



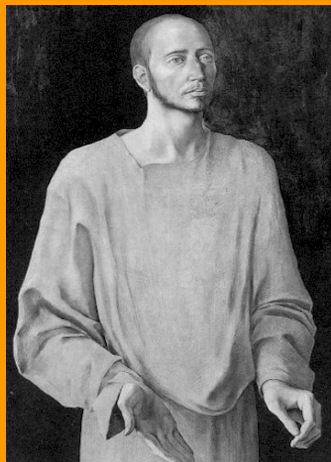
IGNIS



Newsletter of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute

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Message from the Director:

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the ISI. We have designed a year-long schedule of events to mark this auspicious occasion (see pages 6 and 7). With quite a bit of history behind us now, I welcome all of you to another year of prayer, learning and celebration with the ISI family. This issue presents brief reflections on their first year from those beginning their practicum and introductory bios of our incoming students. Our next issue will be dedicated to those who will receive their certification on August 26. As always, we welcome everyone back: students, alumnae/i, helpers and friends.

As I searched for a theme for this issue, I remembered a reading from Jeremiah, where the prophet is sent to the potter's house to receive God's promise:

I went down to the potter's house and there he was, working at the wheel. Whenever the object of clay which he was making turned out badly in his hand, he tried again, making of the clay another object of whatever sort he pleased. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do to you, house of Israel, as this potter has done? . . . Indeed, like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand (Jer 18:1-6).

In reflecting on the last nine years, I realize that indeed God the potter has been at work shaping the ISI. In the beginning, I had no idea what it would become, who would come to the classes, whether it would last for more than a year or two, whether we would have enough money to run it, and so forth. Now we have a history of blessings behind us that includes so much more than I ever could have anticipated in the beginning. There were some glitches along the way, but the potter was always able to reshape anything that "turned out badly."

Certainly, the same thing has happened to individuals in our program. In this issue you will read our new interns' expressions of amazement and gratitude for the blessings of their first year. The same is true, I would wager, of all who have gone through the ISI. At each stage, everyone may have been eager, yes, but also anxious about what would come next. This applies across the board: incoming students anxious about coming back to school, new interns anxious about their ability to be spiritual directors, and alumnae/i anxious about what they would do once the program was complete. Anxieties about "not doing it right" were gradually quelled by realizing, in very practical ways, that the potter could repair anything that "turned out badly."

From my vantage point I have watched every one of those anxieties quieted, as each one moved, step by step to meet the next class, the next reading, the next paper, the next person, the next opportunity, the next program (this includes me). Relaxing into the potter's hand is the key to this peace and confidence. Some of you attended our Reflection Day last year when Sr. Margaret Marszal helped us form pieces of pottery out of clay. The clay was resilient and malleable in our hands. And if something "turned out badly," we had only to crumple it up and start over. This is the message of Jeremiah's potter prophecy.



If God does the shaping and reshaping, what is our part? It's very simple, really, but not easy. We give ourselves over into God's hands, trying not to hold anything back. In this way we cooperate with God's forming and shaping of us. We use our minds, our imaginations, our desires, our wills, our dreams, our talents, our skills, everything we are as human, to choose and act with love in our world, but always under the firm guidance of the potter, trying never to stray out of the potter's hands to go it on our own.

Message from the Director (Cont.)

This summer I learned a small chant which functions as a mantra for shared contemplative prayer. I think it appropriate to use as a focus for our new year together:

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be.
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.*

The good news is that we don't have to be anything other than what we are right now, warts and all, to begin the journey ahead. The better news is that God will summon out whatever we shall be, even though we can't envision it now. The best news is that we are sealed by the potter's hand with the Spirit of the Risen Christ who lives in us, guiding us every step of the way. (There is no bad news.) All we need do is give ourselves over to God's wonderful working in us. Let us pray for each other this year that we may learn to do this well.

Peace and all good things,
Joan



*Text and music, John Bell, ©1995, Iona Community, GIA Publications Inc.

We begin this new year with a look back at the ISI's last year.



The Class of 2013—now interns—posed at the beginning of their first class.

~Diane Anthony



My first year was one of the greatest blessings of my life. It was a year of great personal, intellectual, and spiritual growth. It definitely was not without its challenges. Sometimes the reading seemed like Greek, but once I got to class, and Joan explained the material, it all made sense! Eventually the ideas of the first semester began to sink in and stay with me. The classes became a bonding experience with my classmates, and we all became closer as the year progressed. I care deeply about each of them, and some even stepped forward to provide needed help when I was ill. The second semester was particularly meaningful to me as we learned about the historical Jesus. This made Jesus so much more real to me as a man and helped me to put the scriptures into perspective. Now, as we are getting ready to begin our practicum, I am excited to get started. I know that we have been well prepared, and can't wait to see what everyone else will be doing. Probably the most important thing about the year was that I became closer to God, and my faith became stronger. I have learned to listen for God's voice and to see Jesus much more clearly than I used to in the faces of others.

~Mary Coffey

My first year with ISI has been mind-expanding and soul-transforming. The readings and written assignments were challenging to complete, and they challenged many of my long-held beliefs. In the writing assignments, we were asked to compare the readings to what we believed, how we were taught. I knew what I believed, but I never took the time to question why. The first year has inspired me to discover what it means to have a relationship with God, taking that relationship to a deeper, richer level. Participating in the first year while at the same time experiencing the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat has transformed my soul. Having access to the wealth of resources used during the first year enabled me to have a richer, more meaningful experience of the Spiritual Exercises. New understandings of my faith, new friendships with similar-minded fellow students, and a transformed soul as a result of the Spiritual Exercises have changed me. I am not the same person I was when I started this journey one year ago. What a wonderful and eye-opening journey it has been! I am looking forward to its continuation in the second year.



~ Barbara Curran

When I think back over my first year in ISI, I realize that my reaction again and again was “I can do this!” I started ISI while already being enrolled in the Masters of Theology program at St Mary’s Seminary, and I wondered if I would be able to handle the additional coursework. It was not easy, and I did have to ask for extensions during midterms and finals, but I completed all of my assignments by the time the semester was over. I can do this! A second area that troubled me initially was Ignatian contemplation. I have always prayed in a number of different ways, but up until I started the Nineteenth Annotation, I had never been able to pray imaginatively – to put myself “in the story” as Ignatius suggests. However, I love to journal, and I discovered that if I wrote my meditation, I was able to enter deeply into the Gospel narratives. I can do this! Discernment of Spirits was frightening to me until I attended Brian McDermott’s workshop. I never imagined that there could be straight-forward rules such as those proposed by St. Ignatius. I can do this! Finally, I wondered if I would be able to direct another person in the Exercises. Although we have not started our practicum yet, doing the case studies last year convinced me that if I am open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, I can do this! Of course, I know deep down inside that I am not doing any of this on my own, but “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!” (Phil 4:13). I am grateful for my classmates who are making this journey with me and am looking forward to seeing how God will work in my life in the coming year.



~ Linda Elliott

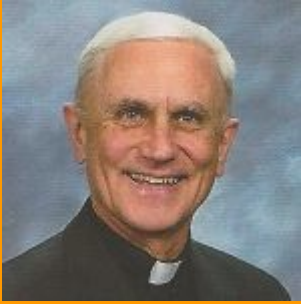
My first year of study at the Ignatian Spirituality Institute was a supportive and challenging experience for me. It was supportive in that I met many wonderful people from different religious denominations and walks of life on a common journey to enhance their faith, knowledge, love, and commitment to Jesus Christ and to prepare them to serve God’s people through the gift of spiritual direction. The first year was challenging in that the educational format was different from what I had experienced in previous studies. I needed to examine the theology I had studied and was studying and to discern and own what I truly believe. There were times when I really wanted to discuss the theology more intensely in class, but there was not sufficient time to do so. The year was marked by the deaths of my youngest sister, staff and volunteers at my workplace, and the president of our Parish Council; by the opportunity to companion someone along her Nineteenth Annotation Retreat journey; and by the need to confront serious issues at my workplace. By attending ISI, engaging in theological study, spiritual direction, and the deepening of my prayer life, I came to accept my God-gifted life more fully; to compassionate more closely with people as they faced struggles, challenges, and joys in their lives; to become a stronger, more faith-filled, and service-oriented member of God’s people and to be more determined than ever to become a spiritual director.



~Pam Garrud

I’m finding it difficult to describe my first year at ISI partly because I can’t find the superlatives to communicate what a wonderful journey it’s been to this point. The class-work has been eye-opening and, at times, enlightening. I have been blessed with a number of “ah-hah moments” this year; some of them just small twists on concepts I already knew, other moments being totally new ways of looking at things. However, probably the best thing about the classes has been the opportunity to get to know my classmates and to share deeply with them. On a personal level, the year prior to beginning ISI was a very difficult year for me emotionally. The whole ISI experience – including both the retreat in daily life and the class work – has been deeply healing and affirming. I look forward to my second year and, although I don’t feel like a Spiritual Director right now, I trust that God (along with some significant help from Joan and others!) will be in the journey that all ISI participants will take during the coming year.



~ *Fr. William Karg*

For the last several years in ministry before I retired in 2006, I wanted to do some further study for the ministry of spiritual direction. I had that opportunity at Creighton University, Omaha in 2010. Among other studies, I took a fine course on the Theology of the Exercises of St. Ignatius. Distance and expense caused me to turn down their invitation to be part of their spiritual direction training program, even though I thoroughly enjoyed my stay there. On the advice of my spiritual director, Fr. Paul Panaretos, I decided to request acceptance into ISI. The first year has been a wonderful experience. The reading in the theology of grace, for example, was a good experience of both review and new learning. I find our director, Dr. Joan Nuth, to be an excellent teacher. We did not want for good materials to read and study; the power point presentations were very clear and helpful; and the community of the class is a blessing. I find it interesting that, at this time of my life (just celebrated 48 years as a priest of the Diocese of Cleveland), I have a much deeper thirst for learning; not just any kind of learning, but significant learning. By that I mean what we are working with and preparing to share with others is about helping people find the true meaning of their lives. I am looking forward to next year's opportunities to put into practice what we have been learning in the practicum projects. Overall, I have found this experience meaningful and rewarding. Without hesitation I have been recommending to my lay and priest friends to consider this great opportunity to acquire skills and learning that will help people to allow God to come closer.

~ *Betsy Knestrick*

This first year for me was at times overwhelming, as the areas we covered were very intense. Many times I would read the material over and over and ask myself, "Do I even know what I just read?" But to my amazement it somehow slowly would come pouring out of me through my reflection paper. There was a lot of new learning for me, as some of it I thought I knew, but much of the material stretched me, especially the subjects about grace and sin. Joan is a great facilitator of learning, and very reassuring that you will eventually get it! She keeps saying you will get what you need, and I believe her. I am very trusting of Joan as she has done this for all these years and she keeps reassuring us that it will come together. I am hoping that it will in my second year. I am looking forward to our next year and embracing my practicum. I know I will be looking back through my notes much of the time, and feeling like a novice I am sure. I will enjoy continuing to meet for class with my fellow classmates as we really start looking at spiritual direction in very applicative ways in our second year.

~ *Jim LeSueur*

The title of William Barry's book *Letting God Come Close* is an apt description of my first year's experience in the ISI program. Even though I had done the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat six years ago, there was still quite a lot of unfinished business in my spiritual life. There were times when I still kept God at arm's length. I continued to let myself feel that I was the one who had to move to God. I had to make the first move and initiate the communication. Deeper involvement with the Exercises, becoming familiar with the theological writings of Karl Rahner, and listening to the words of Brian McDermott have made me realize that God is very, very close. I really do not have to move. I have to know He's there, and just let Him stay there. I learned a lot, and really grew a lot this year. I look forward to seeing what the future brings.

~ *Gail Lyman*

I am overcome with gratitude when I look back on my first year in the ISI program. Every time I came to class I felt I was in the company of scholars and saints. I have learned so very much this past year, yet am in awe of how much remains to be learned. The spiritual component of the ISI program is powerful; I have come to know and love Jesus in a very different way and, I think, in a much deeper way. My classmates and Joan have become a very important part of my life and it is largely because of this company that I have been able to receive the grace necessary to come this far. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with others on this most important of all journeys—the journey to discover how our Holy Immortal God is present to us at each and every moment of our lives in the most intimate way.

~Liz Nau

Last fall, I did not really know what to expect from ISI, but was excited to explore theological ideas and to encounter the *Spiritual Exercises*. It proved to be a profoundly spiritual and transforming experience. My relationship with Jesus and love for God deepened beyond measure. At first, I thought I would be disadvantaged to be doing a Nineteenth Annotation at the same time as taking class. Instead, the impact of doing the two simultaneously was greater than the sum of the two parts and gave greater potency to each part. As a United Methodist, it has been exciting to see how John Wesley's theology of grace parallels the experiences of the different weeks of the *Exercises*. The members of our class have been a part of the process as well. The challenges voiced, the wisdom expressed, the stories shared, the unexpected felt presence of the Holy Spirit have all painted the mural of God's love in vivid color. We have grown together, and I have treasured the private hallway conversations and meetings with classmates over the course of the year. Certainly, Joan has put together a rigorous, blessing-filled experience in ISI and her gentle grace-filled guidance and wisdom points the way to another wonderful, challenging year as we each embark on the ministry of directing others on their journey. This year has reinforced this idea that the relationship that God longs for with each person is unique, but covered with a complete fullness of love that we can only experience with an intentional focus. I am excited and humbled to be able to accompany others on their journey into a deeper relationship with God in the coming year.



~Elaine Pearl

The past year of the ISI has been very challenging. It has been thirty years since I was in school and it took some time to get back into the habit of writing papers. The opening retreat was a beautiful start to an amazing year of growth for me. The Nineteenth Annotation Retreat has been an opportunity to deepen my life in Christ. The retreat has enabled me to go to my very core with God, and has been a life changing transformation. To experience the beauty of St. Ignatius and to see Jesus more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly, have been the highlights of my ISI experience. I have learned a tremendous amount from Joan this year, and the statement that stands out the most is this: "It wasn't God who revealed who Jesus is, it was Jesus who revealed who God is." I thoroughly enjoyed the workshops with Brian McDermott, SJ. I learned a lot about discernment from him which I apply to my daily life, and I am truly thankful for the skills I have been taught. I find myself spreading things I have learned to the people around me and this has been a huge blessing. I enjoyed reading Barry, Nolan, and Aschenbrenner; they were very inspirational and insightful. I look forward with all of my heart to starting the practice of spiritual direction and being God's vessel to those I encounter.



~Harry Winters

The first year of the ISI was exciting, demanding and interesting. I deeply enjoyed getting to know my classmates, Karl Rahner, St. Ignatius – and of course, Joan Nuth. I found the reading to be intellectually stimulating and the spirituality expressed by Ignatius to be complex and perceptive. I'm not exactly certain what I expected to encounter this year but I have experienced a shift in my thinking and relationship with Jesus because of the ISI and my ongoing spiritual direction. I have appreciated the opportunity to talk about the Christian faith with my Roman Catholic sisters and brothers. This may sound insignificant, but it has been a profoundly moving experience for me. I am the pastor of a Reformed congregation in Akron and have spent a considerable amount of time reading and contemplating the theology of John Calvin, who was a contemporary of Ignatius. I have been pleasantly surprised at how similar much of their thought was. My congregation has been experiencing the fruit of the ISI and spiritual direction through my sermons that have taken a different shape this past year. I am very much looking forward to beginning the second year, though with a certain amount of fear and trembling. I have recommended this program to a few people who are interested in spiritual direction and I will continue to do so.



~Laurie Winters

For me, the first semester of ISI was a whirlwind of reading theology and philosophy and writing. Second semester we began to focus more on what happens in spiritual direction. Our class slowly coalesced into a group. This summer I find myself recalling material from the year and I find insights deepening, both with time and the progress of my own Nineteenth Annotation retreat. I'm looking forward to the opening retreat, to the growing sense of community in our class, and to beginning direction and supervision.



~Paul Barbins

I, Paul J. Barbins, am: a stay at home father for four lovely daughters, a husband to a wonderful wife who is a Lutheran pastor, and a pastor of the Latvian Baptist Church of Cleveland. Over the last couple of years I have grown to value my spiritual being and have sought ways to deepen my faith and enliven and enact the vocational call given to me. It has been an exciting time for me and I look forward to the opportunity this fall at the Ignatian Spirituality Institute to help me in this continuing spiritual walk.

~Sharon Garner



Greetings! I am a United Methodist pastor (currently on family leave), a wife (to my dear husband, Andy), a mother of two (High School son and Jr. High daughter) and an enthusiastic seeker on the spiritual journey through life. I was born and raised in Oregon, but have been blessed to live in many different places including, but not limited to, South East Ohio, Philadelphia, France, and West Africa. When not busy with the "ministry of motherhood," I enjoy backpacking, Taekwondo, musical theater, walking the dog, and spending time in silence. I have been accompanied on my spiritual journey by the prophet Jonah and have been inspired by the way his story teaches us how to love one another in the midst of our diversity. I am very much looking forward to participating in the Ignatian Spirituality Institute as an opportunity to combine my love of spiritual exploration and scholarship.

~David Feldman



I was born in Cincinnati and raised in a reformed Jewish household. My spiritual life exploded in my adolescence with an interest initially in Eastern thought and meditation practices. Always fascinated by the mysteries of life, I obtained a degree in Botany in the Honors Tutorial College and added degrees in Chemistry and Zoology at Ohio University in Athens. It was at OU that I met my wife, a Cleveland native and teacher in training; at times our three children often grace what had briefly been an empty nest. Late in my undergraduate work a calling to medicine became clear and I attended Ohio State's College of Medicine, anticipating I'd become an academic internist. Ultimately I found myself most stimulated by psychiatry with its broad span from molecules to culture. A short academic career at what is now MetroHealth Medical Center following psychiatric training at Johns Hopkins led me to appreciate that my passion for patient care and teaching might best flourish in private practice with clinical faculty status. Recently, teaching University Hospitals and Cleveland Clinic psychiatry residents about spirituality and psychiatry has challenged me to better articulate these longstanding foci of attention. An ever more apparent spiritual dimension in the struggles of patients I work with, as well as a wish to focus on my own spiritual formation, led me to the Ignatian Spirituality Institute. Free time might find me running, gardening, kayaking, cycling, sailing, painting, reading or fixing things.

~Joe Gibbons



I was educated in the parochial school system in Baltimore, Maryland and graduated from Hiram College and The Ohio State University. I'm a practicing physician with special interests in cancer drug development and medical ethics. I became interested in Ignatian spirituality while working through the Spirituality Program for Adults at St. Ignatius High School. I've been married to my wife Kathryn for thirty years. We have two college-age sons. Our family belongs to St. Joseph Church in Strongsville. I am looking forward to attending the ISI for the opportunity to learn more about Ignatian Spirituality and develop my skills as a small group retreat facilitator.

Tenth Anniversary Events -- SAVE THE DATES!!

Help us celebrate our tenth anniversary. We would love to see all of you. Put these dates on your calendar now. You will be contacted later in the year about each of them.

✓ **Friday & Saturday, October 26-27: Retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House.** An opportunity for personal and communal reflection on the meaning of your ISI experience from the past, now in the present and looking toward the future. Reconnect with classmates and friends. Create a memento of your ISI experience to share at our banquet on April 13.

✓ **Sunday, January 13: Tour of the religious art collection of the Cleveland Museum of Art.** We will have our own private docent for this event. If you have never explored this wonderful collection at CMA, you owe it to yourself to do so.

✓ **Saturday, April 13, 6:30 pm: Festive Dinner to celebrate the ISI Anniversary.** A highlight of the year. We are hoping for a great gathering of ISI grads, current students and helpers. Come celebrate with us!

✓ **Wednesday, June 12 — Saturday, June 22: SPAIN PILGRIMAGE.** See next page for details.

✓ **Wednesday, July 31, 6:30 pm: Prayer and Potluck.** Feast of St. Ignatius -- the culmination of our anniversary year.

~Betsy Hamm

I'm a cradle Catholic born and raised in Rocky River now residing in Wooster. I received a BA in finance and economics from Baldwin-Wallace College as well as an MBA from Case Western Reserve University. I married my husband Paul twenty years ago and, after working as a financial analyst for some time, chose to stay at home when our son John was born in 1994. Since then, I have enjoyed raising John and our sixteen-year-old daughter Megan. I have no desire to return to work in the area of finance and consider myself blessed not to have to. During the last ten years I have volunteered my time in the Wooster community, mostly at my parish, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. I have been involved primarily with our Religious Education and Youth Ministry program as a seventh and eighth grade catechist as well as a youth leader, helping to coordinate youth ministry activities. What I will do with a certificate in spiritual direction remains a mystery to me. I suppose part of my desire to enter the program is personal - I would simply like to continue to grow in my relationship with God. My journey through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat last year helped me discern this path to the ISI and I would like to continue to explore whatever else He has in store for me. However, I would also like to learn how I can help others enter more deeply into a relationship with Him as well. So, my goal is to remain open and just see where the next year leads me.



~Jenny Leiter

Greetings in the beautiful name of our Lord Jesus Christ! My name is Jenny Leiter and I have worn many hats in my life: law clerk, graphic artist and stay at home mom. Today I only wear a hat to keep my head warm because I am bald. I have made peace with being a woman who has alopecia totalis, for the goodness of God has turned it into a blessing. I have received this as a prophetic symbol of being uncovered before God and man. It is a symbol of my spiritual life, which I pursue with transparent honesty. I am a licensed social worker (BSW, AAS, CDCA) who specializes in working with women who suffer from sexual trauma issues at Akron Pregnancy Services (a Christian crisis pregnancy center). I incorporate spiritual formation and prayer in my social work practice. This marble topped warrior is a graduate student at Spring Arbor University in Spiritual Formation and Leadership. I will complete my studies in October of this year. It was during a master's class in spiritual direction that I was introduced to Saint Ignatius and his Spiritual Exercises. I found him to be a great teacher and mentor into a life of intimacy with God. I am excited about going "further up and further in" on this spiritual adventure that ISI will expose me to.



~Bob Linton

For 28 years, I've worked as a personal injury trial lawyer. I began my career at one of Cleveland's major law firms, defending insurance companies, hospitals and fortune 500 companies. But I found my calling once I switched sides to help individuals and families find justice and recover legally, emotionally, financially, and spiritually from catastrophic injury and wrongful death caused by misconduct. I am a graduate of Case Western Reserve University School of Law and Ohio University. I've been involved in 12 step recovery groups for more than 20 years and have worked with recovering homeless men as part of the Ignatian Spirituality Project. I have completed the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, both the eight-week retreat and Nineteenth Annotation advanced retreat at St. Ignatius High School. I can relate to the Spirituality of Imperfection embraced by the Spiritual Exercises. I seek purpose and direction in a world where, as Ralph Waldo Emerson once noted, "There is a crack in everything God has made." I work at accepting, on a daily basis, how God made every one—especially me—perfectly imperfect. I've been married to my wife Kris for 19 years and have 4 children, including two stepchildren. We live in Westlake with our two youngest: 16 year old Evan, who attends St. Ignatius and 17 year old Emily, who attends Magnificat. We belong to St. Raphael and St Ladislav parish, where I've served as a lector. My two favorite past times are golf and skiing and I'm a former youth travel soccer coach. I come to ISI to continue my spiritual journey to try and find God in all things, especially right here, right now.



Come to Spain with us!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW -- JUNE 12--22, 2013 -- FOR THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

From Ignatius's castle in Azpeitia, Gipuzkoa in the Basque Country to the great city of Barcelona in Catalonia, come follow the footsteps of Ignatius as he left home after his conversion to begin the pilgrimage of the rest of his life. Stops along the way: the extraordinary shrine at Arantzazu; Javier, home of Ignatius's buddy, Francis Xavier; Montserrat, the still-operating mountain monastery where he gave his life to God before the Black Madonna; Manresa -- its cave and the all-important River Cardoner, where Ignatius's mystical experiences informed his creation of the *Spiritual Exercises*; and finally, the magnificent city of Barcelona, where Ignatius begged money for his trip to the Holy Land. Tom Kane, CSP, pilgrimage leader extraordinaire, Brian McDermott, SJ and Joan Nuth will be your guides on this adventure of a lifetime. While there is certainly a religious focus to our pilgrimage, there will be plenty of "secular" treats and pleasures along the way, taking seriously the Ignatian imperative of finding God in all things!!! If you missed our information meeting, contact Carol to let her know you are interested: cpolish@jcu.edu. "First Come, First Served" as the saying goes. We will have a few more informational meetings this year.

~Aida Mandapat

My husband of forty-one years and I immigrated from the Philippines in 1974. We have been Gesu parishioners since 1978. We are blessed with three children, two sons-in-law, and one grandchild. As a physician, I have worked in several hospitals in the Cleveland area. I am currently with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation as a regional pediatric hospitalist. I am a Eucharistic minister and give Holy Communion to the Catholic patients of South Pointe Hospital. My search for "more" led me to join Potter's Clay, a Christian Life Community at Gesu formed in the 80's together with my husband. We continue to meet about every two weeks. We have done the Spiritual Exercises a few times with the latest one about a year ago along with other parishioners. I visited my sister in the Philippines last November and gave her the book we used. With the book and the online version to supplement it, she is presently doing the Spiritual Exercises with her prayer group. I am amazed at what God can do with a used book! This opened my eyes to the vast spiritual thirst worldwide as well. As I start working less hours and planning to go back to a university setting while being in the Ignatian Spirituality Institute (I was told there is a lot of reading and reflection involved), I wonder what God's plans for me are at age 71. With you, God, all things are possible.

~Bob Meyer

My name is Bob Meyer and I am a native of California and a graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary (MDiv) and Louisville Presbyterian Seminary (DMin). I have been a pastor in the Presbyterian Church, USA since 1982, serving churches in Colorado, Illinois, and Ohio. Since 1997 I have been the pastor of Wayne Presbyterian Church in Wooster. I have two grown children, Natalie, who teaches English at Hoban High School in Akron, and Sam, who is a first year graduate student in the School of Physical Therapy at the University of Cincinnati.

~Jeff Nelson

I was born in Southfield, Michigan and spent the first eight years of my life around the Great Lake State before my father's work as a pastor brought our family to northeast Ohio in 1986. After graduating from high school in Orrville, Ohio, I went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Heidelberg University in Tiffin, and a Master of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis. Ordained in the United Church of Christ, I currently serve as pastor of Emanuel UCC in Doylestown. Currently, I live in Wadsworth with my wife Andrea, son Wesley, and three cats: Eve, Nermal, and Snickers. Besides enjoying time with my family, I like playing and listening to music, reading, writing, a good cup of coffee, and unapologetically continuing to keep up with Michigan sports teams. Through the program at ISI, I hope to enhance my ministry as a pastor, as well as encourage parishioners and others to be intentional about exploring possibilities for personal spirituality that they may not know exist.

~Mark Salchak

My name is Mark Salchak and I live in Akron, Ohio. A cradle Catholic, I attended Catholic grade school and Archbishop Hoban High School. I was studying for a business degree at the University of Akron, but in 1984, my father opened a real estate brokerage company, Salchak Realty, Inc. So, I left academia in pursuit of a career in selling. Early in my career, I excelled and won many awards including Sales Person of the Year and Lifetime membership in the Hall of Fame for the Akron Area Board of Realtors. In 2005, my life took a turn. The drive to succeed became blurred by an addiction to drugs and alcohol, and I landed in the Interval Brotherhood Home. This was God's way to get my complete and undivided attention, and I believe this to be one of the greatest gifts given to me by God. Eventually, I was asked in 2008 to join the IBH team as an assistant pastoral minister, and provide "Chapel Talks" to the clients along with individual spiritual one-on-one sessions to clients who likewise suffer from alcoholism and addiction. In this capacity I have helped hundreds of people who suffer both inside and outside of treatment facilities. I also volunteer at the Salvation Army and the "detox" facilities in the area, spreading the good news of sobriety and God's power to rebuild lives. I know this is my true calling in life and I am thirsty to grow spiritually and to refine my skills through the ISI program so that I may better help others. I consider it a privilege to be part of the ISI family. I am married to my high school sweetheart, Elizabeth and I have two children, Rebecca and Benjamin.

Mary Senechal

As a native New Englander, I grew up in Maine and have been a registered nurse since 1974. I have worked in a variety of settings including intensive care units, emergency rooms, community health and geriatrics. In 1987 I married Hamilton Throckmorton, a UCC minister, and we moved to Vermont where our two sons Alexander and Taylor were born. In order to raise our sons, I elected to put my professional career on hold and thus stepped out of nursing for some time. After another move to Rhode Island, I attended the Rhode Island School of Design and began to take courses in a community setting. In 2004, our family moved to Chagrin Falls, Ohio where we currently live. I have continued to paint over the years and teach pastel painting at the Valley Art Center in Chagrin Falls. Currently I am working with Hospice of the Western Reserve. While functioning as the interim spiritual director at Federated Church in Chagrin Falls in 2010 I was invited to lead several retreats and workshops. Subsequently I have continued to facilitate book studies focused on discerning the place of God in everyday life. It was during these times that the possibility of pursuing education in spiritual direction began. I look forward to deepening my own spiritual growth and subsequently accompanying others as they seek to do the same.

~Elyse Wagner

My name is Elyse and I come to the Ignatian Spirituality Institute from the West Side of Cleveland where I work as a staff chaplain at St. John Medical Center. Though a native of Pittsburgh, I first came to Cleveland to attend John Carroll University, studying political science. Having fallen for Ignatian spirituality, after graduation I spent a year in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps serving at a Catholic mission church in Alaska. Then feeling my call to continue in ministry, I traveled from the northwest to the northeast to Boston College School of Theology and Ministry to earn a MA in Pastoral Ministry. Afterwards I found myself back in Ohio to do a year-long chaplain training program at the Cleveland Clinic, and I am now settling in at St. John. Throughout my studies, retreat experiences, and prayer life, I have felt drawn to the art and study of spiritual direction and feel so excited to be part of the dynamic ISI community. I am grateful everyday to feel so known and loved by God and hope for myself and for others to "find God in all things." I also have an interest in holistic care and I am a Reiki Master. Finally I am happy to say that I am involved in a romantic relationship, I have two adorable nephews, fabulous friends, and family just a state-line away.



Reflection

Joan spent the month of July making a thirty-day retreat at Gloucester, MA. Because Gloucester is at the far eastern end of our time zone, the birds would start chirping and the sky begin to lighten at 4:30 am. By 5:15, the sun would begin to be visible as in this particularly dramatic picture. Each day the sky would be slightly different, but the sunrise was always a memorable part of the beginning of each day! Joan shares the picture, along with a poem by Mary Oliver.

Why I Wake Early

**Hello, sun in my face.
Hello, you who made the morning
and spread it over the fields
and into the faces of the tulips
and the nodding morning glories,
and into the windows of, even, the
miserable and the crotchety –**

**best preacher that ever was,
dear star, that just happens
to be where you are in the universe
to keep us from ever-darkness,
to ease us with warm touching,
to hold us in the great hands of light –
good morning, good morning, good
morning.**

**Watch, now, how I start the day
in happiness, in kindness.**

~ Mary Oliver ~





Brian McDermott, SJ and Paula Britton, Ph.D who are with us every year for our Saturday workshops on discernment and listening skills.



Margaret Marszal, HM who conducted our annual Reflection and Reunion Day on Spiritual Direction and Arts.



Our Annual Team of Opening Retreat Instructors:



Paul Panaretos, SJ who introduces the First Years to all things Ignatian.

Liz Woconish, who readies those to be certified for life after ISI.



Kathleen O'Brien, who helps the new Interns understand supervision.



Joan Carney and Rich Jerdonek, who model peer supervision for those about to be certified.



And what can we say about Carol Polish, except that she is the welcoming face of ISI—and so much more!



OPENING RETREAT



CLASSES



ANNUAL REUNION AND REFLECTION DAY ON SPIRITUAL DIRECTION AND THE ARTS



Tuition

Tuition is billed directly from and payable to the ISI Office. Make checks payable to John Carroll University, and send them addressed to the **Ignatian Spirituality Institute** or give them to Joan in class. Tuition remains at \$2100 per year, and is payable quarterly. Due dates are August 31, November 30, January 31 and March 31. Reminder bills will be sent to you. If you prefer, you may pay the entire amount at the beginning of the year, or half at the beginning of each semester (August 31, 2011 and January 29, 2012).

Nineteenth Annotation Retreat

Those making the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat through the ISI will be billed monthly. The total cost for the 30 weeks is \$600.00. The retreat begins in October. Spiritual directors will be assigned in September.

Parking

You must pay for a new parking sticker for each semester. They require records of the make, model, year, color and license plate number of your car and accept **cash or checks only**. The charges are as follows:

All-day Parking: \$125.00 per semester
 After 4:30pm: \$60.00 per semester
 Summer Time: Open Parking on campus lots (no permits needed)

Since our classes are in the evening, you will not need the all-day permit unless you want the luxury of coming to campus anytime.

Second year interns will receive their parking pass differently. Carol will contact you.

Einstein Brothers Bagels

The café is open from 7:30am-7:00pm Monday thru Thursday, and 7:30-2:00 Friday. It is located on the Garden Level of the Administration Building.

Student ID

Student Id cards are necessary to check out books from the library, to use computer labs and athletic facilities, and to cash checks. The first card is free; there is a \$15 replacement fee for lost cards.

First year students are scheduled to have photos taken for these cards between 5 and 6pm on Wednesday, August 29th. Second year interns are scheduled on Wednesday, September 5th between 5 and 6pm. (Cards are optional).

Library

The Grasselli Library is located across from the Administration Building. The hours are:

Sunday: 11:00am-Midnight
 Mon-Thu: 7:30am-Midnight
 Friday: 7:30am-9:00pm
 Saturday: 10:00am-6:00pm
 Holidays: as posted
 Special Days: as posted

Student Service Center

Located on the Garden Level of the Administration Building, this center provides a check cashing service for students. Hours of operation:

Monday-Thursday: 8:30am-7:30pm
 Friday: 8:30am-4:30pm

RecPlex

Your ID card gives you access to JCU's recreational facilities. Hours of operation are as follows:

	Rec Center Corbo	Cardio Room	Pool
Monday – Thursday	10am - 12am	6am - 12am	11am - 1pm, & 6pm - 9pm
Friday	10am - 9pm	6am - 9pm	11am - 1pm, & 6pm - 9pm
Saturday	10am-9pm	9am - 9pm	noon—6pm
Sunday	10am - 12am	9am - 12am	noon - 6pm

***Please check the JCU website for up to-date changes that may occur for the hours of operation for these facilities, due to inclement weather, a power outage or interior maintenance.



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