

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

JANUARY 2014

VOL IV NO 6



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

With encouragement from Pope Francis (See "Something to Ponder" on the next page), we open to a renewed encounter with Christ as we continue Christ's mission to God's people in northeast Ohio. Here is where you will find us:

Praying with St. Ignatius, Parish Retreat. On January 16th, retreat leaders will gather to begin preparations for our Lenten retreats. Supported by Joan Carney, Margaret Balewski will be leading the retreat in her home parish, St. Basil the Great (Brecksville). Joan and Margaret will be joined by team members: Mary Ann Burke, SND, Rich Jerdonek, Laura Kuhn, Mary Mondello, Dottie Rieman, Judith Wood, SSJ-TOSF, and Deborah Zawislan. Patrick Cleary-Burns and Claudette Matero will be co-leading the retreat for the parents of students at Lakewood Catholic Academy. Team members include: Peggy Duffy, OSU, Marian Durkin, CSA and Marcia Lewan. Jean Sullivan and Amy McKenna continue their presentations at three more diocesan district meetings this coming month. Their ministry is in preparation of our 2014-2015 program year.

Nurturing the Call. This past December 7th, 14 leaders gathered to view and discuss the DVD, *The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola - Renewal and Dynamics*. One participant reflected, "Hearing first-hand from those Jesuits who were instrumental in renewing the *Spiritual Exercises* in the US was inspiring and offered great background and good perspective". Another reflected, "It was awesome to witness the emerging role of the laity and to see our part in carrying on the Ignatian tradition in Cleveland."



Nurturing the Call Participants: Back Row: Karen Zeleznik, Andrea McGovern, Joan Carney, Marian Durkin, CSA, Mary Ann Burke, SND, Mary Lou Swinerton, Jean Sullivan. Front Row: Agnes Strada, Matt Roche, SJ, Mary Mondello, Margaret Balewski, Claudette Matero, Janet Lehane

Food for the Journey. Beginning January 18th, 30 leaders will participate in this program designed to support ministry reflection and personal spiritual deepening. The series will focus on the process of conversion in the Life of Francis of Assisi.



CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM Module News

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY: GROUNDING FOR LIFE

The six monthly sessions of this spiritual formation module will be offered to the Associates of the Incarnate Word beginning in February 2014. Co-facilitators are **Martha Campbell and Matt Roche, SJ**

LIVING PRAYER: MY LIFE IN GOD

The six weekly sessions of this retreat-in-daily-life will be experienced by the parishioners of St. Mary Parish, Bedford this coming Lent. Co-facilitators, **Martha Campbell and Laura Kuhn** will begin proximate preparations this month. Team members include: **John Carlson, Patrick Cleary-Burns, Jackie Krejcik, Claudette Matero and Amy McKenna.**

Round Table Meeting

On January 14th, those involved in the ongoing design and development of the following modules will meet in round table to offer support and creative ideas for incorporation into the developing modules.

DISCERNMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

Patrick Cleary-Burns and Megan Wilson-Reitz are in the process of adapting this module for a general population of interested participants. It will be offered in late spring at **Jesuit Retreat House.**

THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK IN THE WORLD

On December 12th, **Sharon Bramante** attended the marketing research presentation made by **John Carroll University business students, Leslie Abraham and Genna Fanelli.** Mentored by **Dr. Tina Facca,** Leslie and Genna presented the outcome of their research project which they conducted in support of this module. The module will be offered this coming fall (2014) to faculty and students of John Carroll's business school.

ENCOUNTERING THE LIVING GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

Dr. Andy Kereky, pastoral associate at St. Raphael Parish, Bay Village, and graduate of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute at John Carroll University, continues to design and develop this module. The pilot of this program has been postponed until fall 2014.

EMBRACING LIFE, EMBRACING DEATH

Dr. Karen Broer and Joan Carney, both graduates of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute at John Carroll University, are teaming up to design and develop this module which will focus on aspects of the spiritual journey such as suffering and death, redemption and grace. The pilot is planned for fall, 2014.





DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

A Reflection from Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation

The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. ...

The great danger in today's world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades. This is a very real danger for believers too. Many fall prey to it, and end up resentful, angry and listless. That is no way to live a dignified and fulfilled life; it is not God's will for us, nor is it the life in the Spirit which has its source in the heart of the risen Christ.

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord." The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus: "Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace". How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost! Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy. Christ, who told us to forgive one another "seventy times seven" (Mt 18:22) has given us his example: he has forgiven us seventy times seven. Time and time again he bears us on his shoulders. No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us by this boundless and unfailing love. With a tenderness which never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew. Let us not flee from the resurrection of Jesus, let us never give up, come what will. May nothing inspire more than his life, which impels us onwards!



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- Pope Francis

LAY LEADERSHIP OFFERINGS ...

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

The Process of Conversion in the Life of Francis of Assisi

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.)
January 18, February 15, March 15, April 12
Held at The Franciscan Center, Garfield Heights, OH



NURTURING THE CALL

Announcing a New Program

Leading Contemplative Group Retreats Based on The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius Loyola

A Pilot Program facilitated by Martha Campbell and Joan Nuth
Taking place in May, this program will be offered to a small group of Ignatian Spirituality Institute graduates.
Once the pilot is completed, the program will be open to a broader group of interested participants.

IGNATIAN CURRENTS

Facilitated by Howard Gray, SJ

SEARCHING FOR GOD THROUGH IMAGINATION AND STORY: LIVING OUT THE IGNATIAN TRADITION

OPEN TO ALL

Friday, May 30th from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 31st at from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(With Eucharist 4:00 p.m.)



POWERS OF THE UNIVERSE

A 12-WEEK JOURNEY TO EXPLORE THE STORY OF OUR EVOLVING UNIVERSE AND OURSELVES

Facilitated by Maureen Haggerty

Tuesdays 6-9 p.m. held at Unity Spiritual Center
(Westlake, OH)

January 14 - April 1, 2014

Cost: \$300 which includes a 200-page binder of materials.
Contact Maureen Haggerty at mfhaggerty@aol.com,

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