

# IGNIS



*Newsletter of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute*

*Volume 10, Number 2*

*November 30, 2012*

## **CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2012!**

This issue presents the class of 2012, who received their certificates of completion of the ISI program on Sunday, August 26. 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 eighth class of the ISI pose after the ceremony with Joan Nuth, Director. From left: Henedine Aquino Aldana, Donna Wimbiscus, Sandra Appeldorn, Colleen Lasky, Joan Nuth, Robert Howell, Sue Palmer, Valerie Stultz and Amy McKenna.



Diego Velazquez, "Kitchen Maid with the Supper at Emmaus" (1618)

*She listens, listens, holding  
her breath. Surely that voice  
is his - the one  
who had looked at her, once, across the crowd,  
as no one ever had looked?  
Had seen her? Had spoken, as if to her?*

*Surely those hands were his  
taking the platter of bread from hers just now?  
Hands he'd laid on the dying and made them well?*

*Surely that face - ?*

*The man they'd crucified for sedition and blasphemy.  
The man whose body disappeared from its tomb.  
The man it was rumored now some women had seen this morning,  
alive?*

*Those who had brought this stranger home to their table  
don't recognize yet with whom they sit.  
But she in the kitchen, absently touching  
the wine jug she's to take in,  
a young Black servant intently listening,*

*swings round and sees  
the light around him  
and is sure.*

*-Denise Levertov*

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Our speaker Debra Dacone (ISI '05) began her address at the certification ceremony with this poem by Denise Levertov, reflecting on the painting by Velazquez. She believes both together "resonate with the process of spiritual direction." She then went on to develop in a lovely way three themes that are apparent in the gospel story and that often emerge in spiritual direction: "that of seeking, often in the midst of lost hope; that of not recognizing the presence of Jesus in your midst; and those oh so burning hearts that long to know more, to be closer to and deeper in friendship with Jesus." These themes apply to spiritual direction in general, and are significant ones. Truly, the road to Emmaus is a lovely metaphor for the journey of spiritual direction.

But this painting and poem caused another thought to occur to me, more particular to the painting's subject. The black servant girl in this setting is meant to be unseen and unheard -- she works behind the scenes. And yet it is she who recognizes Jesus first, before those privileged to be at table with him. I think of many of the people who have come to ISI interns and spiritual directors, hoping to learn how to pray. They, many of them, are not the usual subjects considered to have the interest or capacity to develop their spiritual life with God. For too long the Christian churches have considered such access to spiritual direction the privilege and prerogative of those in religious vows or orders. And yet, they come. Like the girl in the painting, they have heard Jesus call them, ever so faintly, perhaps, and have been ready to receive whatever God wants to give them, in whatever way they can receive it.

One of the wonderful blessings of the *Spiritual Exercises* is their flexibility. ISI interns learn to take people where they are, and help them know that God wants to be with them just there. I remember many conversations with the class of 2012 when we discussed just such topics. Every single member of the class at times needed to discard their sometimes grandiose schemes of what they wanted their directees to achieve, and come down to earth to where they were. That is where each of them learned to help those they directed come in touch with the Living God. This often took a lot of patience, creativity and perseverance on their part. But the rewards were great.

As you read the reflections of this new group of certified spiritual directors contained in this issue of *Ignis*, watch for this insight. If Jesus has taught us anything, it ought to be the importance of our presence and service to the last and least, like this servant girl. I think the class of 2012 learned this well.

Peace and all good things,  
Joan

## 2012 Opening Retreat

The class of 2012 gathered for the last time at the ISI's Opening Retreat the weekend of August 24 to 26. On Friday evening they met to share with each other their plans for the future. On Saturday their instructional sessions focused on "Life after ISI": Liz Woconish met with the group to discuss Ongoing Spiritual Direction, and the team of Joan Carney (ISI '07) and Rich Jerdonek (ISI '06) offered them a workshop on Peer Group Supervision. On Saturday evening they met once again with the incoming interns to share with them their practicum experiences and to encourage them as they enter into their second year.

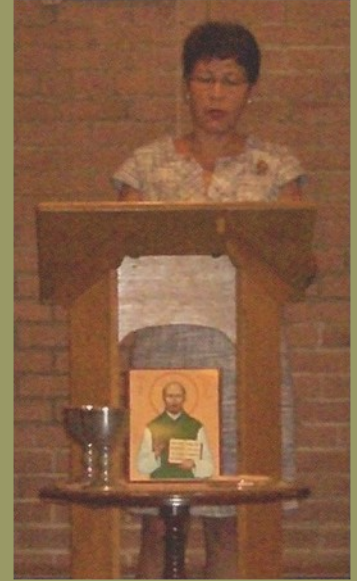


## 2012 Opening Retreat

Saturday ended with a gala wine and cheese social. As the kick-off event of the ISI's Tenth Anniversary Year, the social event happily welcomed many ISI alums who came to celebrate with the certification class along with members of the incoming class and the new interns. It was a lovely evening of convivial companionship.



## Sunday Morning Liturgy



To close the Opening Retreat weekend, the ISI celebrated the Eucharistic liturgy on Sunday morning, with Paul Panaretos, SJ presiding and Marty Hoehler at the piano. Each member of the class of 2012 delivered a brief reflection on what the two years in the ISI had meant to him or her. At the end of the liturgy, all present raised their hands over those to be certified, asking God's blessing on their future ministry of spiritual direction.



At the close of the liturgy, the class of 2012 presented Joan with a painting of St. Ignatius by the artist Holly Schapker. Please note that Ignatius is smiling in this portrait! It will hang in the ISI office in honor of the Class of 2012.

# The Certification Ceremony

On Sunday afternoon, August 26, the class of 2012, together with their families and friends, gathered in Dolan Auditorium at John Carroll University for their certification ceremony. Patrick Cleary-Burns (ISI '06) led the gathering in an opening prayer. Debra Dacone (ISI '05) addressed the group in a talk entitled "Open Hearts, Burning Hearts: A Reflection on the Road to Emmaus." Joan Nuth, ISI Director, distributed the certificates; the script of her presentation is reprinted on the following pages. Claudette Matero (ISI '11) offered the final blessing. After the ceremony the group gathered for a reception in the Atrium. It was an entirely joyful way to celebrate the achievements of the class of 2012.



*What follows here are the remarks made by Dr. Nuth as she presented certificates to the class of 2012.*

This year is special because it marks the tenth anniversary of the ISI. Ten years ago, in 2003, we opened our doors to fifteen members of our charter class. Since that time 81 have been certified through our program. The eight to be certified today bring the number to 89. I am happy you have come to join us in honoring these wonderful men and women whom I have had the honor and great pleasure to get to know well over the past two years. Today is the day we set aside to celebrate them and their achievements.

It is now the time to introduce to you our graduates. As programs grow, traditions develop, and the ISI has developed quite a few traditions by now. One of them has to do with the way we present certificates to our graduates. Let me explain. One of the most important aspects of the ISI program is the sense of community students create with each other. They get to know each other well over the course of their two years of sharing. So I asked the interns to comment on something they appreciated most about each of their classmates. I then took those comments and compiled them into a paragraph about each one. I will introduce each of them to you by using these comments. However, there is more. It has become customary to introduce each one as a kind of riddle. I will begin by saying something general – something that might apply equally well to almost everyone in the class. I will proceed then to points that are more particular, and at some point, the identity of each will be revealed – at least to members of the class. Then I will give each graduate a scripture quotation which I think he or she will appreciate. The scripture quotes are accompanied by photographs which I took this past July (all except one) when I was on retreat at Eastern Point, the Jesuit Retreat House in Gloucester, MA. I was very much in touch with the beauty of creation, and so I decided to use the opening chapter of the book of Genesis for the scripture quotations. I hope to make some connections between the photo, the quotation, and each student as I go along. Please pardon us if we use some inside information and jokes that might not make sense to those who were not in the class.



**Words describing this intern: wise, observant, reserved  
humble, humorous and patient.**

This intern is described as "one of the kindest, most thoughtful people I have ever met." This one's quiet input into class discussions was always well thought out and appreciated by all in the class. Comments were always "concise and relevant" in contrast to what someone called the "general chattiness" of the rest of the class. One said this one has the gift of child-like delight in nature, science, the whole world, and was never shy about sending e-mails with interesting tidbits about all sorts of things, especially news about his "kids" -- the miniature goats raised by him and his wife. Nearly

everyone commented on this one's dedication to the class, traveling two-plus hours up and back each way from Cambridge, OH. He even went through major surgery during our time together, and not even this would stop him from keeping up with classes. He was not fazed at all by being the only male in a class full of what one called "outspoken, opinionated women." However, one class did find him sitting silently with fingers in his ears when the discussion got a bit too loud and boisterous. He was truly a good sport, even playing Violet in our role play -- with a bow stuck in his hair to indicate who he was. We all loved how he threw a birthday party for himself at one evening's class. To sum up, one said, "Through good weather and bad, through good health and bad, his quiet presence made our class complete."

**Bob Howell**, because you have been the light of wisdom to your classmates, your scripture passage is:

*In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness (Gen 1:1-4).*



### Words

#### describing this intern:

sweet, comforting, calming, discerning,  
loyal, loving, steady.

One said of this intern, "Her ever present quiet smile let us know she was always engaged and enjoyed our

time together." Another commented, "Her gentle and pleasant nature and the personal interest that she showed to each of us are memories I will carry away from interaction with her." How she uses her grace, kindness and intelligence gave one person a "great example of what a God-led life is like." Another said, "Her class sharing using an economy of words was deep and helpful to us all." She greatly respects church teaching and tradition and is passionate about what she believes. Yet she opened herself up to new perspectives and unexpected possibilities. Many said they appreciated the insights she brought

to the class from her counseling background. One said, "I would love to be one of [her] clients. Her calming sweet presence reveals an open heart and an accepting attitude. Simply being in her presence, grace is experienced." One said, "She naturally shared her professional talents during the delightful roleplaying exercises and demonstrated how easy we could expect it to become." We all appreciated the thoughtful card or collection of prayers she gave us during the holidays.

**Colleen Lasky**, because you look to the heavens to be reminded of the presence of God, I give you the second day of creation:

*And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky (Gen 1:6-8).*

### Words describing this intern:

smart,  
organized,  
confident,  
deliberate,  
direct,  
questioning,  
honest, realistic,  
down-to-earth.

One classmate said, "We could always count on her for concise, clear sharing of her thoughts and stories. She humbly shared her life and spiritual direction experiences as examples during class discussion. Her dry humor and wit reveal her intelligence and warmth. She's a clear communicator." Another commented, "She is an absolute joy to be around. Her smile and her outgoing, friendly way always brought a smile to my face." She has a great sense of humor and a zest for life. According to another classmate, "She is very honest



and not afraid to share personal things in class discussions if she felt they would help illustrate a point."

Another said, "She has the courage to be authentically herself, rather than try to fit who she is into others' expectations. Being next to her is like standing by a quiet pond. Only when you happen to throw a pebble in do you realize just how deep the pond is. One doesn't really hear the pebble plop as it strikes bottom, but one can stand entranced by the perfect circular ripples that march out to the edge." She is a dedicated and loving wife and mother, and an earnest and loyal admirer of St. Ignatius. She has also been bitten by the theological bug. We are all cheering on her pursuit of further learning in the MA program in Theology and Religious Studies at John Carroll.

**Amy McKenna**, because you are down-to-earth and practical, with your feet planted firmly on the earth, I give you the beginning of the third day of Genesis:

*And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together God called seas. And God saw that it was good (Gen 1:9-10).*



**Words describing this intern:**  
 loving,  
 nurturing,  
 persevering,  
 grateful,  
 humble,  
 thoughtful,  
 peaceful,  
 faithful.



She was always smiling and ready to encourage the class. Her quiet calm was a steadying influence. One said, "God created [her] for the benefit of everyone around her." Her gentleness might fool those who don't know her well into thinking she is a pushover, but she is anything but that. There's a deep strength beneath her quiet exterior; as one person put it, "layers of lambs' wool conceal her iron will." Her instinct is to nurture, and many felt the effects of this personality gift in their interactions with her. One said, "Her nurturing presence threw a net of comfort and safety over us all as we journeyed together into unknown depths." Another said "She so wisely knows never to offer unsolicited

advice." She has an indomitable spirit, ever trusting in God's loving care. She is a joyful companion, kind, thoughtful, non-judgmental, and definitely young-at-heart. Two people mentioned they want to be her when they grow up! All in the class are impressed by her deep love for and dedication to her constantly growing family, and the fact that she raised six children alone, having become a widow at a relatively young age.

**Donna Wimbiscus**, because you are single-minded with a spirit of gentleness, I give you the rest of the third day of creation with this picture of a single morning glory blooming among the rocks:

*Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed. . . ." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind. . . . And God saw that it was good (Gen 1:11-12).*

One person remembers her as one of the first she met at the opening retreat, and her warm and welcoming smile made her feel immediately at ease. One commented "She gives her all to understand different points of view, and is always respectful of the beliefs of others." She is "highly intelligent, acutely observant, and ever questioning," but also "very funny with a great sense of humor." This is a person with a highly responsible and time-consuming job, but she has not let herself become jaded by some of the difficult things she has experienced. Instead, she has remained full of hope, forever astounded by how God remains present to her at every moment. Many commented on how impressed they are that she took time out of her busy schedule to make the ISI a true priority in her life. The class appreciates all the pastoral insights and examples she brought to class discussion from her many years of experience as a Methodist minister. And all of us value the Jerusalem rosary she brought us back from her trip to the Holy Land. We Catholics found it touching to receive a rosary as a gift from a Methodist!

**Words describing this intern:**  
 Passionate, open, dedicated, professional,  
 organized, observant, honest and creative.



**Valerie Stultz**, because you know and believe that every morning the sun rises with new hope for the coming day, and also that the light of God's presence shines through you, I give you the fourth day of creation with the coming of the sun:

*And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; to . . . give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. . . . And God saw that it was good (Gen 1:14-18).*

**Words describing this intern:** *enthusiastic, committed, upbeat, positive, honest, trusting and playful.*



One said of this intern: she "sparkles! When she has a thought or an idea to share, her eyes dance in anticipation of this sharing . . . . This sparkle is the music that moves within her." Several commented on how this intern's eyes twinkle and sparkle, attesting to a deep joy that lives within her. One cannot but feel joyful in her presence. She has a deep love for all things Ignatian. One said, "She is able to take what we learn in class and show us, through her life experiences, how those ideas work in our everyday life." She was ready to encourage anyone who was having a difficult time. This intern learns orally rather than visually, and rarely took a note in class. Yet her attention in class, her responses, and her dedication to being prepared to serve God's people were very important to her. Her sense of humor, also, "appropriately swung the class from ultra-serious to playful." One classmate is sure that "God smiled" at this. To sum up, one said "[She] may have no hair and be color blind, but you would never know it!

Amazingly feminine and always beautifully color-coordinated, Sandy is totally comfortable in her own skin. Knowing her has been an inspiration and a joy!"

**Sandy Appeldorn**, to honor the musician in you and the joy of song, I give you the fifth day of creation with the coming of the birds:

*And God said, . . . "Let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created . . . every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good (Gen 1:20-21).*

**Words describing this intern:**  
*well-read,  
 curious,  
 open,  
 humble,  
 reserved,  
 caring,  
 courageous,  
 creative.*

She is described as being interested in everything: people, new ideas, current events and her family. She brought light and life to our classroom experience. Her humble nature and self-deprecating style belie her demonstrated clear understanding and experience with science, scripture and teaching. This intern is described as having a beautiful and gentle personality, eyes that reflect the goodness within her, and a mind that understands nature and the world around us. We were all privy to how deeply she feels things, whether joy or sorrow. Those who read her blog (she is an aspiring writer) get a peek into the depth of her faith



journey which she shares so well. She added such color and class to our group, especially with her red hair and British accent. We all enjoyed learning what it feels like to be a Brit transplanted to America.

**Susan Palmer**, because of your love for nature, I give you two precious instances of it. They are not wild animals (except once in a while) but they are my cats, Julie & Augie. I can think of none better to represent the sixth day of creation with the coming of the animals:

*And God said, "Let the earth bring forth creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind. . . . And God saw that it was good (Gen 1:24-25).*

**Words describing this intern:** *bright, enthusiastic, refreshing, honest, direct, inquisitive, humble, open, caring, amusing and extremely outgoing.*



Now! What can we say about **Henedine Aldana**! Class was rarely dull, but Henedine could always add an extra comical or poignant comment to spice up the discussion. She was certainly never at a loss for words, even if the topic was a difficult one. One classmate said, "While the rest of us would be holding back from offering an opinion, Henedine would be willing to say what was on her mind, and generally what she had to say was well thought out, insightful and challenging" -- as well as being positive and encouraging. She was always eager to offer affirmation, love, support, and food to all of us (who could forget those delicious empanadas?). Henedine has the gifts of generosity, kindness, deep faith, and the ability to make others laugh. She loves life and the creator who has given us life. One classmate attributed to Henedine's ability to gather people together the reason why the class of 2012 is so close. Another classmate summed her up this way: "Henedine is highly intelligent, skillfully articulate and bubbling with enthusiasm. Her joy in the Lord spills abundantly from her participation in family, friendship and class. God has blessed us all through Henedine!" Henedine, this might seem to be a strange scripture passage for you, but I really think not. While your enthusiastic, outgoing nature still comes to

the fore for the benefit of all, and none of us would want otherwise, I believe you have found a new source of peace and rest within yourself through the ISI. And so I give you the seventh day of creation:

*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that God had done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work that God had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation (Gen 2:1-3).*

But wait a minute. Haven't we forgotten a rather important instance of God's creation? I am thinking about what else God created on the sixth day:

*Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness."...So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God, God created them; male and female God created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it."...And it was so. God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.*

I can only give this quotation to the whole of the class of 2012 - - wonderful examples of God's good creation - - all!



## Spotlight on the Newly Certified Spiritual Directors



**Henedine Aldana** accompanied one woman, a fellow pediatrician, through the Ignatian Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, and met with two others (one woman, one man) for ongoing spiritual direction every two to three weeks. Of her practicum, Henedine says she learned to relax and stay with where her directees were, which initially was not easy for her. She learned to say less, thus freeing up space for her directees to reflect on God's presence in their lives. She found that she has profound impulses to "teach" and give advice, automatic reactions she has begun to resist. She also learned that she tends to do this when she feels she is "losing control" of the conversation. She has come to realize how much more valuable it is for directees to come to insights, conclusions, and decisions themselves. Henedine greatly valued the process of writing the verbatims and discussing them with her supervisor. Thanks to her practicum experience she has grown in confidence in herself as "a budding spiritual director."

**Sandra Appeldorn** accompanied two women through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat for the Spirituality Program for Adults (SPA) at St. Ignatius High School, and served as a table facilitator for the eight-week Praying with St. Ignatius program at St. Noel Church in Willoughby Hills. She also led two prayer groups of seven or eight sophomores at St. Ignatius High School, introducing them to various prayer methods in a service program entitled "Contemplatives in Action." In addition she served as an adult leader for a three-day Kairos retreat. Through her practicum, Sandy realized "a greater sense of self-acceptance and self-knowledge; an increased capacity to accept and forgive; a deeper awareness of the Lord's presence in all things; a more cognizant recognition of the interior movements in me and my retreatants; a peaceful comfort with silence; an ever-deepening trust in Christ, in my faith, and in myself as a person and a spiritual director and minister; and the freedom to be me, whatever that is, and however that continues to evolve." She also developed valuable skills in listening and asking evocative questions. As for supervision, she says, "I never once felt 'supervised' in the sense of the business definition. I felt 'hemmed in' to borrow a loving phrase from scripture -- very loved and protected. Loved the experience."



**Robert Howell** describes his practicum experience as a "roller coaster ride." He began by directing three group retreats (fourteen weeks each, using Tetlow's "LightWorks") with the hopes of getting individuals who wanted to come for spiritual direction; this did not happen. He found great blessing in being asked to conduct a weekend group retreat in Akron for the Ignatian Spirituality Project, which brings practices of Ignatian spirituality to the homeless: "This turned out to be the most exciting group of all." Finally, Bob did find a candidate for the Nineteenth Annotation retreat, someone who has been "a real joy" to work with, and afterwards acquired four more people for individual spiritual direction. Bob's main problem has been distance: "My major difficulty . . . is that I live in a small community in the southeastern part of the state where spiritual direction is not a common practice and those who are interested in direction seemed already to have directors. This meant I had to meet retreatants in some mutually agreeable location and ended up having to drive a considerable distance to each encounter (the closest being 65 miles round trip). Regardless of my having to travel a lot, the practicum was a very positive experience."

**Colleen Lasky** accompanied two women through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, meeting at the Jesuit Retreat House. She also directed three John Carroll students, two women and one man, through the 8-week individually directed retreat at JCU for the program organized by the ISI. Colleen's goal for her practicum was to find her own direction style. She says, "I believe I have a tendency to be directive. . . . In the beginning I talked way too much, but near the end I had learned to listen more and talk less. I fully trusted God to do God's work, and I was very comfortable in the role of companion." She also learned to "back off from huge expectations" for her directees and to accept them "exactly where they are . . . and whatever little or however much they did in prayer." She wanted "to honor the process of spiritual direction, being ever mindful that I am overhearing another person's prayer." This goal came "easiest of all" for her -- "very naturally." Finally, Colleen greatly appreciated the classroom experience, mentioning specifically class members' "sense of humor."



**Amy McKenna** accompanied two women through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat for St. Ignatius High School's SPA, and served as a table facilitator for the 8-week group retreat, also at SPA. In addition she directed two John Carroll women students in the 8-week individually directed Ignatian retreat. Of her practicum experience, Amy notes that when she was able to relax and allow the Holy Spirit to work with her "*as I am*," then "the sessions flowed in a more comfortable, open way." She found it important to "trust in the fact that they are in this retreat for the reason they need to be, and I am there to facilitate them on this personal pathway to God." She finds consolation in the fact that "I brought some hopes into each woman's experience." She also realizes that "the fruits of [their] retreat will probably never be seen by me and I am fine with that." Finally, she says, "the importance of supervision cannot be measured. I was able to express in an open and honest environment my worries, fears, joys and questions. I only felt encouraged and refreshed after each meeting."



**Sue Palmer** used Tetlow's "Lightworks," a version of the Eighteenth Annotation Retreat, with two women and met every few weeks for ongoing direction with a woman from her church. She also met with two students for the 8-week individually directed retreat at John Carroll. Sue says of her experience, "I have always considered myself a good listener, but I learnt about being an intentional and empathetic listener. . . . I learnt to listen with my whole body, knowing that my attitude and body language showed whether or not I was paying attention. I also learnt to listen to what their whole body was saying . . . And what their body language was telling me." She learned how important affirmation is, "especially for women who are not employed outside the home and who rarely get affirmed by anyone." Sue was hoping to work with young mothers, but while this did not materialize during her practicum, it is something she intends to pursue: "I have started to write a book aimed at young mothers, to help them find time for their relationship with Jesus and to encourage them in their prayer."

**Valerie Stultz** directed five individuals for her practicum: for one she used Tetlow's version of the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, for one she used his "Lightworks" version of the Eighteenth Annotation Retreat, for one she used Syrup and Bergan's *Take and Receive* series for an abbreviated retreat. For the others, a woman with poor reading skills and a man with early-onset Alzheimer's disease, she creatively adapted her direction to their situations. In addition she met with her church's cabinet (United Methodist), comprised of the bishop, the bishop's assistant, and area superintendents, for a group experience of *lectio divina*. As a long-time Methodist minister, Valerie has had much experience in pastoral counseling. She has found it instructive to learn how different spiritual direction is: "Discovering that I would need to move to the back seat that God might drive the experience, freedom became my mainstay. How moving, how convicting it was to discover God moment by moment through my relationship with my directees. The practicum year became the gift of a lifetime as I realized that while pastoral counseling may have been a skill, spiritual direction was my true gift. I continue to be amazed at God's activity in the lives of those who come to me for the sharing of this gift." Valerie's positive experience of supervision made her realize how hungry she was for feedback. She says, "I will take this realization not only into spiritual direction . . . but into my day to day work as a supervisor of clergy and churches. The learning radiates ever-outward, pulling ever-inward toward God in me and in all things."



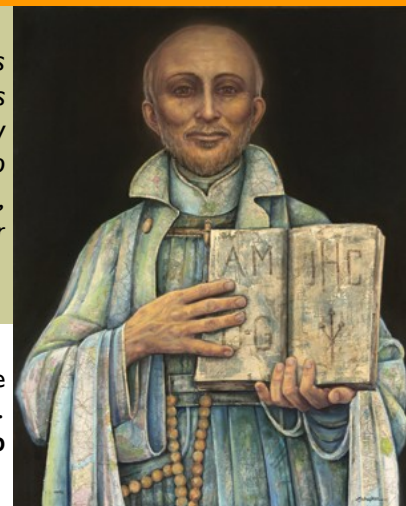
**Donna Wimbiscus** accompanied two women through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat at St. Ignatius High School's SPA. Donna had as her goal to "let God be the Director" and, she says she "wondered how this 'letting God be the Director' would work!" Now she can say, "As I listened each week to the words of the directee who shared her experiences and feelings, I was deeply touched by how God was working in her life." She learned that some people are procrastinators, whom she needed to treat with patience. She learned that "we are not perfect but all very human and are called to help each other along the way." She appreciated being thanked "for keeping her on track" by a directee who was initially resistant. Donna learned that "gentleness and correction can go hand in hand." Of supervision, Donna comments, "Meeting with my supervisor was an absolute treat for me. She made me feel so comfortable and open to sharing my life experiences. . . . Before we met I thought she might be like some of the pastors that I have encountered in my life. I was so wrong in thinking that way!"

On the weekend of October 26-27 (just before Hurricane Sandy), 29 members of the ISI joined together with Joan and Brian McDermott, SJ for our first ever ISI Retreat. Unlike the Opening Retreat, whose focus is orientation and instruction, with just a little time for quiet prayer, this retreat was primarily designed to give folks the opportunity for quiet prayer and reflection. The retreat, following the Colloquy for the First Week of the Exercises (#53), was organized around the theme of "What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What will I do for Christ?" Joan led the group in a guided reflection on Friday evening, and Brian McDermott did so the next day for two sessions. Each talk was followed by quiet time, at the end of which folks had the option of group faith sharing or attending Sharon Somerville's "Art as Prayer" workshop. The weekend ended with the celebration of the Eucharist. The retreat was so successful and so appreciated that we have decided to have an ISI retreat of this sort every year, with ISI folks organizing it. The newly certified class of 2012 has offered to plan the retreat for next year. This was a great gathering of ISI folks across classes, giving evidence of the larger ISI community that has grown up among ISI alumni/ae, amply attested to in the photos below.



Those who stayed to the end gathered for a photo after Mass on Saturday: From left, back row: Diane Anthony ('13), Sharon Somerville ('10), Andrea McGovern ('11), Elaine Pearl ('13), Robin Craig ('09), Janet Lehane ('06), Ginny Pippin ('10); middle row: Kate Campbell ('11), Karen Kapes ('08), Pat Cleary-Burns ('06), Mary Downey ('10), Sandy Appeldorn ('12), Deborah Zawislan ('08); front row: Joanne Sheldon ('08), Brian McDermott, SJ, Joan Nuth, Julie Bradley ('11).

Dear friends in the ISI,  
I send you greetings to accompany the replica of the painting by Holly Shapker which shows me with a smile on my face.\* (I look so serious in most of my paintings – this one is different. I like it – you know, I did smile on occasion!) I smile now because I am entirely pleased with all of you for your dedication to studying and giving my Spiritual Exercises to others. Now on the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute, please know that I celebrate with you. I hope you will join together with all your ISI colleagues and friends for the remaining events planned for this special year.



**1. A VISIT TO THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM: Sunday, January 13 at 2 pm.** Come join ISI friends for a special tour of religious art at the Cleveland Museum of Art. **IMPORTANT:** Please let Carol know by **December 13** if you intend to come: 216-397-1599 or [cpolish@jcu.edu](mailto:cpolish@jcu.edu).

**2. ART AS PRAYER:** The correlation of art with prayer has always been part of the ISI. You will be notified soon about the opportunity to create such a work of art and display it at our dinner celebration on April 13. These can be in the form of visual arts, photographs, poems, prayers, reflections on scripture and/or life, and various combinations of these. **Stay tuned for more information about this in the near future.**

**3. ISI TENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER: Saturday, April 13 at 6:30 pm.** This will be the highlight of our anniversary year. Please join us for a gala dinner and celebration. We have much to celebrate! **More information coming in the future.**



**4. IGNATIAN PILGRIMAGE TO SPAIN: it's not too late, but register soon!**

*\*\*Come with me! Come, follow the path I trod. You are sincerely invited to follow in my footsteps in a concrete way this coming June 12-22. Come stay in Loyola, visiting the castle and exploring the lovely countryside where I grew up as a boy. Celebrate the Eucharist in the room of my conversion. Come with me as I visit Spain's famous Marian shrine at Arantzazu where I went at the very beginning of my pilgrimage. Feel the thrill I felt being at the high mountain-top monastery at Montserrat. Celebrate the Eucharist in the cave at Manresa where I spent many hours at prayer, and where, based on my prayer experiences, I continued work on the Spiritual Exercises. Dip your fingers into the River Cardoner, and sit on its banks where I experienced the incredible presence of God to me. Visit with me the marvelous city of Barcelona at the edge of the Mediterranean Sea, where I lived for a time. Come to my country. I will be*

*with you and lead you. A true follower of mine owes himself/herself this privilege. I invite you to travel with other followers of mine, cementing the bonds that unite you. It will be the trip of a lifetime, I promise!*

*Your friend, mentor, and fellow pilgrim,  
Iñigo (otherwise known as Ignatius of Loyola)*

\***About the picture:** a framed copy of the painting of Ignatius by Holly Shapker was given to Joan from the class of 2012. It will be hung in the ISI Office. In addition to the image of the smiling Ignatius, the painting is interesting for the fact that Ignatius' garments are covered with maps of the world, illustrating how, under the inspiration of Ignatius and his followers, the good news of Ignatian spirituality spread all over the globe, and continues to do so today. For more information about Holly Schapker and her work, see [www.hollyschapker.com](http://www.hollyschapker.com).

\*\* The image of "St. Ignatius the Pilgrim" by the sculptor William McElcheran, was photographed by Vicky Chen at the Ignatius Jesuit Center in Guelph, Ontario.

**CLUB 31 FUNDRAISING REPORT**

Below is the second report on our new fundraising effort, Club 31, representing gifts given during the 2011-12 academic year. We thank all of those who contributed: ISI students, grads, helpers and friends.

This annual appeal helps us meet our operating costs, enabling us to keep our office running, to provide for the supervisors and occasional lecturers for ISI students, and to offer continuing education programs for our alumni/ae. Our tuition and draw on our endowment are not sufficient to cover all our expenses, and we look to this annual appeal to make up the shortfall. We are extremely grateful for your help.

This year the ISI celebrates its 10th anniversary. Since we opened our doors for students in Fall 2003, we have certified a total of 89 spiritual directors. Their service in Northeast Ohio to those seeking to nurture their relationship with God has been exemplary, and we are very proud of them.

**Please help us celebrate this great achievement by giving us an anniversary gift, however much is possible for you, to help keep our program going. I thank you in advance for your generosity.**

**THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU**

**Club 31 Donations 6/1/2011-5/31/2012**

**Grand Total: \$11,476.00**

Class of 2005 - 23% - \$ 631.00	Class of 2010 - 57% - \$1,888.00
Class of 2006 - 88% - \$1,368.00	Class of 2011 - 71% - \$1,696.00
Class of 2007 - 38% - \$ 781.00	Class of 2012 - 62.5% - \$ 143.00
Class of 2008 - 25% - \$ 300.00	Class of 2013 - 46% - \$ 386.00
Class of 2009 - 46% - \$ 990.00	Other Friends of ISI - \$3,293.00

Henedine Aldana '12  
 Sandra Appeldorn '12  
 Margaret Balewski '11  
 Macon Boczek  
 Edward Bourguignon  
 Julie Bradley '11  
 Paula Britton  
 Karen Broer '06  
 Mary Ann Burke, SND '06  
 Kate Campbell '11  
 Martha Campbell  
 Rita Carfagna '05  
 John Carlson '10  
 Joan Carney '07  
 Judith Cetina  
 Pam Chaney '10  
 Dee Christie  
 Pat Cleary-Burns '07  
 Mary Coffey '13  
 Judith Cole  
 Liz Cotter '10  
 Robin Craig '09  
 Barbara Curran '13  
 Doris Donnelly  
 Mary Downey '10  
 Liz Duarte '11

Joan Dworzniak  
 Syndie Eardley '10  
 Harry Eberts '11  
 Julie Exline '07  
 Conchy Fajardo-Hopkins  
 Elaine Fechko '09  
 Michael Feldtz '11  
 Laura Fibbi '10  
 Harry Finkbone '06  
 Mary Ann Flannery, SC  
 Pam Garrud '13  
 Barbara Goebel  
 Eugenia Gyi '05  
 Kathy Haag '09  
 Becki Haller '09  
 Chuck Herbruck '08  
 Mary K. Howard  
 Bob Howell '12  
 Rich Jerdonek '06  
 Karen Kapes '08  
 Rev. Bill Karg '13  
 Andy Kereky '07  
 Daryl Koning '05  
 Barbara La Rose  
 Janet Lehane '06  
 Laurie Malone

Aida Mandapat '14  
 Claudette Matero '11  
 Amy McKenna '12  
 Andrea McGovern '11  
 Barbara McWilliams  
 Kathy Michael '11  
 Eric Muller-Girard '09  
 Jan Munsey '10  
 Liz Nau '13  
 Peter Nielson '06  
 Eileen Novotny '07  
 Joan Nuth  
 Sue Palmer '12  
 Charles Patterson  
 Elaine Pearl '13  
 Ed Peck '06  
 Carol Polish  
 Laura Ramella '10  
 Barbara Schubert  
 Helen Sennett  
 J. Gerard Sheehan  
 Melinda Smith '07  
 Tina Sterrett '11  
 Jean Sullivan '09  
 Micky Wolf '09



*IGNIS* is published on an as-needed basis by:

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

*Photographs in this issue were taken by Rob Wetzler, of Wetzler's Photography, Jenny Leiter, Joan Nuth and from the ISI archives.*