

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

December 2014

VOL V NO 5



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we begin a new liturgical year with the season of Advent we are challenged to take up our baptismal call to be prophets of the Messiah: to straighten the crooked roads of our lives, to transform “deserts” barren of love into places of welcome and reconciliation, to gather up the lost and forgotten, and to proclaim the coming of God’s Christ in our midst. Here is how we are presently engaged in our call:

Praying with St. Ignatius Retreats. The retreats at **Our Lady of the Lake** and **Blessed Trinity** parishes concluded in November. Members of the two retreats teams that served at these parishes came together on December 3rd to share stories of their experiences and to review “best practices.” Pictured below are the team members:



Front Row: Jean Sullivan, Liz Nau, Claudette Matero, Jackie Krejcik.

Middle Row: Peggy Duffy, osu, Mary Ann Burke, snd, Agnes Strada, Margaret Balewski, Sandy Appeldorn.

Back Row: Bill Hunt, Kathy Michael, Carl Toomey, Patrick Cleary-Burns (Not pictured - Sue Palmer)

Nurturing the Call. On December 13th, **Janet Lehane** and **Martha Campbell** will co-lead a morning program for 15 retreat leaders focusing on “Guiding Gospel Contemplation for Large Groups.” Beginning on Sunday, January 25th, **Joan Nuth** and **Martha Campbell** will begin a semester-long program which will prepare graduates of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute to lead contemplative group retreats. Limited to 8 participants this program is a joint effort of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute at John Carroll University and Jesuit Retreat House.

Food for the Journey. The fall book reflection program which focused on the process of conversion as witnessed in *The Spiral Staircase*, a memoir by Karen Armstrong, concluded on December 6th. One participant reflected, “So much contributed to opening heart and mind to God and to each other.” Another commented, “I looked forward to this reflection group with these fantastic people.”



CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM - MODULE NEWS

Ignatian Foundations. 12 members of the Board of Regents at St. Ignatius High School will gather for the fourth of this 7-part module on January 12th. **Martha Campbell** and **Rich Jerdonek** team up to co-lead the series. Offering a mid-way evaluation, one participant summarized his experience, “Everything is done in a very thoughtful, intelligent, faith-filled way. I like the way the program is conducted. I like the way it ties the material to our work on the Board.”

Encountering Jesus Christ. **Andy Kereky**, who designed and developed this module, completed the pilot of this program with a retreat day on November 15th. Offering the program in both day and evening sessions allowed for the participation of 48 individuals. One participant summarized her experience, “My prayer life has greatly increased and I look forward to getting closer to God ... and becoming more active in my community - being a light.”

Discernment and Decision Making. 25 participants completed this program which ended with a day-long retreat on November 15th. Co-led by **Janet Lehane** and **Patrick Cleary-Burns**, who designed and developed the program, the participants engaged in an applied experience of the Ignatian “Rules for Discernment.” One participant reflected, “I come away with awareness that discernment is not just for spiritual decisions. All decisions of life are discernments directed to the good God and what God desires for us.”

The Christian at Work in the World. One aspect of this module will be offered to parishioners at **St. Basil the Great Parish, Brecksville** beginning on Tuesday evening, February 7th. Comprised of three two-hour sessions and a half-day retreat, the module will focus on finding God in daily work. **Claudette Matero** will co-lead the program with **Sharon Bramante**, who designed and developed it.

Embracing the Mystery. **Karen Broer** and **Joan Carney**, who collaborated in the design of this program, will begin its pilot on January 10th. Comprised of three three-hour sessions and an overnight retreat, the program will be offered to spiritual directors, retreat leaders, pastoral ministers and those who have made the full *Spiritual Exercises*.

Living Prayer. This 6-session retreat-in-daily life will be offered at **St. Clarence Parish, North Olmsted** beginning on February 17th. Co-led by **Martha Campbell** and **Amy McKenna**, the retreat will offer a diversity of prayer practices and focus on the theme of “gratitude.” Team members for this retreat include: **Mary Ann Campbell**, **Patrick Cleary-Burns**, **John Carlson**, **Jackie Krejcik** and **Susan Antall**.



DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER



Advent and Desire: A Meditation* A Reflection by James Martin, SJ

Advent is a time of *desire*. We desire the coming of Christ into our lives. The readings from the Book of Isaiah reveal even the earth desiring the presence of God. The wonderful "O antiphons," sung at evening prayer and during the Gospel acclamations towards the end of Advent, speak of Christ at the "King of Nations and their Desire." ...

Holy desires are different than surface wants, like "I want a new car" or "I want a new computer." Instead I'm talking about our deepest desires, the ones that shape our lives: desires that help us know who we are to become and what we are to do. Our deep desires help us know God's desires for us, and how much God desires to be with us.

And our deepest desires, those desires that lead us to become who we are, are God's desires for us. They are ways that God speaks to you directly, one way that, as Ignatius says, the Creator deals with the creature. They are also the way that God fulfills God's own dreams for the world, by calling people to certain tasks.

These are a few reasons why Ignatius asks us repeatedly in the *Spiritual Exercises* to pray for what we want. At the beginning of each prayer, Ignatius asks you to ask God "for what I want and desire." For instance, if you are meditating on the life of Jesus, you ask for a deeper knowledge of Jesus. It reminds you of the importance of *asking* for things in the spiritual life, and of realizing that whatever we receive is a gift from God. ...

Some people find that their deep desires are difficult to identify. What then? Margaret Silf provides one answer in her book, *Inner Compass: An Invitation to Ignatian Spirituality*. She suggests two ways that you may come to know your hidden desires. One is "Outside In" the other "Inside Out." The "Outside-In" approach considers those desires already present, which may point to deeper ones. Desires like "I want a new job" or "I want to move" may signify a longing for greater overall freedom. The "Inside-Out" approach uses archetypal stories as signposts to your desires. What fairy tales, myths, stories, films or novels appeal to you?

Desire is a key part of Christian spirituality because desire is a key way that God's voice is heard in our lives. And our deepest desire, planted within us, is our desire for Christ, the Desire of the Nations.

*Adapted from *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*. New York: Harper One. 2010.



Advent and Desire

Desire is a key part of Christian spirituality because desire is a key way that God's voice is heard in our lives.
What is your desire during this Advent season?

- James Martin, SJ

COMING IN 2015 ... SAVE THESE DATES

EMBRACING THE MYSTERY

A Module of the Called and Sent Spiritual Formation Program

Open to Spiritual Directors, Retreat Leaders, Pastoral Ministers and Those Who have Made the Full Spiritual Exercises

3 Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
January 10, February 14 and March 14

Held at The Franciscan Center, Garfield Heights, OH and an Overnight Retreat, Friday evening, April 10 - Saturday Afternoon, April 11, 2015

Held at Jesuit Retreat House, Parma, OH
Facilitated by Karen Broer and Joan Carney

Extended Registration Deadline: December 15, 2014

Register on-line at www.jrh-cleveland.org or call Barb Leggott at 440-884-9300

NURTURING THE CALL: LEADING CONTEMPLATIVE GROUP PROGRAMS AND RETREATS

Open to Graduates of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute
Beginning with a day-long retreat held at Jesuit Retreat House on Sunday, January 25, 2015 (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) and continuing on 10 Thursday from 7 - 9 p.m. at John Carroll University

January 29, February 12, 19, 26, March 5, 19, 26, April 9, 23, and 30, 2015

(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 6:30 p.m.)

Facilitated by Martha Campbell and Joan Nuth

Contact Martha Campbell campbellmarthal@gmail.com for an application form.

Extended Application deadline: January 5, 2015.

Further details are on-line at www.jrh-cleveland.org

Scholarship Assistance is available for the above programs.

Contact Martha Campbell campbellmarthal@gmail.com to apply for scholarship assistance.

IGNATIUS CURRENTS PROGRAM

SAVE THE DATES

Fr. Joseph A. Tetlow, SJ

WHAT HAS CHRIST TO DO WITH LUNCH?

Living the Christ-Life in the World Based on Pope Francis' Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*

OPEN TO ALL

Friday, May 29, 2015

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 30, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Followed by optional Liturgy of the Eucharist



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