

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

OCTOBER 2013

VOL IV NO 3



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Autumn is a wondrous metaphor for the transformation that takes place in the human heart each season." These words of Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr from their book, *The Circle of Life*, aptly describe our autumn ministry as we serve Christ's mission of transformation - one person at a time, one community at a time. See where Christ has called us:

Praying with St. Ignatius Retreats. This 8-week retreat-in-daily-life began at **Jesuit Retreat House** on Monday, September 16th with 11 retreatants participating. 49 retreatants began their retreat at **St. Mary's Parish (Hudson)** on Thursday, September 26th. We began our pilot of an adapted six-week retreat at Gesu Parish on Wednesday, October 2nd with 12 retreatants.



Joining Christ in mission are these **fall retreat leaders**: (back row) Dottie Rieman, Kathy Michael, Judi Charlillo, Andrea McGovern, Mary Downey, Paul Barbins, Sr. Peggy Duffy, Joan Carney, (front row) Marla Loehr, Marcia Lewan, Kathy Haag and Jean Sullivan. (not pictured) Diane Anthony and Joanne Sheldon.

Nurturing the Call. We will begin our three-part series this month as we focus on "Guiding Gospel Contemplation for Large Groups." Mary Ann Burke, SND, Martha Campbell and Janet Lehane will facilitate these sessions. In addition, a Saturday morning session will be held. See next page for some additional information. Time to register!

Food for the Journey. This program which focuses on "The Process of Conversion in the Life of Augustine of Hippo" continues in November. See more details on the next page.

CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM Module News

Welcome to **Ignatian Adulthood: A Program in Discernment and Decision-Making**, designed for young adults in their 20s and 30s, held its first session on September 30th. Program leaders **Patrick Cleary-Burns** and **Megan Wilson-Reitz** gathered with 6 new participants and 2 returning young adult leaders, **Jason Ruegg** and **Carl Russo**.

Other modules of this formation program will be offered during the coming year. Stay tuned for details.

COMING THIS MONTH...

Time to Register!

Ignatian Currents Program



Janice Bachman, OP

Embracing God's Love in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola

Friday, October 25th
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Coffee and Conversation from 6:30 p.m.

FREEDOM TO LOVE AND BE LOVED

Choosing freedom to love and be loved is a central transformative dynamic in the Spiritual Exercises. This evening's presentation will explore the experience of choosing freedom, what helps and hinders our choosing from both a psychological and spiritual perspective. The psychology of twentieth-century Swiss psychoanalyst, Carl Jung, will be used to interact with and unpack some of the dynamics in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Saturday, October 26th
9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Coffee and Conversation from 8:30 a.m.

EMBRACING GOD'S TRANSFORMING LOVE

How can we more fully embrace God's transforming love? What helps us to be receptive to this love? Applying the psychology of twentieth-century Swiss psychoanalyst, Carl Jung, to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, we will focus on how our image of God gets formed, "The Principle and Foundation" of the Spiritual Exercises and the desires of the authentic Self. We will explore "The Call of the King," Ignatian contemplation and the practice advocated by Carl Jung called active imagination. The day will include input, experience-based learning as well as small and large group sharing.

See further details on the next page.



**DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS -
SOMETHING TO PONDER
THE SACRAMENT OF LETTING GO***
A Reflection by Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB

I worry too much. Autumn trees ask me not to worry. They, like Jesus, suggest trust rather than worry. So often in autumn I want to go lean my head against a tree and ask what it feels like to lose so much, to be so empty, so detached, to take off one's shoes, and then simply to stand and wait for God's refilling. It sounds so simple, so easy. It isn't easy. But it's possible.

I think I've met one person in my lifetime who was truly empty. I didn't ask her what it felt like, but I remember a quiet joy that seemed to permeate her spirit, and she looked free.

We autumn strugglers must try hard not to wear discouragement as a cloak if we can't wear enough emptiness to make us free. Even wanting to be empty takes a long time.

Our hearts are hungering for the *Sacrament of Letting Go*. Once we discover that we already possess enough grace to let go, trust begins to form in the center of who we are. Then we can take off our shoes and stand empty and vulnerable, eager to receive God's next gift.

And let us pray for one another, for emptying is painful, and the Body of Christ who we are calls us to support each other in this autumn effort. The Body of Christ also stands stripped, crucified, waiting for the new life that each of us can bring to it.

Slowly she celebrated the sacrament of *letting go* first she surrendered her *green*, then the *orange*, *yellow*, and *red*, finally she let go of her *brown*, shedding her last leaf, she stood empty and silent, stripped bare. Leaning against the winter sky she began her vigil of trust.

And Jesus said:

Why do you worry about clothes? Remember the flowers growing in the fields; they do not fret about what to wear; yet I assure you not even Solomon in all his royal robes was dressed like one of these.

Shedding her last leaf she watched its journey to the ground. She stood in silence wearing the color of emptiness, her branches wondering:

How do you give shade with so much gone?

And Jesus said:

Do not be troubled or needlessly concerned. And then, the sacrament of waiting began.

*Adapted from *Seasons of Your Heart*, pp. 7-8

The Sacrament of Letting Go

Let us pray for one another, for emptying is painful, and the Body of Christ who we are calls us to support each other in this autumn effort. The Body of Christ stands waiting for the new life that each of us can bring to it.
-Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB

FALL PROGRAMS

**IGNATIAN CURRENTS PROGRAM
EMBRACING GOD'S LOVE
IN THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA**
Facilitated by Janice Bachman, OP
OPEN TO ALL



Friday, October 25th
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 26th
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Although the programs can be taken separately, it is encouraged that you participate in both the Friday and Saturday programs to receive the full benefit of the experience.

Time to register!

Online at www.jrh-cleveland.org or by phone with Barbara Leggott at the JRH, 440-884-9300

**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 Exercises
Saturday Mornings from 9:30 - 11:30
(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)
September 14, November 9, December 14
Held at The Franciscan Center, Garfield Heights, OH

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.)
Guiding Gospel Contemplation for Large Groups
October 24, November 7, November 21

AND / OR

The Spiritual Exercises: Renewal and Dynamics
Saturday Morning from 9:30 - 11:30
(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)
December 7

Register by October 17th with Janet Lehane @
jlehane@ignatius.edu



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