

# IGNIS



*Newsletter of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute*

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## CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2013!

At the close of our tenth anniversary celebrated last year, we present the class of 2013, the ninth class to move through the ISI, who received their certificates of completion on Sunday, August 25. This issue of *Ignis* celebrates them and their achievements. Included are memories of their last Opening Retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House, their commissioning at the liturgy on Sunday, the script of the certification ceremony, and summaries of their practicum experiences.



Newly certified members of the ninth class of the ISI pose after the ceremony. From left: Harry Winters, Mary Coffey, Jim LeSueur, Pam Garrud, Barb Curran, Betsy Knestrick, Diane Anthony, Liz Nau, Linda Elliott, Gail Lyman, Elaine Pearl, Laurie Winters and Rev. Bill Karg.

## Letter from the Director



*I ask for the  
grace to feel  
gladness and  
to rejoice  
intensely  
over the great  
glory and joy  
of Christ our  
Lord.  
- St. Ignatius*

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I write this letter from the Jesuit Retreat House, where we are enjoying our second ever, hopefully annual, alumnae/i quiet retreat. Here we have gathered for a lovely time of silent personal prayer, guided by members of the class of 2012 who planned the talks and the prayer services. We also have time for communal interaction at meals, during a faith sharing session, and even over a glass of wine in the evening.

For me, this weekend encapsulates what is the essence of the ISI. We gather together united by a wealth of common experience. We have all been through, or are moving through, the ISI experience, which includes the *Spiritual Exercises* and the experience of sharing those *Exercises* **with others, in the process embracing the “joys and hopes, the grief and anguish”** of those we accompany through spiritual direction. And this has given us a bond with each other which is revived in our memory as we share with each other, so that it is experienced anew. We tap into the joy of this shared experience, a joy that is magnified as it is shared in common. A quote from Augustine comes to mind: “Whenever joy is shared among many, even the gladness of individuals is increased, for all are affected by the common enthusiasm and they catch the flame from one another” (*Confessions* VIII.4.9).

The class of 2013 whom we celebrate in this issue of *Ignis* knows this joy of sharing with one another. And they also know its source. In her address to the graduates at their certification ceremony, Valerie Stultz (ISI '12) meditated with them on the story of Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42). Her talk focused on the “one thing” necessary if one is to participate in Jesus' mission and ministry. In Valerie's words:

“When we [like Mary] sit at the feet of Jesus we become disciples slowly developing the mind of Christ. This one thing is essential if we are to re-present him to a world which is at least as broken and bereft as the one into which he came. . . . Developing a relationship with God in Christ through the Holy Spirit, we are given the gift of sharing the Triune life, the one life, the eternal life. We do not acquire or get this life by being correct, or accomplishing some great feat, by receiving an award or by giving great sums of money. We receive this life through our connection to Jesus, and, as Mary shows us, this connection is free and freeing, wireless and wonderful. The only thing needed is our desire to connect with the one thing, the better portion, Jesus himself. Mary learned this, Martha was learning it, Ignatius was transformed by it and so are we. Sitting with Jesus as did Mary, working with Jesus day by day, we both give and receive the one thing, the better portion, and nothing can take it away from us. It is this one thing, this relationship with Jesus, which leads us into graceful, grace-filled service in the name of the One we call Lord.”

This, I believe, is what ISI folks celebrate thankfully and joyfully when they come to pray, share, have fun, and minister together. Please God, may it continue!

Peace and all good things,

Joan



Johannes Vermeer, "Christ in the House of Martha and Mary" (1655), Edinburgh: National Gallery of Scotland

On the weekend of August 23 to 25, the class of 2013 assembled for the last time at the Jesuit Retreat House for the ISI Opening Retreat. On Friday evening they gathered to share with each other their plans for the future. On Saturday, they were treated with two workshops by Joan Carney and Rich Jerdonek: on ongoing spiritual direction and on peer group supervision. On Saturday evening they met once again with the incoming interns to share with them their experiences of the practicum year.



Diane Anthony



Mary Coffey, Elaine Pearl and Jim LeSueur



Gail Lyman and Liz Nau



Linda Elliott



Bill Karg



Pam Garrud



Laurie Winters, Barb Curran and Harry Winters



Betsy Knestrick



On Friday, August 23 all three ISI classes attended to Sr. Mary Ann Flannery, SC as she welcomed them to the Jesuit Retreat House once again to kick off the new academic year



New first year students of the class of 2015 listen attentively to Paul Panaretos, SJ as he leads them through a discussion of the Autobiography of St. Ignatius.

New interns of the class of 2014, with eagerness and some trepidation, gather to learn about supervision and to prepare for the beginning of their practicum year.





On Saturday evening the class of 2014 posed with Elyse Wagner (now Berry) and her husband Mark. Elyse had just returned from her honeymoon to join the retreat. All assembled raised a glass in celebration of their wedding. The class of 2014 presented them with gifts and blessings. We were happy to welcome back ISI alumnae/i as well for this social.





The ISI assembled in the chapel on Sunday morning to celebrate the Eucharist at the close of the retreat weekend. Paul Panaretos, SJ was our celebrant, and Marty Hoehler was piano accompanist. In lieu of a homily, each member of the class of 2013 gave some reflections on what their two years of the ISI had meant to them. At the end of the liturgy, those assembled raised their hands in blessing over those to be certified.



On Sunday afternoon, August 25, the class of 2013 together with their family and friends, gathered in Donahue Auditorium at John Carroll University for the ISI's ninth annual certification ceremony. Sandy Appeldorn (ISI '12) led the opening prayer. Rev. Valerie Stultz (ISI '12) addressed the assembly with a reflection on Luke 10:38-42 entitled "One Thing." Joan Nuth, ISI director, distributed the certificates; her script is reproduced on the following pages. Maria Skrabec (ISI '07) prayed the final blessing. Afterwards all enjoyed a reception in the Atrium of the Dolan Center.



What follows are the remarks made by Dr. Nuth as she presented certificates to the class of 2013. Her remarks are based on what the interns wrote in appreciation of each other. Each begins as a kind of riddle, and then something is said which identifies each person. An appropriate photograph and scripture passage are provided for each one.

*Words describing this intern: sympathetic, peace-filled, gentle, loving, understanding, insightful, a true shepherd.*



This intern is described as matter-of-fact. One classmate described this intern as "a riot," whose often dry sense of humor reflects the insight that we, as human beings, are doing our best but still kind of bumbling through it all -- and that this is okay and God understands this. This is probably why this intern's face frequently wore a look of confusion or bemusement at what was going on. A bit quiet in class, when this intern shared, whether in a serious or humorous vein, classmates felt they had been given a great gift. This one frequently noted being pleasantly surprised by God's showing up for directees and growing mightily in trust as a result. This one's love for his directees when he spoke of them was almost palpable and a great inspiration to the class. Harry Winters, your scripture passage is from the beginning of Psalm 9: *"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High"* (Ps 9).

*Words describing this intern: warm and gentle nature, humble, peaceful, kind.*

This intern brought a wonderful groundedness and practicality to spiritual direction. A quiet refuge and an excellent listener, this one's sharing of amazing stories in small group was greatly appreciated. Although this one was somewhat quiet in class, one classmate noted that giggles were frequently heard from this one's corner of the room; obviously much was being appreciated. To give a sense of what this one's presence brought to the class, I quote what one classmate had to say: "I found her calmness and steadfast nature enduring. I would feel all anxious before class and then she would arrive and was so serene. Nothing seemed to bother her, who just plugged along and went with the flow. She was like our anchor in class." She has a deeply tender heart and a quiet cheerfulness that communicates "All will be well." Classmates appreciate her dedication to her patients in her pediatric nursing practice. Laurie Winters, your scripture passage is From Psalm 131: *"O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor are my eyes haughty; I do not occupy myself with things too great for me, but I have calmed and quieted my soul like a weaned child on its mother's lap"* (Ps 131:1-2).





A word about these two. Harry and Laurie Winters are the first ever married couple who have gone through the ISI together. Several classmates talked about the two of them together, mentioning how inspiring their combined presence was in class. One said, "I think it says a lot about their love for each other and the strength of their bond that they would take a class like this together." Another mentioned "how privileged we have been to see the gentle ways they relate to each other and their fine sense of humor." Thanks, Harry and Laurie!

This intern is described as straightforward and unfailingly cheerful, a person of great integrity. Classmates found this one extremely well-read and intelligent, yet humble and down-to-earth at the same time. They appreciated the sharing of experiences culled from many years of ministry, but even more this one's openness to learning new things. This intern was always quick to smile and crack a subtle joke; one classmate said one



never knew what to expect when this one spoke in class. Although our oldest classmate in terms of years, this intern is young in every way, with boundless enthusiasm for the creative third-age of life he espouses in many ways, not the least of which is his dedication to biking and physical fitness. The class appreciated how he encouraged everyone to exercise during class breaks!

Bill Karg, your scripture passage is from Psalm 1: *"Happy are those . . . [whose] delight is in the law of the Lord. . . . They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper."*

*Words describing this intern: A kind, loyal, loving servant of God, helpful, compassionate, caring, open-minded.*

*Words describing this intern: sensitive, humble, creative, generous, loving, compassionate.*

This intern is described as deeply spiritual, thoughtful, and a lot of fun. Earnest about our studies, this one always had everything in on time, even ahead of time. Having experienced the transforming power of the Spiritual Exercises, this one was very eager to learn how to journey with others in order to help them experience transformation as well. Life has not always been kind to this intern, but a strong faith has provided a steadiness and confidence which enables compassion for those who suffer. Several people said it was a joy to see this intern grow and blossom through the program and find her true vocation in the ministry of spiritual direction.



Diane Anthony, your scripture passage is from Psalm 16: *"You show me the path of life, in your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Ps 16:11).*



*Words describing this intern:  
Open-minded, confident, secure, candid,  
honest, loyal, reliable and charming.*

This intern is described as compassionate and caring, someone who would have your back in a crisis. Funny,

eclectic, likeable and friendly, profound in simplicity, this one does not waste time or discussion on fluff, but is always able to cut to the chase. This one brought a working person's perspective to class, processing everything through a filter of practicality. This one is also unafraid to admit weakness and ask for help when necessary. The class found new insight into the practice of contemplative prayer while dog-walking, which was frequently shared by this intern.

Jim LeSueur, your scripture passage is from Psalm 19: *"The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. . . . Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."*

(Ps 19:1, 14).

This intern is easy to talk to, bubbling over with a passion for God and for life's possibilities. While she often appears confident and self-assured on the surface, one classmate said "inside is a child of God so excited to be alive that she can hardly sit still." This intern always had the best questions with an unending thirst for answers. Several classmates mentioned her great smile, so brilliant it can light up the room. Classmates admired her dedication to the program and the fact that she was often the first to arrive for class, even though she drove the farthest, all the way from Dayton. Talk about dedication!

Gail Lyman, your scripture passage is from Psalm 96:

*"O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day" (PS 96:1-2).*

*Words  
describing this  
intern:  
enthusiastic,  
friendly,  
a loving  
and  
caring  
spirit.*



*Words describing this intern: sincere, honest, steady, committed, profound, gentle.*



This intern is described as persevering and loving, quiet, and easy to get to know. Classmates appreciate how she wrestled with class assignments that appeared too difficult, but as one said, she hung in there and grew wonderfully through this challenging process, becoming more and more confident in owning her call to spiritual direction. Classmates find her commitment to spiritual growth impressive, as well as her love for young people and dedication to her family. She is a true example of Karl Rahner's call to see the holiness of ordinary life and to find God there, specifically for her as a manager and bartender at Outback, and a dedicated wife and mother.

Elaine Pearl, your scripture passage is Psalm 23:

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake" (Ps 23:1-3).*

Words describing this intern: happy, perky, positive, enthusiastic, inquisitive, energetic.

This intern is described as friendly and grounded, clear-headed and honest. Not shy about asking provocative questions in class, she is perceived as eager to learn and open to new ideas. She navigated some unusual directee relationships with ease, which inspired classmates. A natural leader and organizer, she used those gifts to bring the class together, being dubbed "our group's astute social coordinator." The class also admires her dedication to fitness and biking!

Mary Coffey, your scripture passage is from Psalm 62: *"For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be*

*shaken."*



Words describing this intern: serious, hard-working, peace-loving, intellectual.



This intern is described as well-read, with a passion for justice and for defending those on the margins of society, always holding herself and others to high standards. Classmates admire her genuine concern for others, her experience with counseling and social work which she shared generously, and her well-rounded education in many areas. Her soft voice and tiny demeanor can be misleading as she is a powerful advocate for the least of the Kingdom.

Linda Elliott, your scripture passage is from Psalm 24:

*"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for God has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers" (Ps 24:1-2).*

This intern is described as intuitive, open to others' opinions, and passionate about her faith. Although rather quiet in class, she was always able to articulate significant thoughts clearly and well. She is a multi-tasker in God's service, ever ready to listen, support, express her truth and walk with God. Classmates admire her intelligence and dedication to learning -- especially since she has been negotiating two programs at once: the ISI and the MA at St. Mary's School of Theology, while still juggling family responsibilities.

Barb Curran, your scripture passage is from Psalm 84:

*"How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God."*



Words describing this intern: thoughtful, loving, conscientious, kind, gentle, sensitive, humble.

This intern, having endured hardships in life, has remained strong in her faith. Wise from many experiences with those marginalized and hurting, she is described as having a heart for the poor and downtrodden, and not afraid to get her hands dirty serving them. Her wealth of experience in ministry and nursing has made her compassionate, but in a realistic yet non-judgmental way, always able to accept people where they are. One said of her, "she seems to know everyone and to have participated in everything." No doubt this is why she has been dubbed our class storyteller, who always had a detailed story to tell, which made concrete whatever point was being learned. Classmates appreciate her dedication to the Catholic Worker House in Cleveland and the many stories that have come from her service there.

*Words describing this intern: talkative, friendly, generous, intuitive, a loving and joyful spirit.*



Betsy Knestrick, your scripture passage is from Psalm 27: *"The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"*

*Words describing this intern: quirky, funny, insightful, empathetic, open-minded, inquisitive.*



This intern is described as dedicated, caring and persistent, with a tender heart. Classmates found her intellectually erudite -- one said she brought into class a suitcase full of vocabulary that sent her scrambling for her thesaurus. Classmates found her sharing to be always practical and to the point; they admire the fact that she is not afraid to challenge the status quo; and they appreciated her new angles on old paradigms. They benefitted from the wealth of experience she brought from her chaplaincy work which she shared freely and often. They also admire the dedication and energy she brings to doing two programs at once: the ISI along with her studies for ordination in the United Methodist Church. Pam Garrud, your scripture passage is from Psalm 103: *"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits."*

*Words describing this intern: empathetic, vibrant, vivacious, loving, eloquent, insightful.*

This intern is described as charismatic, intuitive, someone with seemingly boundless energy and enthusiasm for ministry. Classmates found that she always spoke with thoughtfulness and authority, able to sum up a difficult point in class, incorporating illustrative examples and personal experiences. They find her to be a deep thinker, funny and gentle, who understands the hearts of human beings. Classmates appreciate how she was always quick to reach out to anyone in class experiencing need or trouble, offering them a sympathetic ear and loving heart. One classmate said, "I always felt safe with her." Classmates appreciate how she had a real sense of the spirit of our class, touching base and catching up with each of them throughout the year. They appreciate her creativity in spiritual direction, especially noting how she never gave up on one of her directees. Liz Nau, your scripture passage is from Psalm 92: *"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night."*





Diane Anthony directed one Nineteenth Annotation Retreat during her practicum, led two John Carroll women students individually through the eight-week retreat, and helped offer a one-day retreat at Loyola Retreat House for women from a local church. In looking back over her practicum proposal, Diane realized she had set "quite a formidable list of goals" for herself. Yet much to her surprise and delight, she feels she realized or has begun to realize most of them. Chief among these was a growth in her own relationship with God, which was fostered by her daily prayer and meetings with both her spiritual director and supervisor. She has grown in her ability to recognize movements of the spirits in both herself and her directees, and to relax with the realization of those without trying to "find answers" for things. She feels her listening and communication skills have been greatly improved as a result of her practicum year, and is grateful that she was able to help all of her retreatants learn how to pray contemplatively. In conclusion, Diane says, "I became much more confident as a result of [my supervisor's guidance]. I thank God for this amazing opportunity."

Mary Coffey accompanied three women through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat and one John Carroll student through the eight-week retreat. Of the quality of her listening, Mary says, "I was aware of consciously not judging what [my directees] were saying, which is a marked contrast to my usual *modus operandi* - proof that God was present." She eventually came to trust that God was always present during direction sessions, whether or not she could "feel" God's presence. She learned better how to ask evocative questions rather than teaching or preaching, a skill she feels was modeled very well by her supervisor. Watching her directees grow closer to God was for her "an amazing process to witness." She prayed for her directees throughout the year, "as if I was carrying them spiritually and offering them to God for his care and protection." Of supervision, Mary says, "it was a refreshing change from being other-centered during a direction session to being self-centered during supervision. [My supervisor] helped me to clarify areas of confusion and to draw out and unpack areas of darkness. . . . Supervision helped me to . . . [see] how, with God's grace, I could change and become a better, more authentic individual, and a more effective spiritual director."



Barb Curran accompanied two women through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, and led one John Carroll woman student through the eight-week retreat. In reflecting on the goals she had set for herself for her practicum, Barb is happy to report that she could "see a good deal of progress from October until now," especially in the area of listening skills: "I have come a long way in this. When I feel like I need to intervene or respond, I pray first, asking God to guide my tongue." She was able to reassess and alter her expectations for each directee, based on where they were in their life with God. Barb found writing and analyzing the verbatims to be "the most helpful part of the practicum. This is where I was called to grow. Even if I did not write a verbatim on a particular session, I had to think about it." Barb was able to be open, honest, and vulnerable with her supervisor, who put Barb at ease, and was extremely helpful to her, both by modeling the use of evocative questions and by helping her process what was going on in her interactions with directees.

**Linda Elliott's** practicum consisted of the spiritual direction of a Nineteenth Annotation Retreat and of an individual's eight-week retreat, weekly ongoing direction with a JCU sophomore, and facilitation of an eight-week group retreat at Gesu Church. Linda had set for herself the goal to "help individuals pay attention to God's personal communications to them," which she tried to do by helping them see "how God was acting in their lives and . . . how they were communicating God's goodness to others through their words and actions." Linda comments, "I loved the wonder on a directee's face when this realization occurred." Linda enjoyed the process of writing her verbatims, which provided her with "the opportunity to reflect deeply on each spiritual direction session, to assess my growth as a spiritual director, and recognize more clearly God's presence and action in my own and my directees' lives." Of her supervision experience, Linda says, "I gained inner strength and confidence as a spiritual director. I came to recognize my strong interest in and ability to connect with young adults and my ability and ongoing need to trust that God is the true spiritual director . . . [who] is present and guides every spiritual direction session."



Pam Garrud spent her practicum year accompanying two people through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, and offering ongoing direction to two others. Her main personal goal was to learn to recognize the movements of consolation and desolation in both herself and her directees. She focused regularly on Ignatius' Rules for the Discernment of Spirits, and this was very helpful for her with two directees in particular. She comments, "I have learned that what feels good isn't always of God and that what feels dry or challenging doesn't always indicate the absence of God." Another of Pam's goals was to learn better how to ask evocative questions. (Continued on the next page.)

Pam Garrud (cont. from previous page)

Her supervisor was helpful for her here. In reviewing verbatims, her supervisor could point out where an evocative question could have been asked, rather than using a simple comment or "teaching." Her supervisor also modeled evocative questioning in their sessions. Pam comments, "I find that learning through example and imitation is often a very powerful way to learn." She believes that "the most helpful task that I personally engaged in . . . was in writing the verbatims and in reviewing them with my supervisor."



Bill Karg continued his regular spiritual direction practice during his practicum, meeting with a total of eighteen people, more or less monthly for each. He also met with two students at the Busy Student Retreat at Case Western Reserve University. In addition he worked to develop "A Spiritual Pathway to a Fruitful Third Age," a program designed to help people 60 to 90 years of age discern how God would have them live out their "third age" of life. This program is still in its infancy, but Bill hopes it will grow. Bill worked with Karen Zeleznik (ISI '11) to present the program at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish. Bill says he struggled over the course of the year with his "tendency to do too much talking in direction." He found his supervisor to be "very kind and helpful . . . and quite patient." Bill has also become more aware of the need to notice "his own affective responses in direction" which can help him be more open and responsive to his directees. Bill was entirely delighted with his experience with one young man's "sincerity and depth of faith and prayer. He really did do all the talking, and I really listened and affirmed him. I learned once again that there are some young people who are deeply committed to their faith, and it was quite refreshing."

Betsy Knestrick began her practicum with two Nineteenth Annotation women retreatants. However, one dropped out shortly after beginning and Betsy needed to make some adjustments to continue meeting with the other. She also led a woman from her parish through the eight-week retreat. The last two continue to meet with her on an ongoing monthly basis. Betsy wanted to hone her listening skills, and while she believes she has made some progress in this area, she confesses, "I still talk a little too much." However, she no longer thinks she needs to fix things, or "have all the answers." Betsy believes people find her easy to talk to, and she regards this as a gift. She finds the disclosures made to her in spiritual direction to be a privilege, but also a burden. She says that supervision showed her "at times I am Christ for them, because at the heart of this they need to unload this burden and their spiritual pain." She hopes that her directees have learned that God is "a God who lets us work within [our] own freedom."



**Jim LeSueur's** practicum consisted of a Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, an eight-week retreat with a John Carroll sophomore, and a Busy Student Retreat, all with young men. Jim says that he learned through his practicum year "how great it can be when you turn over your thoughts, your words, and your actions to God. I came to the conclusion early on that the best way for me to handle spiritual direction is to get out of the way and let God operate. I find it very amusing and gratifying, however, how he puts me . . . in the middle of it. I become his vehicle. . . He helps me to listen. He helps me to be compassionate. He pushes me to be creative. And there is so much more. Where do I need to go? For now, I need to stay with this. I am in a very good place in my life. I am grateful." Jim continues, "[My supervisor] helped me feel comfortable letting go and allowing God to work in my spiritual direction sessions. I also learned a lot about myself from talking to her about direction. God was just as involved and active in our supervision meetings."

Gail Lyman accompanied one woman through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, met with another woman beginning weekly, then on a monthly basis, and about five more individuals on an occasional basis. In addition she conducted a group retreat for mothers during Lent at her parish. Gail's "biggest hope was to grow in awareness of the limits of my role as a spiritual director. This has certainly been the case. Every session with every directee has resulted in a change in me." She learned that each individual has different needs -- some need more "direction" than others. She says, "I have learned to pay attention to my intuition and to relax and be myself over these recent months. I have identified several areas in need of growth . . . I need to grow in the area of self-care." One important thing Gail has learned is that "there is room for much creativity in the ministry of spiritual direction. I love that!" Of her supervisor Gail says, "[She] encouraged me to explore different feelings that I experienced during direction sessions and let me come to most conclusions on my own. She was very accepting and encouraging with me. We laughed quite a bit."





Liz Nau began her practicum with three candidates for the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, but as the year progressed, she needed to make adjustments for each for one reason or another, and her hopes for each altered as she continued to meet with each one. She found that each one's retreat was "different in focus and outcome" since she was directing people "at clearly different places spiritually." She feels especially "privileged to share the life stories." She continues, "I am continually struck by how the Holy Spirit has drawn from me my own gifts and blessed the ways . . . at each moment I have been able to be the right director for that session." Of supervision, Liz comments, "Supervision was a wonderful experience for me, and I felt blessed each time as I left [my supervisor's] house." From the program's impact overall, Liz says she feels "very affirmed, encouraged and more confident in my call as spiritual director."

Elaine Pearl spent her practicum offering ongoing spiritual direction to five individuals, meeting with each more or less monthly. She also led two John Carroll women students, meeting them individually, through the eight-week directed retreat, both of whom continued to meet with her on a monthly basis after the retreat. Elaine really wanted to direct college students, a group to whom she feels especially called, and in fact 33 of her 54 hours were spent with young people. She is grateful for the opportunity to have done so, especially since it seemed to be such a rewarding experience for them. Elaine says that one of the major things she learned this year is that "God wants my total and complete trust in Him. . . . I also know that it really is the Holy Spirit that does the directing because there were times that a session went in a totally different direction from what I had planned but it was exactly what my directee needed." Elaine's supervisor "was always so willing to allow me to be who I am and give me the freedom to speak of things that were even ugly and disturbing. I felt so comfortable with her and her kind and non-judgmental nature always came shining through." For Elaine, "The supervision sessions were definitely one of the highlights of my ISI experience."



Harry Winters accompanied three people through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat during his practicum year. However, beyond this he says he found himself applying the Exercises when talking to people in many other venues. Of his experience, Harry confesses, "I have to admit that it was often a blur, where I was just trying to stay a step ahead of my directees. . . . So I need a better grasp of the whole," especially the Rules for Discernment. Harry realized that "God led these people, to be involved in these Exercises, at this time, because of their particular issues." He says, "I wanted them all to encounter Jesus and to know that they encountered Jesus. I think that they all wanted to hear that big voice of God that stops people dead in their tracks. . . . I tried to help them accept and recognize the soft voice of Jesus within them, and to embrace it as God speaking to them." Harry found his supervisor to be "an amazing resource and very insightful. I love the fact that she isn't rigid, so we were able to flow in directions that were helpful. I was amazed at how insightful she was in analyzing the issues."

Laurie Winters accompanied two women from her church through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat. On thinking about the goals she had set for her practicum, Laurie thinks she had "mixed results." She knows she was able to listen in an accepting way and to help people pray more personally and affectively, often suggesting repetition. She was often "very aware of God's presence during sessions, [but] sometimes not so much." She still struggles a bit with "fear and timidity" and with "anxiety" about whether or not she is "doing a good job." Laurie says she found it very helpful to journal soon after each session with her directee: "This helped me know better what was important to the person, [so as to] listen more carefully." Laurie realizes that she has been "a friend who accompanied" her directees on their retreat journey. She knows that both of her directees grew in their relationship with God and learned to pray more affectively, and that is consoling for her.



**TWO WEDDINGS AND A BABY!**

Here is what happens when significantly younger folks are admitted into the ISI! We have recently celebrated two weddings. Elyse (ISI '14) and Mark tied the knot on August 17 and "Elyse Wagner" became "Elyse Berry," moving from the end to the beginning in Joan's role book!



Megan Hren (ISI '15) followed suit on October 26. She married Joe Sheehan on September 1 in her home town of Milwaukee. Congratulations, Megan and Joe!



Jeff (ISI '14) and Andrea Nelson welcomed daughter Harper Evelyn on September 1.

The class gifted her with a onesie sporting little yellow DUCKS, which have special significance for the class of 2014. Here she is wearing her ducks. Starting so young, it could be she'll always have her "ducks in a row"! Blessings on you, Harper!



**AND LET'S NOT FORGET OUR NIGHT AT THE BALL PARK**

The ISI's last celebration for its tenth anniversary took place at the Lake County Captains ballpark on Sunday evening, August 4, where the ISI was featured as honorary guests. Joan threw out a ceremonial first pitch and enjoyed a surprise birthday celebration. Thanks to Rita Carfagna and Carol Polish who organized the event, to Mary Downey for her lovely bouquet and to everyone who came and helped celebrate!



**DON'T FORGET!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR OUR NEXT UPCOMING EVENT (Note change of date): MARCH 1, 2014 - 10 am -- 4 pm, Jardine Room, JCU

Learn a bit about the connection between Jungian depth psychology and spiritual direction.

Janice Bachman, OP, spiritual director and Jungian analyst, will conduct an all-day workshop for spiritual directors on "Spiritual Direction and Dreams." More information will be available closer to the time.



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Ignatian Spirituality Institute  
John Carroll University  
1 John Carroll Boulevard  
University Heights, OH 44118

Joan M. Nuth, Ph.D.  
Director  
216-397-1678  
jnuth@jcu.edu

Carol Polish, Secretary  
216-397-1599  
cpolish@jcu.edu



Visit our website:  
[www.jcu.edu/isi](http://www.jcu.edu/isi)

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