

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

June 2013

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

See, I am doing something new!
Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
Isaiah 43:19



With the coming of summer, we move into a time of "Program Examen." We look back at our past program year in gratitude and forward with an eye to the future, learning from our experience. We anticipate with hope the "something new" God is bringing forth with our cooperation!

Ignatian Currents Program. On May 17th and 18th, 37 participants gathered for the program, "The Christian at Work in the World: Our Calling" which was facilitated by Dr. Ed Hahnenberg of John Carroll University. See pg. 2 for details on the forthcoming October Ignatian Currents program.



Participants, Ron Martone, Amy McKenna and Helene Beer pause with May Facilitator, Ed Hahnenberg, PhD (3rd from right)

Praying with St. Ignatius Retreats. Having completed our spring retreats, we will be reviewing and revising our retreat materials as we plan for the 2013-2014 program year. We look forward to offering the retreat at Jesuit Retreat House on Monday mornings beginning September 16th and also at St. Mary's, Hudson on Thursday evenings beginning September 26th.

Nurturing the Call. Janet Lehane and Sr. Mary Ann Burke will join with me in offering our fall program for our *Praying with St. Ignatius and Spirituality Program for Adults* retreat leaders. Our fall program will offer opportunity to hone the skill involved in leading the "Gospel Contemplation" prayer form to large groups. (See pg. 2 for further details.)

Food for the Journey. A group of six interested participants joined with me in designating our focus for the coming year. We will reflect together on the "process of conversion" in the lives of Augustine of Hippo and Francis of Assisi. (See pg. 2 for fall program details.)

Ignatian Spirituality Collaborative. At its spring meeting, the Collaborative participants determined that we will move to tri-annual meetings. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 25th, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at Jesuit Retreat House.

CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM

Module News. Thanks to the many leaders who offered inspiration and guidance, four modules of the *Called and Sent Spiritual Program* were offered during this past program year. We recognize the following skilled, prayerful and effective leaders: Rich Jerdonek (Ignatian Spirituality: Grounding for Life and Leadership); Nancy Rowell, Patrick Cleary-Burns, John Carlson, Janet Lehane, Agnes Strada, Sr. Mary Ann Spangler, Marla Loehr (Living Prayer: My Life in God); Sharon Bramante (The Christian at Work in the World); Eileen Biehl and Patrick Cleary-Burns (Discernment and Decision-Making). Planning for two new modules is underway! Please pray for us!

Participants in the Christian at Work in the World Module pause after the closing ritual of the program on June 4th



Back Row: Denise Fink, Ed Bourguignon, Sharon Bramante, Chris Madsen, Claudette Matero, Bruce Cooley; Front: Andrea McGovern, Kathy Michael (Not pictured: Peter Catanzaro)

Grant Awarded. The Called and Sent Program was awarded a generous grant from an anonymous national donor. This grant along with the previous one received from F.I.S.H. Foundation is allowing us to engage the expertise of a graphic design artist, Debbie Riddle. Debbie has already worked with our staff in preparation for her first drafts of original marketing materials for the Called and Sent Program.



Welcome, Debbie Riddle!



DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

DISCOVERING OUR FUNDAMENTAL GRACE

A Reflection by Paul Coutinho, SJ

Journeying together with the great pilgrim, Ignatius, our one desire and choice on this journey should be what is more conducive to the end for which we are created namely, to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord (SE 23). We live in intimacy with the Divine, are drawn into greater union and communion with the Divine Essence, and experience interconnectedness with all of life. This, I believe, is the cornerstone of the Ignatian pathway and the *Spiritual Exercises*. ...

If the way we relate with God and our prayer has not changed in the last few years, then maybe, just maybe, we might not know God, nor have a relationship with God. Perhaps we have a theology, a concept, or some idea that has been passed down to us. The *Spiritual Exercises* of Ignatius introduce us to a relationship with the living God and help us grow into mystics who live the fullness of life in peace and freedom.

What does it mean to have a relationship with God and see the face of the Divine? One way to understand this is to discover our fundamental grace. Each of us has one fundamental grace. Sometimes this grace is revealed through a foundational experience. It is important to recognize our foundational experience because all the other graces in our life will be a deepening or an expression of that one grace. That grace will give us the authority for the life that we live and the things that we do. In times of crisis, when everything seems dark and hopeless, we will fall back on the grace of our foundational experience to find enlightenment, to see what is real and what is not. Our foundational experience is often expressed as the meaning and the message of our lives and keeps us connected in continual relationship with God.

Ignatius gives us a method of discovering our fundamental grace. He invites us to go over our lives year by year, period by period, to become aware of our experiences at different places we have lived and reflect on our relationships with people and our work. We will see the pattern that sustained us and kept us alive and moving ahead in life. In that pattern we will discover our fundamental grace. Ignatius will show us how to name that grace and make it the focus of our life and the source of our inspiration and strength at all times. (To be continued)

Excerpted from *An Ignatian Pathway*, pp. xv - xvii



COMING THIS FALL ... NEW PROGRAMS ... SAVE THE DATES

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

The Process of Conversion in the Life of Augustine of Hippo

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 - 11:30
(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)
September 14
November 9
December 14

NURTURING THE CALL

Open to Leaders/Facilitators of *Praying with St. Ignatius* 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.)
October 24
November 7
November 21
Saturday Morning from 9:30 - 11:30
(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)
December 7

IGNATIAN CURRENTS

EMBRACING GOD'S LOVE IN THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA



Facilitated by Janice Bachman, OP

OPEN TO ALL

Friday, October 24th
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 25th
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



DISCERNING MY FUNDAMENTAL GRACE

Each of us has one fundamental grace. This grace is revealed through a foundational experience. It is important to recognize our foundational experience because all the other graces in our life will be a deepening of that one grace.

- Paul Coutinho, SJ

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