

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

MARCH 2013

VOL III NO 8



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Yes! Spring arrives this month and with it a shift from winter incubation to spring re-birth. This winter-to-spring transition mirrors the hope for spiritual awakening expressed in our Lenten observance. The programs in lay leadership continue to invite new possibilities for spiritual renewal.

Praying with St. Ignatius Retreats. Our Lenten retreats at **St. Basil the Great (Brecksville)** and at **Lakewood Catholic Academy (LCA)** continue this month. Please pray for our retreat teams and for all who are participating in these retreats. Remote preparation for our fall retreats are in the works with Jean Sullivan and Amy McKenna offering leadership around our new marketing efforts. Stay tuned ...

Nurturing the Call. March 11th is the registration deadline for our spring program. Ignatian Spirituality Institute Participants and Grads along with Leaders/Facilitators of the Praying with St. Ignatius Retreat and the St. Ignatius Spirituality Programs for Adults will join with our facilitator, **Joe Konen** for the program: **Exploring Personality Type for Personal Growth and Ministerial Effectiveness.** Details are found on pg. 2 of this e-newsletter. Registration deadline: March 11th.

Food for the Journey. Our February 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 Sixth Dwelling Places of Teresa's spiritual classic, 15 leaders gathered in community and engaged in a spiritual formation process which included prayer, reflection and conversation. The series continues on March 16th.

CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM Module News

Ignatian Spirituality: Grounding for Life and Leadership. This monthly program continues to be offered to 14 members of the Board of Regents at St. Ignatius High School. Our fourth session, which was held on March 4th, focused on Ignatian discernment of spirits and the practice of the Examen. Martha Campbell and Rich Jerdonek co-facilitate the series.

Living Prayer: My Life in God. Piloted last spring, this program was offered this past fall to 33 participants from Blessed Trinity Parish. Plans are being made for the program to be offered again in the fall.

Discernment and Decision Making. The design and development of this program is nearing completion and its leaders, Eileen Biehl and Patrick Cleary Burns, are planning to

We are looking for participants! Can you help? Contact Pat pclearyburns@gmail.com or Eileen embxcmom@yahoo.com for more information.

The Christian at Work in the World. This program which emphasizes Catholic Social Teaching and its application to real life situations held its first and second sessions on February 12th and March 5th with 8 participants who have gathered at Communion of Saints Church on Coventry Road to begin the program. Topics included "Openness to Transformation - Walking with Christ Poor" and "A Look at Our Culture from the Eyes of Christ." This pilot program, facilitated by Sharon Bramante, continues this month.

COMING IN MAY ...

IGNATION CURRENTS PROGRAM

THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK IN THE WORLD: OUR CALLING

Meet Our Presenter



Edward P. Hahnenberg, PhD

Dr. Hahnenberg is the Jack and Mary Jane Breen Chair in Catholic Systematic Theology at John Carroll University in Cleveland, OH. In addition to numerous journal articles and two other books, he is the author of *Awakening Vocation: A Theology of Christian Call* (Liturgical Press, 2010). He is currently delegate to the U.S. Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue and was a theological consultant to the U.S. Bishops Subcommittee on Lay Ministry in its preparation of the document *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*. In 2011 Dr. Hahnenberg received the Spirit of the Conference Award from the National Association for Lay Ministry in recognition of his contributions to the church's ministerial life. A noted and engaging speaker, he has inspired audiences in both local and national settings. He will join us for our spring Ignatian Currents Program where he will offer insights on Vatican II and our calling to live as the baptized in the World. See the next page for some program details.



DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

WE ARE ALL MYSTICS A Reflection by Monty Williams, SJ

We are all mystics. It is our nature. Our truest sense of our selves is inseparably rooted in God, and our identity stems from our lived awareness of that union. Often we live unaware of who we are; the depths of ourselves are forgotten in the round of daily life. We forget God as our constant living source. Then our connection with God withers. But God is the Passionate One who desires us, and for whom every fiber of our being reaches out. Though we may live and die cut off from God, God never withdraws the divine love from us.

The path to intimacy brings us into the awareness that we are created as desire for God, and that nothing or no one satisfies us totally but the One who desires us. When we discover ourselves as desire, drawn in desire by Desire, we discover a passionate God who not only wants to bring us to fullness of life but shares with us the desire to bring everyone to that delight in life.

The gift of such radical intimacy is offered to all. It is a gift we are free to accept or to refuse. Should we accept, we are further invited to open, use, share, and finally celebrate that gift. God offers us a passionate relationship, but we may refuse it, fearing that it will require us to give up something. ...

We may accept a gift, but not open it. Such is the case of the person who is given one talent and buries it (Matthew 25:14-30).

We may open the gift, but not use it. Think of those cultures where the living room is used only for funerals or for the formal visits of important people.

We may use the gift but never share it. Like a gated community one has to be a member to enjoy the gift.

And, finally, we may open, use, and share the gift, but not celebrate it. Some people are committed to the poor and dispossessed. With amazing courage and witness, they have entered the dark places of the world, giving no thought to self and sacrificing themselves to bring life to the voiceless and the oppressed by creatively living in solidarity with them. To these, the path of intimacy offers a further gift: celebrating life. ... The resurrection is present in this world, celebrated as a life the world cannot understand or give in this life.

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius give us a guide to [the path of spiritual intimacy]. They dispose us to be open, to accept, and to participate in the Divine Love that labors to bring all to this fulfillment of [our deepest] desire..

*Reprinted from *The Gift of Spiritual Intimacy*, pp. 11-13

LAY LEADERSHIP OFFERINGS ...

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.)

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

Ignatian Currents

Facilitated by Ed Hahnenberg, PhD

The Christian at Work in the World: Our Calling
OPEN TO ALL - MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

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

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- Monty Williams, SJ



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