

**Alumni Issue:
Living the Mystery**

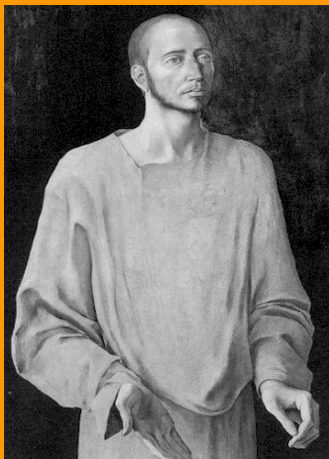
IGNIS



Newsletter of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute

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Message from the Director:

For the past few years we have published an alumni issue of *Ignis*. This year you will see a new format. We begin with the familiar “Updates on Life and Ministry” where we include entries from people from various classes who have reported on changes in their ministry or life. We asked each member of the class of 2013, our most recent graduates, to tell us where they are one year out from their internship; you can read about them in “Whatever Happened to the Class of 2013?” We invited all of you to submit reflective pieces, and those we received are printed under “Reflections.” There are several selections in “ISI Poets” and a few photographs and a creative art piece under “ISI Artists.” Various notes of interest about ISI grads are found under “Odds and Ends” and some reading suggestions under “Recommended Books & Blogs & Internet Sources.” Our hope is that you will enjoy these and want to send in something of your own to fill out this format for future alumni issues of *Ignis*.

In reading people’s submissions, I was struck by how often the theme of loss or suffering came up, an inevitable part of life. Finding God in such moments can be difficult. It is perhaps only after the fact, after the pain and suffering have been endured, that one can see where God was through it all. So I offer the following reflection, submitted by Barbara Ivec, ISI secretary in 2008-09. It comes from dotMagis, the blog at www.ignatianspirituality.com. It is part of a longer piece written by Becky Eldridge, accessed 6/16/14:

*Quiet nothingness brought me to a place of trust,
a place where I experienced God inviting me and trusting me
to discern and make choices
without the constant gift of consolation.
Only now, standing on the other end,
do I see that God was not all that quiet;
God was inviting me to experience our relationship
in a different way.*



MARY ANN BOWERS (ISI '10): Since the last issue of *Ignis*, I wrote and co-facilitated, with my husband Jerry, a five-hour day of retreat on Precious Blood Spirituality. It was held on the first Sunday in Lent at my parish, the Community of St. John Bosco. We had 25 participants who joined us for lunch and the retreat. Glory to the Blood of Jesus! Our household has been quite busy the past few weeks. My son Jodie got married in June. I meet with one individual for one-on-one ongoing spiritual direction.



KAREN BROER (ISI '06): Gratitude describes my feelings about ISI. The ISI experience was coming home to a familiar place, intuitively felt, but yet undiscovered. Over the years the vocation to spiritual direction has been confirmed through my own spiritual direction, retreats and peer supervision. More recently, helping to develop a module for the JRH Called and Sent Spiritual Formation Program confirmed a desire to continue ministry in Ignatian Spirituality. Although I still work at the Cleveland Clinic and John Carroll University, I hope to devote more time to other interests. Last summer my family and I traveled the coasts of Spain, France and Italy – a truly inspiring vacation. Spending time with family and friends, traveling, and working on Ignatian programs are nurturing to me. I hope to find ways to combine my interests in photography and writing. As I envision what the future holds, I look forward to being open to what God desires for me.

JOHN CARLSON (ISI '10): My wife and I are still dealing with our daughter Jennifer's fall in January 2013 and subsequent back surgery in February. She is still in some pain and on oxygen when she sleeps. Pain Management has done a couple of recent spinal blocks but it's hard to say if they are helping or not, because it's hard for Jennifer to tell us how she feels. We thank you for your prayers. As for myself, I have just completed two units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center (SVMCM) in Cleveland. Each unit is 400 hours long which includes about 250 hours of clinical work calling on patients. My ISI training has come in handy for doing this type of work. Beginning June 21, I will begin training as a Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant (CDCA). I am currently volunteering at SVMCM working with people with addiction and am doing some spiritual direction.



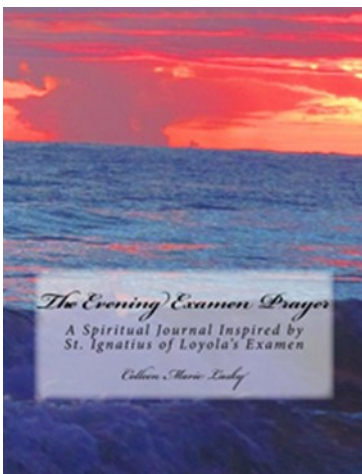
BOB HOWELL (ISI '12): Life takes turns that bring us to pathways untrodden and doors yet opened. Down these new roads or behind those closed doors are visions we have never dreamed. Some of the vistas may be frightening while others cause us to be excited by the possibilities. Such has been my life since completing the program. The ISI took me to a level of spirituality that I could not have envisioned. Since graduation, I have had no formal "directees" in the usual sense of the word, and have not had a single group to lead. Initially this caused me discouragement. I prayed, seeking where God wanted me to go. One day as I reflected, I realized that what I was doing included both spiritual direction and my training as a chaplain. I now serve a small congregation composed of members who, for the most part, are older than I. I am the third youngest member and I'm no spring chicken! These people are facing the final years of their life and the fact that this congregation will probably have to close when the next three or four members die. There was a recent article in *Christian Century* entitled "The Dark Night of the Church." It discussed the spiritual distress

that individual members and congregations face when they have to close. This church, in reality, is “in hospice.” A great deal of my time is providing spiritual support for them and hopefully I am companioning them on their journey. It has been a rich blessing for me to be able to combine my chaplaincy and spirituality training. I have met with groups of up to seventeen members (not bad when you consider there are only twenty-four regular attendees) and with individuals who are facing increasing disabilities and age-related illnesses. I am also associated with a HUD-supported retirement community in my county. Again, almost all of the sixty-plus residents face not only decline of their health and mobility but also the fact that many have little or no financial resources to draw upon even to afford a funeral. I meet regularly with several who are seeking spiritual direction and trying to figure out the meaning of life and God's purpose for them.

COLLEEN LASKY (ISI '12): The year 2014 has been blessed beyond imagining! First and foremost, Ken and I recently found out that we are going to be grandparents in late August! We simply cannot wait to meet and embrace this child of God! Second, after many rewrites and painstaking editing, my first book was released on Amazon.com on June 7, 2014! The book is entitled: *The Evening Examen Prayer: A Spiritual Journal Inspired by Ignatius of Loyola's Examen*. My retreatants were having a difficult time making a daily commitment



to the Examen while they were journeying through the *Spiritual Exercises*. They were reporting that they found it dry. One day I tore off a sheet of paper from my notebook and rewrote the words without changing the meaning behind the ancient prayer in any way. A very wonderful thing happened: One retreatant fell in love with the examen prayer and the experience of saying the daily examen greatly enriched her retreat! One year later that piece of notebook paper has turned into a spiritual journal where retreatants can create a spiritual diary just like Ignatius created his *Spiritual Diary*! The journal will guide retreatants to express a mutuality of love with God through daily gratitude, observation of spiritual movements, prayer for forgiveness for moving away from God, the experience of being embraced, strengthened and held by God, and making a new plan with God to do things differently the next day.



JANET LEHANE (ISI '06): Since our last alumni issue I have been to a Spiritual Directors Workshop at Loyola House, a retreat and training center in Guelph, Canada. It was a wonderful experience, grounding and refreshing me in the wonders of the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius. I recommend it for those wanting greater understanding of the graces, structure, and depths of the *Exercises*. It is a great continuation of the ISI program from an experiential stance. I also greatly enjoyed Janice Bachman's workshop, "Working with Dreams in Spiritual Direction," Howard Gray's Ignatian Currents offering, Joan and Martha's Nurturing the Call program on giving retreats, and the Lay Leadership Journey gatherings on conversion, learning about St. Augustine and St. Francis of Assisi. I

continue at Saint Ignatius High School sharing Ignatian spirituality and spiritual direction. I am so grateful to share in this ministry with all of you. My husband John, girls Clare and Beth, and dog Abbey are well and continue to teach me to love as God loves.



MARCIA LEWAN (ISI '09): My experience of God this past year is full of the premature birth of my granddaughter, Leona Esther. She came into our world at 29 weeks gestation on February 20 weighing 3 lbs. 7oz. Two weeks prior while my daughter was on bed rest to prevent labor, we felt God surrounding the new family with care and endurance. But Leona couldn't wait any longer and though fear was great, I savor the experience of witnessing her birth! Many weeks (eight) of consolations and desolations passed in the NICU, breathing prayers through pressurized oxygen therapy, bilirubin lights, long term IV lines and blood draws. Tears of sorrow and joy flowed often . . . didn't Ignatius say it is in tears that God is present? Yes, God was with us all, loving us, loving little Leona. My heart was overjoyed when we found out on Easter Sunday that Leona could come home! A miracle of life thriving and growing, touching our lives so we are never the same, transformed.

CLAUDETTE MATERO (ISI '11): This has been a busy year filled with God's grace. I have been blessed to serve our good and gracious God in several ways. These include acting as a facilitator for "Praying with St. Ignatius" and "Living Prayer." In addition, I will be co-director of "The Christian at Work in the World." These programs are all presented in the parishes through the Lay Leadership Program of the Jesuit Retreat House. In addition, I have several people in private spiritual direction including the Nineteenth Annotation. I was part of the pilot program on leading retreat programs and found it a great learning experience as well as a chance to work with others by looking at this additional way to bring the joy of the gospel to others. A highlight was attending the weekend presentation with Howard Gray, S.J. at the Jesuit Retreat Center. I will be savoring that all summer long!



LARRY VUILLEMIN (ISI '08): In addition to shedding a tear or two at the HS graduation of my oldest granddaughter, and celebrating my wedding anniversary (with wife Carol) soon thereafter, this year also marked the 40th anniversary of the ordination of my friend, Fr. Norm Douglas. I clump them together with this submission to ISI not only with respect to timing, but also as somewhat of an acknowledgement of the many moving parts involved in living out my response to our universal call to holiness. When Fr. Norm and I co-founded Heart to Heart Communications after meeting in 1986, our mission involved a focus on the spirituality of the human condition and everyday life, with a particular emphasis on personal and spiritual development as a foundation for enriching workplaces. That has resulted in related parish missions, retreats, community programs, and workshops/seminars in numerous workplaces locally and across the country. The extent of Heart to Heart's activities can be found at our web site www.h2hc.com, which more recently involves the growth of our efforts in Cleveland. ISI has inspired, enhanced and encouraged the work I've been doing all along since surrendering my life as family man, lawyer, whatever, to our living, loving God. I continue to identify with the wounded warrior named Ignatius. The Ignatian vision of finding God in all things, peoples, cultures, and human experiences resonates, to a large extent, with my beliefs and work in the world. ISI has also provided me with an expanding community of beautiful people and fellow directors with whom to reflect, connect, and grow.

**DIANE ANTHONY**

I have had an interesting first year since I graduated from the ISI. Last fall I was on the team for a parish retreat at St. Mary's Church in Hudson. I was a table leader and this was my first experience with the Ignatian "Praying with Ignatius" program through the Jesuit Retreat House. I also saw two students for the eight-week retreat program at John Carroll, which I had done before and enjoy very much. I continue to see two women for ongoing direction. I have a Nineteenth Annotation Retreat lined up for the fall. The ISI prepared me very well for the various aspects of spiritual direction. I feel that the theological background of the first year has given me a solid foundation for my direction. The practicum made it very easy to move into my own practice. I look forward to what the future may bring, both in direction experiences as well as educational opportunities. I am thankful to God and the ISI for the many opportunities to grow and share during the two years that I was a part of it.

MARY COFFEY

Since receiving my certificate from the ISI, I engaged in spiritual direction with a couple of JCU students for an eight-week retreat, and developed a new and improved version of a grief support program at St. Joan of Arc Parish. I also facilitated a faith sharing program during Advent at the parish. It is amazing and humbling to watch how peoples' lives are changed by praying with God's words and by being His Presence for them. I hope to continue the grief support program next year. But I will also be starting a Masters program at JCU in theology, and working as a graduate assistant in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies. Going through the ISI program made me realize how little I know, and left me hungry to learn more about God's word and how it has impacted lives throughout history. I can't wait to dig into all the MA program has to offer to expand my understanding of theology, which will allow me to be a more effective spiritual director. I have attached a recent picture of my family.

**BARBARA CURRAN**

During the past year I concentrated on finishing education! On May 8, after six years of studies, I graduated from St. Mary's Seminary with a Master's degree in Theology. On May 9 my husband was leaving on a business trip to France, and I was able to tag along. I spent five days in Paris, where I visited many ancient and amazing churches. I am now focusing on finishing the remaining requirements to become a certified Lay Ecclesial Minister in the Diocese of Cleveland. Along with serving as my 87-year-old mother's primary caregiver, this has not left any time for doing spiritual direction, something that I truly miss. My sister and I are in the process of finding some alternative care for my mother, so hopefully this fall I can resume my role as spiritual director.



**LINDA ELLIOTT**

This past year has been a busy one, and each day I appreciate my training at ISI more and more. Since certification, I have continued to offer individual spiritual direction to a John Carroll student. I had the wonderful opportunity to facilitate the annual experience of the *Spiritual Exercises* at Gesu Parish. My ministry this past year has also included serving on the Gesu Parish Pastoral Council and the Faith Formation Commission. As an outgrowth of Gesu's parish renewal process, I initiated the Ignatian Identity Committee, a committee that is still in its formative stages, and also wrote articles on Ignatian spirituality for our parish bulletin. Inspired by reading *Just Ministry* by Gula during my second year at ISI, I designed a three-hour educational session entitled *Who We Are Is What We Do: Ethics and Boundaries* for professionals and paraprofessionals in health fields and human services. Thus far the program has been well received, and I have been invited to offer this training at the annual conference of Ohio Area Agencies when they meet in Columbus this November. Most important of all, ISI prepared me to walk with those who face spiritual and physical challenges and to minister and support my sister as she journeys to wholeness through her battle with cancer, chemotherapy, and efforts to help others who are on similar journeys. I hope to expand my spiritual direction efforts this coming year and am grateful for all that has been and will be.

PAM GARRUD

Since graduating from ISI last year, I have continued to work mainly in the ministry of full-time hospital chaplaincy although I maintain one relationship of spiritual direction that was established during my internship year. The disciplines and concepts that we learned during our training are extremely helpful in chaplaincy work: being confident in God's presence in the encounter, speaking less rather than more, helping people to recognize the voice of God more fully in their own life. Over the last year, I have also continued my studies for an M.Div. and was accepted as a transfer student to The Chicago Theological Seminary's new on-line M.Div. program, which I am looking forward to starting this Fall. Finally, I am participating in a local peer supervision group of spiritual directors who have trained in spiritual direction at the Shalem Institute and Creighton University.

**BILL KARG**

Since certification, I offered one Third Age Spirituality Retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House and gave a talk at St. Sebastian Church on spirituality, explaining the ISI and Ignatian spirituality. I was engaged in a long-range effort to restart ministry to prisoners in Summit County Jail, which required meetings with politicians, the sheriff and deputies, and Sr. Rita Mary Harwood representing the bishop. As a result, I and others may now offer Mass monthly for men and women in the jail, and respond to requests for a priest at the jail. I continue ongoing spiritual direction with twelve people, and am acting as a supervisor for an ISI intern. Recently I have been preparing for presiding at weddings of relatives and several families from St. Sebastian. Helping several parishes with Mass and confession is on the agenda just about every week. I continue my bike trips regularly, and went on a ski trip last winter. Finally, with deep gratitude to God and God's people, I celebrated my fiftieth anniversary of ordination as a priest a couple of weeks ago, and partied appropriately for a week!

BETSY KNESTRICK

I continue to see the two retreatants I met for my practicum, about once a month. It is so fulfilling to share their spiritual life with them. I am the co-director of the Ignatian Spirituality Project (the women's team) here in Cleveland, where we sponsor retreats to previously homeless and recovering women who are transitioning to a more stable environment. We offer retreats, prayer support and direction to them on an ongoing basis. I have provided two bereavement retreats at Centering Space in Lakewood and I serve on the program committee there.





JIM LESUEUR

My spiritual direction since graduation has been somewhat light. I have continued to meet with the directee that I accompanied in the Nineteenth Annotation last year. We meet roughly once a month. Although we had together developed a sort of post-Nineteenth Annotation retreat format using *Moment by Moment*, writings of Pope Francis, and other spirituality writings, it seems the discussions always end up focusing on issues relating to the directee's ability to adapt to his new marriage and his post-graduate school work life. That is probably where God wants it right now. I led a John Carroll student on an eight-week retreat during the fall; but missed the email that announced the winter semester opportunities. Finally, Liz Nau, Mary Coffey, Elaine

Pearl and I put together a supervision group that meets once a month. It is a great group. We are never at a loss for interesting and impassioned spiritual discussion.

GAIL LYMAN

The past year has been an amazing new beginning since I graduated from the ISI. My initial challenge was finding a peer supervision group here in the Dayton area. Turns out, God is always good! I was able to connect with a wonderful group of spiritual directors who welcomed me into their peer supervision group. We are all from different training programs which is a great blessing for all of us. This winter, I was afforded the opportunity to provide spiritual direction for weekend retreats at Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford, Ohio and Bergamo Center here in Dayton. Also, I am currently giving ongoing direction to five women. In February and March I gave a presentation on the topic of the Temptations of Christ in the Desert. I can hardly believe the opportunities I have been given to put into practice what I learned in the ISI program. While there is so much more to learn and experience, I feel the ISI gave me a foundation that has allowed me to serve my directees very well. Lastly, I want to say that I so miss my 'community' there at John Carroll but continue to hold each and every one of you in my prayers.



LIZ NAU



Since certification, I have been amazed by the ways that God continues to guide me in new directions. I am currently directing one person in the Nineteenth Annotation, a process that began while I was an intern. Our journey has taken longer than thirty weeks, but has allowed a deeper, longer opportunity to savor and experience the moments more fully. I am also directing one person from the church where I am serving in North Royalton in ongoing direction. In the past year, God has clearly opened up pathways, and the Spirit has beckoned me to focus more intently on companioning others into a deeper spirituality. When I am directing, writing and teaching I have the greatest sense of the Spirit's warmth and feel most fully centered in God's grace. As a result, I am retiring in June from pastoral ministry in the United Methodist Church. In July, I will be taking on two new directees and

collaborating with others to develop retreat programs. I will also be able to devote more time to writing and sitting in quiet. This winter I joined the Food for the Journey program and we read *The Reluctant Saint: The Life of Francis of Assisi* by Donald Spoto, and discussed the many moments of Francis' conversion. It was wonderful to be with ISI friends and to meet others who continue to be interested in Ignatian spirituality. I continue to look forward to my monthly peer supervision sessions – a group that inspires, companions and helps me to stay grounded in the Ignatian way. God has richly blessed me, and I remain in awe at the profound breadth of God's love.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE CLASS OF 2013?

ELAINE PEARL



This last year has brought a lot of great changes for me since my certification in August. I started a new job December 2, and what a great advancement it has turned out for me to be working at Bernie Kosar's restaurant. My husband and I welcomed the birth of our first grandchild Brian Anthony on December 23, and he has brought so much love and joy to our lives. My life has been busy with the planning and preparation of all three of my children getting married in a year and a half and the last wedding was June 7. God has continued to pour out His blessings in my life and I feel extremely fortunate with the additions to my family. I have continued seeing the same directees I had in the

ISI and have added several additional directees for ongoing spiritual direction. I am branching out with two area youth ministers and I am looking forward to facilitating my first retreat for St. Basil's Youth Group Core Team members in the fall. I am also looking forward to working with several area priests who have contacted me to provide spiritual direction for their parishioners. I am so thankful for Joan and the ISI for everything I have learned because it has been instrumental in my life with my directees. The world of knowledge that she exposed us to, along with the vast resources, contacts, and the fascinating people I have met through the ISI, has changed my life and has prepared me well for my ministry of spiritual director. I can't wait for God to keep revealing His awesome plan for me!

HARRY AND LAURIE WINTERS

We're both leading people through the *Spiritual Exercises*. People at our church have been very receptive to making a retreat, but now we're trying to figure out what to do with them when they complete it. Laurie started with two new people in January. Harry finished with three in May and three more began eight-week retreats for the summer, with three more starting in the fall. It's been hectic and wonderful all at once. We're not exactly sure what God is doing around here but we're trying not to get in the way. We both believe that completing the ISI program was one of the greatest blessings that we've ever experienced. We miss seeing all of our friends from our class and especially miss Joan. Harry is working hard to direct a few more people towards the program.



REFLECTIONS

CONTEMPLATIVE GRATITUDE

Karen Broer (ISI '06)

Contemplative gratitude is the daily practice of placing ourselves in the presence of God and listening to God with a grateful heart. We listen with mindfulness and attentiveness, having an intentional focus and an attitude of indifference to our distractions, fears and attachments. Contemplative gratitude is actively responding to invitations of gratitude in our daily experiences. As we practice gratitude, we appropriate gratitude so that it becomes not only what we do but who we are.

The Ignatian Exercises are designed to help us live contemplative gratitude. In the First Week we open ourselves in humility, reflecting on our weaknesses, spiritual poverties and sins. We experience God's everlasting love and mercy with a deep gratitude. The very heart of the Examen is gratitude. Praying the Examen contemplatively helps us develop a deepening awareness, a discerning heart and an enduring desire to respond with gratitude to those encounters that bring us closer to God and others. Meditating on the Contemplation to Attain Love instills an interior knowledge of the all-encompassing presence, love and action of God in the world. Contemplative gratitude is a profound way to see God in all things and to labor with God in the world through our loving service to others.



THE WAY OF PAIN

Mickey Wolf (ISI '09)

Many of my thoughts in recent days have been of a dear friend and her husband. The Lord brought us and several others together over 15 years ago to begin a ministry which continues to be fruitful today. She and I don't talk every week, not even every month, yet when we see one another at church or a social gathering, we delight in exchanging hellos and a few moments of catch-up conversation.

It has been less than a month since they received the awful news—he has Stage Four cancer. While it is likely the disease has been quietly ravaging his body for some time, the outward signs and symptoms have been recent. There is no cure. They are a very private couple so most of us are kept apprised of the situation through one or two of their close friends. My head says it's too soon for him. They are recent empty nesters in the best of their middle years. Their adult children, barely out of their twenties, are too young to experience this kind of loss. My heart breaks. The pain is palpable. The sadness oozes through every pore of my being.

There was a time in my life when I would have sought relief from the heaviness and sorrow of another's suffering, to say nothing of my own. Not anymore. To feel fully, especially when it hurts, is to live more intimately with our Creator God. And so, as a Christian, I throw myself on God to beg for His mercy and loving-kindness—for the whole family and for all of us who love them. It hurts, Lord, it hurts so much. "I know," He whispers. "I know."

Pain and joy are two sides of the same coin. We need look no further than Jesus or the Father to know how that impacts us as beings created in the image and likeness of God. We embrace the joy part, the mountain-top experiences. There will be plenty of those, yet we cannot pass through this life without pain. We do ourselves a great disfavor when we expend countless hours and resources trying to ignore or deny this Truth.

We do not have to go looking for pain. It will come, of that we can be assured. Pain touches every aspect of life, from our first wails as we wiggle into the bright lights of the birthing room to the last exhale from our lungs, whenever that may be. Your pain may be more or less than mine, it may be physical, emotional, or psychological, but that's not the issue. That we will suffer is. "I know," He whispers, "I know"



To live fully is to feel deeply...

We are mortal. We are uncomfortable accepting that reality—until we realize resurrection into new life can only occur with the death of the old. It is human and understandable that we resist the idea our days here are numbered and known only by God. For many, accepting the truth of our finite existence is more than enough pain in and of itself. Yet by virtue of God's bearing witness to us through the humanity of His Son, Jesus, we have a Comforter who knows only too well what it means to journey through this life.

To feel pain is to feel in the most profound way the depths of our loving and being loved—and what it means when we are separated, for a season, from those we love and who love us. To feel pain is to accompany those who are suffering by bearing the pain with them, whether we are near enough to take their hand, or at a distance and do so in our hearts. To feel pain is to allow ourselves to be used by God as a living sacrifice for another. To feel pain is nothing short of laying down our life for another. It is good to be fully alive and feel—both the pain and the joy. "I know," He whispers, "I know."

(Originally Published May 28, 2014: <http://www.mwwrite.blogspot.com>)



Donna, surrounded by some of her 6 children, their spouses,
and eleven grandchildren taken at her ISI Certification Ceremony, August 2012.

HOW GOD HAS BEEN PRESENT IN MY LIFE

Donna Wimbiscus (ISI'12)

This is a story about the life that I have shared with my husband. Bob was always a loving and giving person who reflected God's love in his words and actions. We met at Marquette University some 50+ years ago; I met him during our junior year and during that summer we wrote daily letters to each other. He lived in Milwaukee and I was in Cleveland. It was the goodness in him that attracted me to him as he expressed himself in those letters. I was also attracted because he was 6 feet 4 inches tall with beautiful eyes, an athletic body, a wonderful sense of humor, and fun to dance with and be with. He was an active Catholic, and his relationship with God was as important to him as it was to me. When we were both in Milwaukee during the school year, after Mass each Sunday he would drive to a nearby florist and buy a rose for me. We were both graced with a love of God and a strong desire to practice our faith through works of charity and willingness to serve in organizations that helped those in need.

We married after graduation, spent four years in the Air Force away from our families but grew in awareness of our dependence on the love of God and the need to trust in God. Our first three children were born during that time, adding to the joy in our lives as we both realized that they were true gifts from God. When Bob's time in the Air Force was finished, we moved back to Cleveland as Bob was hired at HWH and Associates. He worked at an office where his coworkers showed by their whistling that they were happy. He belonged to a group of men who met weekly at lunch to share scripture readings and what they learned from each other's sharing. When Bob was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease those workers poured out their love through prayers and help for us, and treats for our children. Our family had grown to five children by that time; our sixth child was born two years later and was a year old when Bob died.

We were both very active parishioners, having made Cursillo retreats and having worked on a Christ Renews His Parish team. When Bob became very ill our parish priest came to visit each week. As Bob went from 220 lbs to 130 lbs, it looked pretty serious and Father suggested that we write an agreement to accept the will of God. We did that and signed our names; it brought peace to both of us. God led Father to us and gave us the peace and acceptance that we both needed. Bob would always tease me that he was way ahead of me and that has proven to be true.

We were both 37 when he died. It was Mother's Day. Our oldest child was 14 and the other five ranged in age from 13 through 1. One of the last words that he said was "I let go and trusted." My Dad was with me at the hospital when Bob died. The nurses gave him a bag with things that belonged to Bob in it. It was a busy time for me and I didn't get to the bag until after the funeral. When I opened the bag I found a notepad with a prayer that Bob had written. The written words were: "Praise to the good and mighty Lord, loud shouts and noises make to him, for holy is his name and wonderful his love. Everything is moving forward from the Lord as it should from the Lord." That prayer gave me consolation and assurance that God would provide for us. It is framed, hanging in my living room, the place where I meet with those who come for direction.

Many who loved and cared for me and for the family came to help us. These were signs of God's love for us and that God would provide for us. God works in many different ways in our lives and some of these ways aren't always easy to accept or understand, but I have learned how deep is His Wisdom and even deeper is His Love. I am grateful for the ISI program that has opened my spiritual eyes and helped me to see God's presence in my life. It is a joy for me to serve as a spiritual director and to feel and know the presence of God in each opportunity that God sends into my life.

ISI POETS

A HELPING HAND

Arlene Gladura Anderson (ISI '08)

I lost my husband of three years to cancer on Valentine's Day this year. The day before the funeral, my step-daughter collapsed and was hospitalized for over a week in coronary care, missing her Dad's funeral and recently I have had some surgery. With all of this going on it has been difficult to get any thoughts together for *Ignis*. However, during the time of my husband's illness God seemed to be gathering me in and several phrases came to me during the wee hours of the night - phrases that repeated several times for several nights in a row. I felt that I had to sit down and write them out. This poem became a prayer for me each night along with the 23rd Psalm.

This life has placed me on a path I don't really want to walk.
 The way is dimly lit; it is not a smooth path;
 it sometimes goes up and sometimes down.
 There are blocks in the way that cause me to fall.
 I sometimes feel that I have lost my way and I find myself crying out
 that I must stop and turn back.
 But just when I think that I can't go any further,
 a large and gentle hand closes around me and in a soft whisper says,
 "Come with me, I will lead the way; you can't stop now - you've come too far."
 I stop and look around and no one is there.
 Could it be? Something is different.
 The path seems smoother now and my steps a bit more steady.
 The hand holding on to mine leads me through a difficult way.
 It is the hand of the Father guiding his child with the reassurance that
 "you haven't lost your way; you just needed someone to walk with you."



"REFLECTION ON STATION 12"

(written during an eight-day retreat at JRH.)

Karen Broer (ISI '06)

Creation is alive.
 I join with it in celebration.
 The birds sing their songs.
 The wind touches the tree branches.
 They move to dance with the birds' songs.
 Beneath the snow life rests yet ever renewing itself.
 What will be my gift to you today Jesus?
 The solitary evergreen – symbol of life.
 The gray branch – the wood of your Cross.
 The sharp thorns on the vine – they too must take their place.
 The dried flower – imperfectly shaped yet beautiful.
 The green ivy – how it struggles to stay rooted yet yields itself to bind the gift.
 My gift to you – a crown placed at your Cross.
 I clear away the snow – a path.
 Others are invited.
 Will they come?

**"PRIORITIES"**

Mary Ann Bowers (ISI '10)

The Lord invited me to come be with Him.
 "Yes, of course, I'll come be with You Lord . . . Later"
 I am busy now: "paid" work: my job
 And "unpaid" work: cooking, cleaning, shopping, laundry, etc...
 And, then, of course, leisure "work": time with family and friends;
 Time engaged in TV, books, "Candy Crush" and "Words with Friends."

 Then, my Friend, The Word
 Invites me again . . .
 And with the Spirit's gentle nudge
 I say: "I am coming.... NOW."



“LOWER SHAKER LAKES”

Photo by Robin Craig
posted to Facebook June 9, 2014



“BIRDS”

Photo by Robin Craig
posted to Facebook June 5, 2014



CLAY JARS: OIL PASTEL

Henedine Aldana (ISI '12)

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. — 2 Corinthians 4:7 Like us, jars come in all sizes, colors, textures and shapes. Each one is unique, with a treasure within--God's very own light and being. And it is through cracks that God's light shines through. Here's the good news: fancy or tough as some jars may be, under all the layers is a cracked pot, made of clay. In God's time, God's light will shine.

ODDS AND ENDS

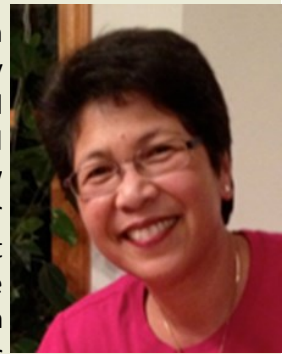


A "Selfie" of the Class of 2012
from a recent gathering at Mitchell's:
Donna Wimbuscus, Colleen Lasky, Henedine Aldana,
Bob Howell, Sue Palmer

From Henedine Aldana (ISI '12) on her chance meeting with Maria Green (ISI '15):



One day last month, my husband, two daughters and I participated in a ballroom dancing showcase and there was this one young lady (don't know her age, she seemed ageless) with a pixie haircut and contagious smile, dancing a Latin storm in a short fringed outfit and net stockings. She danced so sharply that afterwards (you know how I am), I approached her to let her know how I appreciated her dancing. Surprise!!!! She told me she had recognized me from past *Ignis* issues and had planned to introduce herself to me before the day was over, but I approached her first. She told me that she is in the ISI first year class this year!!! I asked her how she liked Rahner



and she said she loved him. I asked her, "So, do you dance for Jesus?" "Yes!" She said. "I do too!" We beamed at each other - so much in common, for sure - and we had just met. I think that all the ISI grads I meet have a zest for life and the joy of Jesus shining through!



NEW MINISTRY

Sharon Seyfarth Garner, a member of the class of 2014 to be certified this August, has branched out into a new ministry sanctioned by her denomination, the United Methodist Church. She has always gained wisdom from the book of Jonah in the bible, where it took a giant fish to swallow up Jonah in order for him to meet God, learn to pray, and desire to follow God's will. Since it was in the belly of the whale that Jonah was able to find and pray to God, Sharon found the name for her new spiritual direction and retreat ministry. In the picture, Sharon stands by the display she created to introduce her Belly of the Whale Ministries at her church's annual conference. Sharon wrote the words below to the group called "Friends of the Whale" whom she has gathered together to pray for her new venture.

"You may be familiar with the statement, 'Be careful what you dream for, because that dream just might come true.' I am feeling a bit like a deer in the headlights as my dream of a full time spiritual direction ministry is actually coming true. Last

week at our East Ohio Annual Conference, Belly of the Whale Ministries was officially recognized as the site for my appointment by the Bishop beginning on July 1st. For the past nine months, I have been bustling about with exciting preparations - finishing my training, getting a logo, working up a brochure and decorating my new office among many, many other things! But now that all the basic prep work is done, it is time to actually DO it!! Gulp!! God has been intricately interwoven into this time of preparation and I have no reason to believe that God won't be equally interwoven into the ministry as it moves forward. Yet, my nerves still get the best of me as I take this leap into the great unknown. It is my deep and fervent prayer that this ministry will be one of transformation and spiritual renewal for those I serve. Please keep me and this wonderful dream of Belly of the Whale Ministries in your prayers as I step out in faith to do the work that I believe God has called me to do.

I pray that you each may find the spiritual strength and vitality of God's presence in your daily living - amid both the joys and the struggles." You can find more information at <http://www.bellyofthewhaleministries.net>. Sharon will host an Open House to bless her new ministry on Wednesday September 24 from 12:30 to 3 pm at University Circle United Methodist Church, 1919 E. 107th St. Cleveland, Ohio 44106 (the Oil Can Church).

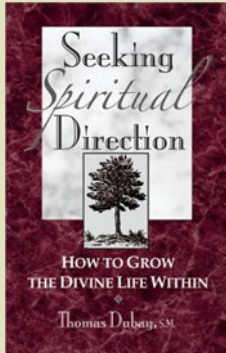


belly of the whale
SPIRITUAL DIRECTION & RETREAT MINISTRIES

Rev. Sharon Seyfarth Garner
bellyofthewhaleministries.net
spiritualdirection@att.net
216.224.7452
nurturing spiritual vitality in everyday living

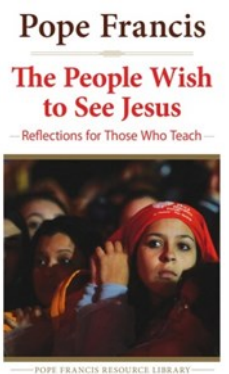
From Henedine Aldana (ISI '12): Four books have helped shaped my spiritual consciousness recently and they are all available from Amazon.com, if you are interested:

Something old: *Seeking Spiritual Direction: How to Grow the Divine Life Within*, by Thomas Dubay, SM.

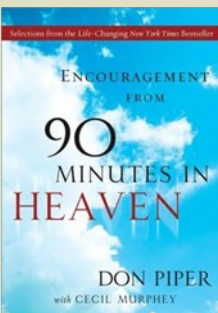


I found this book (circa 1993 with newsprint pages) on my bookshelf, as I desperately searched for spiritual reading to feed my soul. I had been travelling too much and missed my spiritual director—the title grabbed me. Here is a quick summary lifted from the back cover: *“Father Thomas Dubay has written a guide for Christians who are considering spiritual direction or who are already engaged in the process. He explains what spiritual direction is, the qualities to look for in a good spiritual director, the process of finding a director, ways to develop a deeper prayer life, and how to continue growing when your enthusiasm wears thin.”* After learning so much about spiritual direction in Joan’s class, you’d think it would be enough; well, it’s not. This book is a treasure trove of practical insights, in a helpful question and answer format, but I am pretty sure it would have been lost on me, had I read it when I picked it up in the Philippines, long before I even knew ISI existed. It is a book I intend to read and reread. I know that this book will help keep me honest.

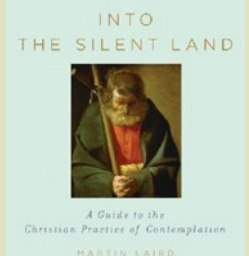
Something new: *The People Wish to See Jesus. Reflections for Those Who Teach*, from the Pope Francis Resource Library. The English translation is copyrighted 2014. As explained on the back cover, the reflections in this volume were carefully chosen from the intimate talks that then Archbishop Bergoglio shared with the catechists of Buenos Aires (from 2000-2007). From the title, it may seem that this book will not be relevant to spiritual directors like us, who aspire to be reflecting pools. Not so. From this book, I learned that we teach when we listen. In fact, we teach best when we are silent. Remember what St. Francis said: *“Preach always; if necessary, use words.”* The ideas contained in this book are basic principles that help me understand what we as Christians are called to do: *“to accompany, to lead to the tranquil waters so that the encounter becomes source, celebration, and shelter.”* It is also quite interesting to see how authentically Pope Francis lives out the beliefs he put forth in his essays, long before he could have known he would one day be pope.



Something borrowed: *90 Minutes in Heaven* by Don Piper with Cecil Murphey. A friend lent me this book so I would have something easy to read on the long trip to my father-in-law’s funeral (in the Philippines). It was a New York Times bestseller, circa 2004, and when you read it, you will know why. Here is the summary on the back cover: *“On the way home from a conference, Don Piper’s car was crushed by a semi that crossed into his lane. Medical personnel said he died instantly. While his body lay lifeless inside the ruins of his car, Piper experienced the glories of heaven, awed by its beauty and music. Ninety minutes after the wreck, while a minister prayed for him, Piper miraculously returned to life on earth with only the memory of inexpressible heavenly bliss. His faith in God was severely tested as he faced an uncertain and grueling recovery.”* As a former emergency physician (for 25 years), I truly appreciated the medical details in this story; but most of all, reading this book gave me reassurance that my beloved father-in-law was on the way to a better place: Heaven.

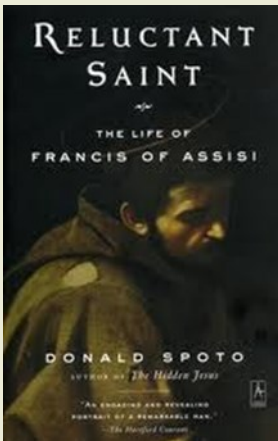


Something blue: (The book jacket is a pale, placid blue and the book is just the right size to read in bed): *Into the Silent Land. A Guide to the Christian Practice of Contemplation*, by Martin Laird. Copyrighted in 2006, this book was recommended by my beloved spiritual director, Father Dister, who staunchly encouraged me to spend quiet time with Jesus every day. I found myself underlining passages in this book, unable to read on without taking time for serious rumination. This book underscores how essential it is that we “come to the well.” Indeed, it is vital. My spirit is strong when I have spent quiet time with Jesus, but when days and weeks pass by and for one reason or another, I failed to be silent before Jesus, my soul is parched and there is space for the evil one to insert himself between me and my Jesus. Thank God, I am “GPS’d” to God. No matter how many times I stray, I find the grace to forgive myself, return to the well, and start up this spiritual exercise of prayerful contemplation again. It is the only way I survive with joy.



From Joan Nuth: *Reluctant Saint: The Life of Francis of Assisi* by Donald Spoto. Francis of Assisi was one of Ignatius's favorite saints. Perhaps this is because Ignatius's early life mirrored to a remarkable extent Francis's own life. Both were young men of privilege, who had dreams of grandeur and of knightly glory in defense of their homeland. Both were severely wounded in war. Both experienced a conversion in the midst of their recovery, which changed their worldview, causing them to create an order of followers who would have a profound effect on both church and world. This biography of Francis is an intimate, very human portrait of the ongoing conversion that typified his life. Beautifully written, it enables us to see the soul of Francis,

keeping intact the centrality of the relationship with Jesus which characterized his life. From the moment Francis encountered the Crucified Christ in the little church at San Damiano, "his life would no longer be centered on himself, his needs, his past, his pleasure, his pain, his glory, his fulfillment. From this time forward, he had one goal in mind: to remain accessible to the voice that had just addressed him – to enable the conversation to continue. Francis had been touched by the concrete image of the poor and humble Jesus. . . . Francis wanted to be warmed and embraced forever by that touch" (Spoto, pp. 46-47). This book recounts how this was true for the rest of his life.



Assisi Rooftops and Spires
Photograph by Joan M. Nuth, July 2014

From Bob Linton (ISI '14): "Here is a nifty on-line version of O'Brien's book *The Ignatian Adventure* adapted for an eight week retreat: <http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/the-spiritual-exercises/an-ignatian-prayer-adventure>. The site contains many other useful resources on Ignatian spirituality as well."

From Andrea McGovern (ISI '11): Andrea recommends the website of Frederick Buechner: "This reading is a wow, for me, at least. I get daily readings from this author and always find him spot on." Following is an introduction to the author from his website (www.frederickbuechner.com): "Frederick Buechner (pronounced BEEK-ner) is an American writer and theologian. He is the author of more than thirty published books and has been an important source of inspiration and learning for many readers. His work encompasses many genres, including fiction, autobiography, essays, sermons, and other nonfiction. Buechner's books have been translated into twenty-seven languages for publication around the world. Buechner's writing has often been praised for its ability to inspire readers to see the grace in their daily lives."

From Jackie Bluett (ISI '07): Jackie recommends Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations. She comments, "This is 'contextual' interpretation of Scripture rather than literal. I learned the word 'contextual' just yesterday. How nice that Fr. Rohr gives me a place to use it! I've been learning about it and living it for some time -- just hadn't had one simple word before!" To receive messages from Richard Rohr and Center for Action and Contemplation, add no-reply@cac.org and cac@cacraddicalgrace.ccsend.com to your address book or Safe Senders list.

LEARNING TO PRESENT CONTEMPLATIVE PROGRAMS AND RETREATS

This past May eight ISI graduates participated in a pilot program, offered jointly by Martha Campbell (Lay Leadership Program director at JRH) and Joan Nuth (Ignatian Spirituality Institute director at JCU). Called "Leading Contemplative Programs and Retreats," it is designed to prepare ISI graduates to plan and deliver short contemplative programs and retreats based on the Ignatian *Spiritual Exercises*. The program will be offered again next year, **beginning in January. Stay tuned for further information.** The eight original "guinea pigs" for the pilot posed for a picture on the last day of the program. Their brilliant smiles show they are none the worse for wear!

On the picture, left to right: Janet Lehane (ISI '06), Kathy Haag (ISI '09), Claudette Matero (ISI '10), Margaret Balewski (ISI '10), Amy McKenna (ISI '12), Sue Palmer (ISI '12), Andy Kereky (ISI '07), Mary Ann Burke (ISI '06)



JANICE IS COMING BACK!



Many of you enjoyed our Annual Reunion and Reflection Day last year with Janice Bachman, OP. She will be coming back on **Saturday, October 4** this coming fall to present another day-long workshop on the Jungian notion of the Shadow: "Finding the Gift of the Shadow." Mark your calendars now!

Program Description: *Shame...Rage...jealousy...resentment...blaming...greed...These forbidden feelings and behaviors arise from the dark, denied part of ourselves – what Carl Jung called the shadow.* Understanding this notion of the shadow can enlighten the process of spiritual direction. This workshop will explore some very practical aspects of the ways in which the shadow may help or hinder one's spiritual development and the critical need to be in relationship with one's own creativity. Specific ways to uncover, explore and work with one's shadow will be highlighted and applied to spiritual direction.

Presenter Background: Janice Bachman, O.P., Dominican Sister of Peace, is a Jungian Analyst and spiritual director in practice in the Columbus area. She has been involved in the training of spiritual directors for the past 17 years. Janice is on the summer faculty at Creighton University, Omaha, NE, where she teaches in the Graduate Program in Christian Spirituality. She holds a Masters Degree in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University, a diploma in Analytical Psychology from the Ontario Association of Jungian Analysts (Toronto), and an MBA from Xavier University, Cincinnati.



To confront a person with their own shadow is to show them their own light.

- C. G. Jung

Consider getting an MA in theology and religious studies at John Carroll University!

JOIN THESE ISI GRADS



Joan

Joan Carney (ISI '07) was the first to tackle a JCU Masters. Graduating in 2013 she has since been teaching regularly in the TRS Department. Amy McKenna (ISI '12) will be finishing her degree this year. Both Joan and Amy were part-time students, usually taking one course a semester, which took them about five years to finish. Mary Coffey (ISI '13) and Pam Chaney (ISI '10) have taken a different route. Each of them will be full-time students this coming fall, having secured a graduate assistantship in the Department. If you are interested in the JCU Masters, contact Joan for more information.



Amy



Mary



Pam



An Invitation from St. Peter's – From Kate, Amy & Joan

At the corner of East 17th and Superior in Cleveland stands a church. It is not an imposing church. Its exterior is actually rather plain. But step inside and the simple elegance of its interior tells you at once: this is the house of God. Named in honor of St. Peter, this church once was (until its closing) the oldest parish in continual operation in the diocese of Cleveland, begun by and for German immigrants in 1853, only seven years after the establishment of the diocese itself. The church was closed by the bishop in April 2010, but it was reopened by order of the Vatican in September 2012. Since then, a small but dedicated congregation has gathered here every Sunday at 11:30 am for communal worship. **Should you be looking for a place to worship, we invite you to join us. Kate Campbell, Amy McKenna, and Joan Nuth are regular ISI attendees.** We have talked about the possibility of holding an "ISI Sunday" maybe once a month or at some other interval where ISI members could worship together. Our pastor Bob Kropec is an excellent homilist and liturgist, and the acoustics in the place make all of us sound like opera singers!

For more information, visit our website at: www.stpetercleveland.org.



SUPPORT THE IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY PROJECT which “provides hope and healing to men and women who are homeless and in recovery from addiction through overnight retreats and ongoing accompaniment.” **SAVE THESE DATES** for two upcoming fundraising events:

Akron area: Saturday, August 16th – JUSTice DANCE Gala –

7:30 pm – Reception & Performance; 10:00 pm – Open Dance
La Danse Cleveland, 23366 Commerce Park, Beachwood, OH
\$25 Pre-sale / \$30 at the door
To purchase tickets: tiny.cc/justicedance

Cleveland area: Saturday, October 25th – An Evening of Hope

6:30 pm – Reception; 8:00 pm -- Performance of “Haunted by God,”
A one-woman play about the life of Dorothy Day
St. Ignatius High School, Cleveland
For information, contact Linda Catanzaro (216) 409-4997

Club 31 Report 2013-2014

Club 31 Donations 6/1/2013 - 5/31/14

Grand Total: \$ 9,415.01

Class of 2005 - 23% - \$ 331.00	Class of 2011 - 29% - \$ 313.00
Class of 2006 - 67% - \$ 693.00	Class of 2012 - 75% - \$ 482.00
Class of 2007 - 46% - \$ 531.00	Class of 2013 - 39% - \$ 193.00
Class of 2008 - 29% - \$ 431.00	Class of 2014 - 54% - \$ 491.31
Class of 2009 - 40% - \$1,481.70	Class of 2015 - 25% - \$1,062.00
Class of 2010 - 36% - \$ 731.00	Other friends of ISI - \$2,675.00

Henedine Aldana '12
Sandra Appeldorn '12
Paul Barbins '14
Elyse Wagner Berry '14
Paula Britton
Karen Broer '06
Sr. Mary Ann Burke, SND '06
Kate Campbell '11
Martha Campbell
Rita Carfagna '05
John Carlson '10
Joan Carney '07
Pam Chaney '10
Richard & Dee Christie
Robin Craig '09
Barbara Curran '13
Mary Downey '10
Syndie Eardly '10
Julie Exline '07
David Feldman '14
Michael Feldtz '11
Harry Finkbone '06
Sr. Mary Ann Flannery, SC

Sharon Seyfarth Garner '14
Pam Garrud '13
Maria Green '15
Eugenia Gyi '05
Carol Gyorki '07
Chuck Herbruck '08
Elizabeth Hissong
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Rich Jerdonek '06
Daryl Koning '05
James Krukones
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Jeffrey Leitch
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Claudette Matero '11
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Ginny Pippin '10
Carol Polish
Terri Preskar '15
Martha Robbins
Barbara Schubert
Gerard Sheehan
Maria Skrabec '07
Melinda Smith '07
Valerie Stultz '12
Jean Sullivan '09
Larry Vuillemin '08
Donna Wimbiscus '12
Harry Winters '13
Laurie Winters '13
Micky Wolf '09



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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

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sites.jcu.edu/isi

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