

LAY LEADERSHIP UPDATE

April 2014

VOL IV NO 9



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Risen Jesus, “the Christ continues to live, love, die, resurrect, redeem every day ... through us.” (See reflection by Jeannie Masterson, CSJ on p. 2 - Deepening our Awareness ... Something to Ponder) This Easter reality is incarnate in our ongoing ministries. Here is a summary of where you will find us on mission with Christ:

The *Praying with St. Ignatius* Retreat. 62 members of St. Basil the Great Parish, Brecksville, continue this Lenten Retreat during the month of April. The Leadership Team includes: **Margaret Balewski, Mary Ann Burke, SND, Joan Carney, Patrick Cleary-Burns, Rich Jerdonek, Laura Kuhn, Claudette Matero, Mary Mondello, Dottie Rieman and Deborah Zawislan.**

Food for the Journey. 16 participants gathered this past month to continue reflection on spiritual conversion in the life of Francis of Assisi, in the life of Ignatius Loyola and in our own lives. The series concludes this coming month.

The Pilgrim Way of Ignatius Loyola. 80+ Members of St. Angela Parish, Fairview Park, gathered to pray together and to hear the witness of **Amy McKenna** who addressed the question, “What is My Deepest Desire?” The series continues this month when **Sue Palmer** who will address the question, “Is It Possible to Find God in All Things?”

CALLED AND SENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM Module Update

Living Prayer: My Life in God. With a celebration of the “Stations of the Earth,” 35 members of St. Mary Parish, Bedford, will complete this Lenten Retreat-in-Daily-Life during this coming month.



Living Prayer Retreat Team

Left to right - Jackie Krejciak, Amy McKenna, John Carlson, Laura Kuhn, Patrick Cleary-Burns and Claudette Matero. Not pictured: Martha Campbell

Ignatian Spirituality: Grounding for Life and Leadership. This module of the Called and Sent Spiritual Formation Program continues this month when 34 members of the Sisters and Associates of the Incarnate Word will gather to continue this six month program. Co-facilitators are **Martha Campbell and Matt Roche, SJ.**

Continuing Developments. Leaders of the six modules of this spiritual formation program continue to work on marketing efforts as well as design and development of the final two modules which will be offered in the 2014-15 program year.

**COMING IN MAY ...
IGNATIAN CURRENTS PROGRAM with
HOWARD GRAY, SJ
Come and Bring a Friend!**

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

Friday, May 30, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

We Are a People Formed Through Our Stories

This evening’s presentation will focus on two Old Testament biblical narratives (The Book of Jonah and the Book of Ruth) and the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15). We will discuss these in terms of their narrative structure; that is, what is the story, how is the story presented, and what does it mean for the listener/reader today? Then we will discuss how story becomes the heart of the Exercises of Ignatius Loyola and then how story becomes central to the personal appropriation of revelation in the ongoing spiritual development of people (spiritual direction spiritual guidance, apostolic conversation, etc.)The mode of presentation will be presentation with time for response and questions from the participants. (Coffee and Conversation from 6:30 p.m.)

Saturday Program, May 31, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Our Stories Constitute the Celebration of God’s Ongoing Revelation in Our Lives

That revelation comes (1) from our own narratives (What are the highlights of my life as I review my life? What sense of personal vocation emerges from appropriating the events of my life? Who am I before God and who is God before me?). That revelation also comes (2) from the world of story that emerges from our culture. We will take time to read a short story (“A Nurses Story) and then use that story to look at the graces abiding in imagination and memory. Grace and memory are two Ignatian components that figure prominently in the Spiritual Exercises and throughout his spiritual tradition. Finally, we will use what we have done together to look at the role of imagination in Christian life.

See registration details on p. 2 of this newsletter.



DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS - SOMETHING TO PONDER

TOGETHER FOR A GREAT LOVE

A Reflection by Jeannie Masterson, CSJ

Do you remember as a child using your two hands to show "here's the church, here's the steeple, open the doors and see the people"? This simple child's play told me, even as a youngster, that "church" is so much more than a "building." As I've matured in faith, I've also come to understand that "Jesus the Christ" is so much more than a historic individual.

As an historic individual, Jesus the Christ showed us in his flesh and blood the Great Love of God for all creation: to become one with us, to imbue all of creation once again with divine presence, to weave Love through every minuscule aspect of existence. Jesus lived, ministered, and died; the Christ continues to live, love, die, resurrect, redeem every day ... through us. Jesus was the great connector, bringing in the outcasts, the unclean, the socially unacceptable. These love connections continue ... through us to every kind of neighbor, where Jesus lives in disguise.

We are all both bearers of the Christ, and seekers of the Christ, who is the manifestation of God. When the eyes of our hearts are open, we recognize God everywhere. This recognition leads us into places we would not choose to go, to engage with people we would not have sought out, to work tirelessly for the benefit of those we will never meet, because our hands are the hands of God and our hearts are intertwined with all the hearts loved by God. Life isn't about "just us." Together because of and for this Great Love, we cross all boundaries that become barriers to the unity for which God longs.

Does all of this sound too heady to be real? Look around you at the people you most admire, and consider what you find so attractive. Chances are strong that they collaborate widely for the benefit of something much larger than themselves, changing the world around them (attitudes and actions) a little bit at a time. Their vision is wide and deep, recognizing similarities rather than differences. Their collaborative efforts stretch beyond their previously known contacts to address global issues, out of their understanding of Great Love.

How does this Great Love to which we are all connected, call to you? Every response will be different, but a response is invited from each, for all. (Adapted from *imagineOne*, a publication of the Congregation of St. Joseph, Fall/Winter 2013)

COMING SOON ... NURTURING THE CALL

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 ... SOME DETAILS

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

Presented by Howard Gray, SJ

OPEN TO ALL - MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Friday, May 30th

We Are a People Formed Through Our Stories

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (Coffee at 6:30 p.m.)

Saturday, May 31th

Our Stories Constitute the Celebration of God's Ongoing
Revelation in Our Lives

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Coffee at 8:30 a.m.)

Program Options

Friday Evening Only: \$25.00

Saturday including lunch: \$50.00

Friday Evening and Saturday including lunch: \$65.00

Friday Evening and Saturday including lunch + overnight
accommodations including breakfast: \$98.00

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.

To Register: Contact Barbara Leggett at jrhcleve@att.net OR
(440) 884-9300 OR register online: www.jrh-cleveland.org

AT RIVER'S EDGE ...

RENEWING THE FACE OF THE EARTH: THE INSIGHTS OF
TEILHARD DE CHARDIN ON THE EUCHARIST, COMPASSION
AND SUFFERING

Presented by Louis Savary.

Friday, May 16th: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 17th: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Learn more and register at www.RiversEdgeCleveland.com

AN EASTER MESSAGE ... TOGETHER FOR A GREAT LOVE

Jesus lived, ministered, and died; the Christ continues to live, love, die, resurrect, redeem every day ... through us.

-Jeannie Masterson, CSJ

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