

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

June 2015

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

With the coming of summer, we move into a time of “Program Examen.” We look back at our past program year in gratitude and forward with an eye to the future, learning from our experience. We anticipate with hope all that God is bringing forth with our cooperation!

Ignatian Currents Program. On May 29th and 30th, 80+ participants gathered for the program, “What Has Christ to Do With Lunch? Living the Christ-Life in the World Based on Pope Francis’ Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*” which was facilitated by Fr. Joe Tetlow, SJ. See pg. 2 for details on the forthcoming October Ignatian Currents program.



Some participants in the Ignatian Currents Program gather with the programs’ leader, Fr. Joe Tetlow, SJ (Fr. Matt Roche, SJ, Dave Jesenovec, Fr. Joe Tetlow, SJ, Martha Campbell and Rick Krivanka)

Praying with St. Ignatius Retreat. Now that we have completed our spring retreats and our ministry reflection evenings in which leaders share “best practices” and revision suggestions, a committee will gather to revise our retreat materials as we plan for the 2015-2016 program year. The committee members include: **Margaret Balewski, Martha Campbell, Joan Carney, Kathy Haag and Jean Sullivan.**

Nurturing the Call. Janet Lehane and Martha Campbell will join together to facilitate the fall program for our *Praying with St. Ignatius and Spirituality Program for Adults/ Encountering Christ* retreat leaders. The program will offer opportunity to hone the skills involved in small group facilitation as well as leading “Gospel Contemplation” and other prayer forms to large groups. (See pg. 2 for further details.)

Food for the Journey. A group of seven interested participants joined together in discerning our focus for the coming year. In the fall, we will reflect on *Accidental Theologians: Women who Shaped Christianity* by Elizabeth A. Dreyer. Discovering a universal spirituality in the world’s religions will be the focus of our spring gatherings. In each series, the emphasis will be on deepening our understanding of Ignatian Spirituality in light of these perspectives. (See pg. 2 for fall program details.)

Lay Leadership Advisory Committee. 13 members of the Advisory Committee gathered on May 20th to consider ways in which to enrich opportunities for ongoing formation / education of our leaders. Implementation of the Province Guidelines for those involved in the ministry of the *Spiritual Exercises* was also discussed. In an effort to share our ministry with others, we will continue to invite recent ISI grads to join our ministry.

Ignatian Spirituality Collaborative. Representatives from six of our nine northeast Ohio Ignatian ministries met on May 27th. After reviewing all nine reports from the various ministries, opportunities for support and collaboration were discussed. The fall meeting will be hosted by Walsh Jesuit High School on September 30th.

CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM

A **Celebration of Blessings** took place on Monday evening, June 1st as 35 Called and Sent Spiritual Formation Program collaborators and JRH Board members gathered to give thanks to God and to celebrate the program’s initial stage of completion. From the beginning visioning stages begun in 2010, the program has involved over 50 collaborators and has served over 350 people. Sixteen lay leaders have worked together to design, develop and lead the six modules of this program. Facilitated by **Martha Campbell**, JRH Lay Leadership Director, the evening included an Evening Prayer of Thanksgiving led by **Rick Krivanka**, JRH Executive Director, testimonials by three program participants and a blessing offered by **Matt Roche, SJ**. All six of this program’s modules will be offered during the upcoming program year.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam!
For the Greater Glory of God!



Program participants who gave witness to the effects of the Called and Sent Spiritual Formation Program in their lives: **Jason Ruegg and Nicole Karlak** (not pictured Peter Catanzaro)



DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

A SPIRITUALITY OF RESTLESSNESS

A Reflection by Johnny Sears

There is a new restlessness in our age. A Pew Research poll from October 2012 notes how a new religious category called the "Nones" or "Unaffiliateds" has grown to one in five Americans and one in three millennials. Looking closely, it seems that many of these people are leaving or never joining traditional religious groups out of their own dissatisfaction with the status quo of our time. They are fed up with a Christianity that has been more focused on marketing the faith than living it. They are looking for more.

This type of response is not something new. Monastic and other contemplative movements have often started as a reaction to and dissatisfaction with the status quo and a desire for a deeper level of commitment and engagement with God. Many of these people aren't losing faith, they're longing for something deeper that they can't find in conventional settings. Recognizing that contemplative life cannot be done in isolation, some of these Unaffiliateds are establishing their own containers. Since most don't see traditional monastic vows as an option, new versions of monastic or intentional community life are springing up. Indeed, monasticism is finding new expressions in our time. These communities tend to be more in the genre of monasteries-without-walls. But they are often still guided by the principles of monastic wisdom that include a covenantal and communal life, a focus on justice through open relationships with the local community, being grounded in spiritual practice and teaching, and observing a common Rule of Life. This sounds quite a bit like Acts 2:42, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Rather than lamenting this phenomenon and feeling threatened by it, perhaps this is a reason to rejoice! If we consider that the Holy Spirit has often been an agent of restlessness within the church, then perhaps we need to give what is happening receptive attention. Even better, what if the larger church decided to support and empower such movements? In previous times, the primary institutions of the church did make room for these movements; and in several cases, these very movements are what saved Christianity from being scattered and driven away by the winds of change. Perhaps Parker Palmer is correct that "when we are willing to let go of life as we want it to be and allow the larger reality to live in and through us instead, then in our dying we come alive."

Excerpted from "Merton and the Spirituality of Restlessness," *Weavings*, Vol XXX, No 1



COMING THIS FALL ... NEW PROGRAMS ... SAVE THE DATES

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

Accidental Theologians: Women Who Shaped Christianity
by Elizabeth A Dreyer

A Book Reflection Group Facilitated by Martha Campbell
Open to Spiritual Directors, Retreat Leaders, Pastoral
Ministers and Those Who have Made the Full Sp. Exercises
Saturday Mornings from 9:30 - 12 noon
(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)

September 19

November 14

December 12

NURTURING THE CALL

Open to Leaders/Facilitators of *Praying with St. Ignatius*
and the St. Ignatius & Walsh Spirituality Program for Adults

Tuesday Evenings from 6:30 - 8:30

(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 6:00 p.m.)

September 15

September 29

October 13

Saturday Morning from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

(Coffee and Conversation beginning at 9:00 a.m.)

November 7

IGNATIAN CURRENTS - OPEN TO ALL
KIDNAPPED BY BUSYNESS? AN IGNATIAN REMEDY
Cultural "Busyness" and the Ignatian "Two Standards"



Facilitated by Laurie Cassidy, PhD

Friday, October 30th

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 31st

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



HARNESSING THE ENERGY OF RESTLESSNESS

What kind of container do you need so that you can harness the energy of restlessness in order to produce fruit that bears witness to God's reign in the world today?

- Johnny Sears

Lay Leadership Program - Martha Campbell, Director

Jesuit Retreat House
5629 State Road
Parma, OH 44134

Phone - (440) 884-9300 X316
www.jrh-cleveland.org
Email: campbellmarthal@gmail.com

