed the frontier between death and life. The point is to experience this eternal life, regardless of the form we may emerge in after death. ... There is no death; dying is only the great transformation into a new existence. ...

We celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we celebrate our own death and our own resurrection. We celebrate what we are in the profoundest sense; the risen ones, even though it has not yet become apparent.

Excerpted from *Search for the Meaning of Life*, pp. 240-241

RESURRECTION

There is no death; dying is only the great transformation into a new existence.

-Willigis Jäger, OSB

LAY LEADERSHIP OFFERINGS ...

Ignatian Currents

Facilitated by Ed Hahnenberg, PhD
The Christian at Work in the World: Our Calling
OPEN TO ALL

Friday, May 17th

Vatican II on the Life of the Laity in the World
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 18th

Living Out Our Many Callings
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Although the programs can be taken separately, consider participating in both offerings to receive the full benefit of the experience.

Program Options

Friday Evening Only: \$25.00

Saturday including lunch: \$50.00

Friday Evening and Saturday including lunch: \$65.00

Friday Evening and Saturday including lunch + overnight accommodations including breakfast: \$98.00

To Register: Contact Barbara Leggett at
jrhcleve@att.net OR (440) 884-9300 OR register online:

www.jrh-cleveland.org

Food for the Journey

EXPLORING THE INTERIOR CASTLE
WITH TERESA OF AVILA

Continuation of the Series

Facilitated by Martha Campbell

Saturday Mornings from 9:30 - 11:30

(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)

April 20

Held at The Franciscan Center, Garfield Heights

Nurturing the Call

EXPLORING PERSONALITY TYPE FOR PERSONAL GROWTH
AND MINISTERIAL EFFECTIVENESS

Facilitated by Joe Konen

Open to Leaders/Facilitators of the Parish Retreat Program and the St. Ignatius & Walsh Spirituality Program for Adults

Thursday Evenings from 6:30 - 8:30

(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 6:00 p.m.)

April 11, April 25 and May 9

Held at St. Ignatius High School



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