

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the fall program season begins, we are sobered by the potential of war in Syria. Pope Francis is calling for a day of fasting and prayer for peace in Syria on **Saturday, September 7th** (See the full text of his September 1st Angelus Address: <http://www.news.va/en/news/pope-angelus-appeal-for-peace-full-text>) Regarding this situation, Jesuit Fr. General Adolfo Nicolas, in a September 4th interview, is quite candid and direct and particularly challenging to his US readers. (See <http://www.sjweb.info/news/index.cfm?Tab=2&PubLang=1>) As we join with the world in praying for peace, our desire and efforts to be with Christ on mission continues to bring peace to our small part of the world. Here is an update:

Praying with St. Ignatius Retreats. This 8-week retreat-in-daily-life will be offered this fall at **Jesuit Retreat House** on Monday mornings from 9:30 - 11:30 beginning September 16th. The retreat will be led by Jean Sullivan and team members include Paul Barbins, Judi Charlillo, Marla Loehr and Dottie Rieman. Kathy Haag and Marcia Lewan are the co-leaders for the retreat at **St. Mary's (Hudson)** which will be held on Thursday evenings from 7 - 9 beginning September 26th. Team members include Diane Anthony, Peggy Duffy, osu, Jean Sullivan and Andrea McGovern. Joan Carney and Mary Downey are working on adapting the format to a 6-week retreat-in-daily-life. It will be piloted this fall with parents of elementary school-age children at **Gesu Parish**.

Nurturing the Call. This program, a three-part series for leaders of the JRH Praying with St. Ignatius Retreat and the Spirituality Program for Adults at St. Ignatius and Walsh Jesuit High School, will be offered this fall by Mary Ann Burke, SND, Martha Campbell and Janet Lehane. In addition, a Saturday morning session will be held. See next page for some additional information. More information to follow.

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

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

COMING IN OCTOBER...

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.



CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM

Welcome to **Ignatian Adulthood: A Program in Discernment and Decision-Making** will be offered by **Patrick Cleary-Burns** and **Megan Wilson-Reitz** at Jesuit Retreat House this fall on Mondays from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. on September 30th, October 14 and October 28th. The module includes a day of retreat which will be offered on November 16th at The Franciscan Center in Garfield Heights from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The program is designed for young adults in their 20s and 30s. Contact Patrick for more information and to suggest a young adult who may be interested in this program: pclearyburns@gmail.com



**DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS -
SOMETHING TO PONDER
BECOME ASTONISHED!***

A Reflection by Pegge Bernecker

Several months ago, cosmologist Brian Swimme spoke two words, garnishing my complete attention: "Become astonished!" His directive guides my daily interactions with people, my work, and my own inner aliveness. Five syllables in two simple words accompany me during difficult, vulnerable times, as a mantra to see with new eyes, and to love with an increasingly broad, courageous heart.

As I intentionally integrated *become astonished* into my contemplative practice, another question posed itself to me, asked by physicist, Arthur Zajonc: "Is it possible to be alive, active in the world, and yet have such calm, such kind of inner openness and presence that one can lead a life, at least in part, that is an expression of that quality of meditative quiescence that's on the one hand quite alert and on the other hand, completely at ease, completely at rest?"

Yes, I believe it is possible. I want to be astonished. I want to be alert, and at ease, both calm and vivid in my inner aliveness, able to respond with immediacy and presence. And, I want this for you too.

To *become astonished* is not as simple as I initially anticipated. Every time I write a series of numbers and letters on an envelope, stick a postage stamp in the upper right corner, and create a piece of mail, I *become astonished* about how a piece of paper can travel from here to anywhere. Potential is everywhere. And yet, I discover that complexities of thought, emotion, busyness, and fatigue stall me, diverting my attention away from the gift of astonishment, surprise, wonder, and mystery.

Why would it be valuable to cultivate the contemplative practice of astonishment? My intuition and experience inform me that our willingness to *become astonished* by someone or something develops compassion, integrity, kindness, creative action, forgiveness, and a heightened ability to be fully human, fully alive. ...

Will you please seek to *become astonished*, at least once, every day? I urge you to be willing to be surprised. If you say yes, I imagine your life and inner aliveness will become more peaceful, transparent, and vital. You will grow in service and compassion. Gratefulness for your experiences in daily living will increase. Envision the daily stories you can share with family, friends, and spiritual companions! Do it – look around, glance within – *become astonished*.

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

COMING THIS FALL ... NEW 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.

Program Options

Friday Evening Only: \$25

Saturday including lunch: \$50

Friday Evening and Saturday including lunch: \$65

Friday Evening and Saturday including lunch + overnight accommodations including breakfast: \$98

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.)

October 24, November 7, November 21

AND / OR

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

Become Astonished!

My intuition and experience inform me that our willingness to *become astonished* by someone or something develops compassion, integrity, kindness, creative action, forgiveness, and a heightened ability to be fully human, fully alive.

Pegge Bernaker



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