

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

January 2013

VOL III NO 6



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we begin another year of grace, we look to the Spirit for guidance in navigating the challenging national fiscal times and the daunting crisis we have witnessed in the recent devastation of life in Newtown, CT. I sit with the rule of life offered in 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-17 - "Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus" - and find gratitude for all the light being shed by our dedicated ministers here in northeast Ohio. Here is where you will find us:

Praying with St. Ignatius Retreats. Our Lenten retreats will take place at **St. Basil the Great (Brecksville)** and at **Lakewood Catholic Academy (LCA)**. Retreat teams are now formed and preparations have begun. The retreat at **St. Basil the Great** will be held on Tuesday evenings beginning on February 26th. The Wednesday evening retreat for parents at **Lakewood Catholic Academy** will begin on February 6th. Please pray for our retreat teams and for all who will be participating in these retreats.

Nurturing the Call. We are now preparing for our spring series which will take place on April 11th, April 25th and May 9th. Leaders/Facilitators of the Praying with St. Ignatius Retreat and the St. Ignatius and Walsh Jesuit Spirituality Programs for Adults will join with our facilitator, Joe Konen for the program: Exploring Personality Type for Personal Growth and Ministerial Effectiveness. Some details are found on pg. 2 of this e-newsletter. More details will be forthcoming. Mark your calendars for this informative and formative program!

Food for the Journey. Our December gathering continued the process of applying Teresa of Avila's *Interior Castle* to our ministries of spiritual direction, retreat leadership and pastoral ministry. Reflecting together on the Fourth Dwelling Places of Teresa's spiritual classic, 17 leaders gathered in community and participated in a spiritual formation process which included ritual and conversation. The series continues on February 19th.



THE LOYOLA EXPERIENCE

Ignatius Spirituality Institute Anniversary Pilgrimage to Spain

June 13 - 22, 2013

All are welcome! Don't miss this opportunity!

For information contact Carol Polish

cpolish@jcu.edu or (216) 397-1599

CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM

The **Called and Sent Program**, a spiritual formation program designed to nurture spiritual deepening in individuals and communities for service of Christ's mission in the world, was designed during the 2010 - 2011 program year. At that time, an Advisory Council which included Andy Bramante, Rita Carfagna, Marie Gillich, csj, Nancy Rowell, and Phil Sterrett met with me to develop this program. It is comprised of six modules which are grounded in the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*. They include:

- ◆ Ignatian Spirituality: Grounding for Life
- ◆ Encountering the Living God through Jesus
- ◆ Discernment and Decision Making
- ◆ The Christian at Work in the World
- ◆ Embracing Life, Embracing Death
- ◆ Living Prayer: My Life in God



To date, two modules have been designed and developed. They are:

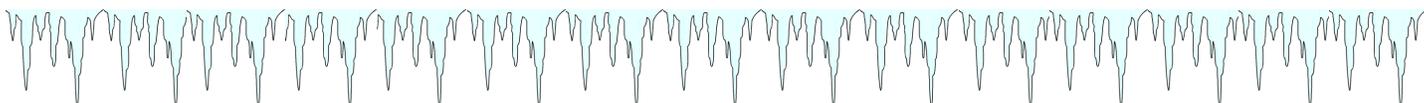
Ignatian Spirituality: Grounding for Life and Leadership. Piloted last spring, the program is now being offered for the first time to 16 members of the Board of Regents at St. Ignatius High School. Martha Campbell and Rich Jerdonek co-facilitate the series.

Living Prayer: My Life in God. Also piloted last spring, this program from Blessed Ignace of Loyola has been well received by participants.



Called and Sent Roundtable Members: Eileen Biehl, Patrick Cleary-Burns, Sharon Bramante

Currently, two modules are being designed and developed: **Discernment and Decision Making** and **The Christian at Work in the World**. Regular roundtable meetings provide opportunity for the program developers to share ideas and gain support. Members of these Roundtable Meetings include: Eileen Biehl, Sharon Bramante, Pat Cleary-Burns, Laura Kuhn, and Martha Campbell. Look for pilots in the spring!





DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER



Gratitude

A Reflection for the New Year by Mary Millerd*

Why is it important to live our lives in gratitude?

Gratitude is a luscious experience. It wells up within us, and our body feels the wonder of its flow. Gratitude creates inner spaciousness that allows us to rest in the order of life—as it is. With gratitude we attune to our own rhythm, body, and soul, which helps us to find our place in relationships, and in the situations of our life. The generosity of our experience supports us to be generous.

Gratitude supports us to trust life. In the fullness of our experience of gratitude we do not grasp, cling, or force life energy into our expectation. Instead room is created to connect with our deep wisdom. Wisdom roots us in our talents, our creativity, our possibilities, and our limitations. Gratitude creates room for playfulness, ease, and a sense of adventure.

Gratitude involves listening on many levels. It allows us to hear the meaning behind words, to see meaning reflected in one's body, in one's life, and in the silence where our souls commune. Gratitude is not afraid of pain; it remains open and receives compassionate listening for every nuance of what may need communication and response.

Gratitude allows us to discern our choices. Since gratitude is an energy that accepts what is, we no longer look for the right thing to do in life. Gratitude allows us to feel our lives, to know what the experiences of our life mean to us. We let the life we are living now inform our next step. We learn our yes and our no, what we like, and do not like, what we want, and what we do not want. We become co-creators with all of life.

Gratitude wakes us up and makes us feel alive. It is about feeling and knowing our connection to the flow of life that is within. From this place we are usually led to care for ourselves, others, and the world—because we are one. Rooted in gratitude, our response takes into consideration the wellbeing of all.

As the New Year begins, consider reflecting on how you might be called to develop an attitude of gratefulness. You might consider subscribing to the daily email reflections offered by Brother David Steindl-Rast at www.gratefulness.org

*Reprinted from Listen: A Seeker's Resource for Spiritual Direction, V. 4. # 4.



A PRACTICE FOR THE NEW YEAR

“Although we may not feel grateful for some of the events in our lives,
we can set an intention to live out of the energy, the spaciousness that gratitude gives us.”

- Brother David Steindl-Rast, OSB

COMING IN 2013 ... SAVE THESE DATES

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY EXPLORING THE INTERIOR CASTLE WITH TERESA OF AVILA Continuation of the Fall Series Facilitated by Martha Campbell



Open to those who participated in the Fall Series

Saturday Mornings from 9:30 - 11:30
(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)
January 19, February 16, March 16, 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
Register deadline: Monday, March 11th
To register contact Janet Lehane at
jlehane@ignatius.edu



LIVING GOD'S DREAM

Don't miss this opportunity to experience international
Ignatian Leader, Margaret Silf, at Villa Maria Education
and Spirituality Center in Villa Maria, PA on
April 11-13, 2013. For more information or to register
visit www.villaprograms.org



IGNATIAN CURRENTS Facilitated by Ed Hahnenberg, PhD The Christian at Work in the World: Our Calling

Friday, May 17th from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 18th from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Held at the Jesuit Retreat House
Mark your calendar - Details to follow

Lay Leadership Program - Martha Campbell, Director

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