

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2010!

On Sunday, August 29, 2010, the Ignatian Spirituality Institute bestowed certificates of completion on fourteen members of the class of 2010. This issue of *Ignis* is dedicated to honoring them and their achievements.



Newly certified members of the sixth class of the ISI pose after the ceremony with their certificates. Back Row: Pam Chaney, Sharon Somerville, Liz Cotter, Dave Schrader, John Carlson, Laura Ramella, Sharon Rowland. Front Row: Mary Ann Bowers, Laura Fibbi, Chris Madsen, Mary Downey, Jan Munsey, Syndie Eardly. Not pictured: Ginny Pippin.



Page 2

In this issue:

- Letter From the Director
- 2010 Opening Retreat
- Sunday Morning
- Certification Ceremony
- Celebrating our Graduates
- Spotlight on the Newly Certified Spiritual Directors









Letter from the Director

"O the depths of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are God's judgments and how inscrutable God's ways! For from God and through God are all things. To God be the glory forever" (Romans 11:33, 36).

These words come to mind as I reflect upon the journey the class of 2010 traveled, from the time they entered the ISI in Fall 2008, to the time they began their internship as rather insecure first time directors, to the time of their first team review session when they expressed how they had found confidence in this ministry because of God's fidelity to and confidence in them. And now the journey has come full circle, as they receive their certificates of completion of the ISI program. Their comments on pages 10-12 of this issue give ample testimony to how they have grown in the love and practice of the ministry of spiritual direction. Now they embark upon a new phase of the journey, as they continue to practice what they have learned in whatever way fits their chosen path in life.

I personally feel very blessed that I was privileged to share this journey with them, and I thank God with them for the many blessings they have received. This issue of *Ignis* records part of that journey, focusing on the Opening Retreat of 2010, the Certification Ceremony, and a **summary of each intern's practicum experience.** Join us in praising and thanking God. To God, indeed, be the glory forever! Peace and all good things, Joan

2010 Opening Retreat

The class of 2010 gathered for the third and last time at the Jesuit Retreat House for the retreat that opens the new academic year. They participated in a workshop on Ongoing Spiritual Direction, given by Liz Woconish, which offered them many helpful hints for their future ministry. They also met with Joan Carney and Rich Jerdonek, who conducted a workshop on Peer Supervision. The graduating interns had a chance to meet once again with the new interns, imparting to them some of the wisdom they had gained through their practicum experience, and to meet the new first year students for the first time. On Saturday evening, they socialized with both groups and with some returning alumni/ae at our annual wine and cheese party.



Sunday Morning

On Sunday morning the class gathered around the statue of St. Ignatius for a group photo. Please note that, with his usual exuberance, Dave Schrader, on behalf of the whole class, is stomping on the head of the devil along with our patron Ignatius. This was a very joyful gathering!



A celebration of the Eucharist followed, celebrated by Fr. Jim Lewis, SJ, Director of the Spirituality Program for Adults at St. Ignatius High School. In lieu of a homily, each intern gave witness to what the ISI experience had meant to them. At the end of the Mass all present raised their hands in blessing over the interns, commissioning them for their future ministry of spiritual direction.

















^{e 4} The Certification Ceremony



The Certification Ceremony for the class of 2010 was held on Sunday afternoon in the Donahue Auditorium of the Dolan Center at John Carroll University. Paul Paneratos, SJ led the opening prayer, and **Joan Carney (ISI '07) gave the benediction** at the end of the ceremony. Joan Nuth, ISI Director, posed for the camera before the ceremony with each of them.



Bruce Batchelor-Glader (ISI '05) delivered the address, entitled "True Companion."

In it he reflected on his own experiences in the ISI, and how his learning there continues to impact his current life and ministry as a Methodist pastor. He hoped that the lives and ministry of those being certified would be similarly blessed as they practice being "true companions" as spiritual directors. As Joan distributed the certificates, Rita Carfagna (ISI '05) gave to each graduate gifts: a copy of James Martin, SJ's book, *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*, and a lapel pin bearing the ISI logo.



















Celebrating our Graduates

Page 5

[What follows here are the remarks made by Dr. Nuth as she presented certificates to the class of 2010].

First, a word about my presentations. Class members were asked to submit brief summaries of what they appreciated about each other. I used those summaries to compose a brief description of each one. While the first few words of each description may well apply to virtually everyone in the class, hopefully the picture should become more specific as I proceed. I have also picked out a scripture quote that I think suits each one, together with an appropriate photograph I took on my trip this summer to Greece and Turkey. I will try to make some connections between the photo, the quotation, and the intern as I go along. I apologize for any inside information or jokes that might make sense only to members of the class.

Words describing this intern: soft-spoken, gentle-spirited, tender-hearted, sensitive, open, supportive, kind, warm, caring, joyful spirit.



Several classmates noted that this intern experienced a wonderful conversion from head to heart through the two years of the **ISI, and was moved by God's personal love,** which was shared openly and often with the class. Almost everyone commented on **this intern's unflagging sense of humor** unexpected jokes would pour out at all **times and places, sometime's putting people** a bit off their stride. This intern has been **named both the "class clown" and our** "gentle giant,"

John Carlson, because of your truly

humble spirit, I thought this quote from Isaiah appropriate for you: "Oh God, we are the clay and you are the potter; we are the work of your hands" (Isaiah 64:8). The clay pots were found in the excavation of houses in Ephesus—they date back to at least the first century when Paul was there.

Words describing this intern: kind, caring, empathetic, integrated, open to new ideas and technologies.

Classmates appreciated how well this intern shared a steady, strong, yet tender relationship with Jesus. This one always had a way of saying things with clarity and concern - providing a consoling and practical ear - always allowing others to have their say and their space. One called this one "the challenger." One said this intern's ready smile, probing questions, and ever humorous comments made a great contribution to the class's "ecumenical glee," especially with appropriately placed, great one-liners. This one is also our "go-to tech guy" who brought to the class a wealth of experience from his coaching career. Classmates are impressed by this one's love of nature, hiking, mountain climbing, etc. We all hope someday, Dave Schrader, you realize your dream of working in a retreat house in the mountains out west.



Because of your inquisitiveness, your interest in technology, and your need to keep your busy schedule in order, I thought this quote from Ecclesiastes appropriate for you: *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (Eccl 3:1).* The photo is of an ancient sundial found in the Ephesus Archaeological Museum in Turkey.

Page 6 Celebrating our Graduates

This intern is appreciated for sharing openly, frankly and humorously a sometimes painful but ultimately rewarding **life journey.** One classmate said this one "glows" with a delightful sense of self-offering to the world. Classmates see this one to be open to new ideas and eager to discuss and pursue new opportunities, and also one who delights in laughing and creating a safe place for others. Classmates appreciated how this one shared the fear of being abandoned, and then told how his first directee never showed up. They also liked the time he shared his poetry with the class, and admire his dedication to his work in pain management at the Cleveland Clinic. Called



"Mr. Personality" by one classmate, Chris Madsen has a great sense of humor and loves cats!

And I've got a cat for you! There were feral cats all around the tourist spots in both Turkey and Greece. They were usually quite friendly - and I'm sure get fed rather well by the tourists. This little kitten was in the garden outside the Chora Museum in Istanbul. Your scripture is from Psalm 50: "For every wild animal of the forest is mine....All that moves in the field is mine" (Psalm 50:10). I'm sure that includes feral kittens!! describing this intern: kind, gentle, sensitive, caring, trusting, open, trustworthy, unafraid to be vulnerable.

Words

Words describing this intern: A beautiful, gentle spirit, natural, relaxed, unassuming, bright-eyed, enthusiastic, honest, kind, open-minded, open-hearted. Classmates find her always a pleasure to talk with. She listens with an ear for strengths and struggle so as to bring help and healing. Described as making the best of every situation with a smile, she is admired (although not always imitated) for always being in class early and always having work done on time. Colleagues also admire her gentle presence to the dying in her nursing and the fact that she faced a whole shift of work after class. Heroic in scheduling, this intern met with a directee (to whom she gave the



appropriate pseudonym Nicodemus) in the wee hours of the morning. Mary Ann Bowers, we also enjoyed hearing about your three cats, Mateo Ricci, Xavier and Lily - Siamese if you please!

Because of your love and knowledge of scripture, I thought you would appreciate this photo from ancient Ephesus, one of the most extensive archaeological sites in the ancient world. Your quote is appropriately from the letter to the Ephesians: "I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation" (Eph. 1:17)

Words describing this intern: A deep thinker, always honest about her faith journey, enlightened, contemplative, artistic, insightful, loving, open, transparent, with a beautiful, comforting voice.

One said this intern is like the old E.F. Hutton commercial: "when she speaks, people listen." A consummate storyteller, this one provided the class with clear and inspiring lessons drawn from her own sometimes painful life story. One said,

"Her openness encouraged me to be open as well." She touched people's hearts with her gratitude for the healing that has taken place in her life - thus she was a true inspiration to all. One said "She is a glowing testament to God's ability to heal a broken spirit and make something spectacularly beautiful out of it." Sharon Somerville is a real natural as a spiritual director.

A beautiful bush outside the Chora Museum in Istanbul is the setting for a scripture quote from Psalm 27 I find appropriate for you, because it says well who you are: "One thing I ask of the Lord, that I will seek after: to behold the beauty of the lord" (Ps. 27:4).

Celebrating our Graduates

Page 7

Words describing this intern: A quietly confident beautiful optimist, open, insightful, helpful, organized, precise, caring, calm.



Classmates find her easy to work with, willing to share experiences, open to new perspectives, and solid in faith in God's redemptive plan. A thoughtful listener, she offers a positive, gentle energy to help others. People listen carefully when this intern speaks. Classmates appreciated this intern's readiness to help, particularly with technology. Her work as a writer/journalist gave her many gifts to share and we are most appreciative.

Syndie Eardly, because of your appreciation

for the beauty of the earth, I thought this quotation from Isaiah appropriate for you: "Holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of God's glory" (Is. 6:3). The scene is of the Aegean Sea taken from the Island of Patmos.

Classmates appreciate how she shared deeply personal stories in an appropriate and instructive way. They appreciate how forthright she is with sharing struggles and questions, and how dedicated she is to finding God in all things, even the littlest things that happen in the course of the day. Classmates perceive her to be deeply grounded within, from which strong opinions can find a voice. She is characterized by two comments which she frequently made in class: "In my broken place I met God" and "I just have one guestion."

Pam Chaney, You always said you need to "Look up!" So I think it is appropriate that I give you this quotation from Psalm 61: "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I, for you are my refuge" (Ps 61:2-3). The particular rock in the photo is the Greek Island of Santorini.

Words describing this intern: earnest, passionate, intense, transparent, open, insightful, energetic, honest, inquisitive and genuine.



Words describing this intern: smart and kind with a twinkly sense of humor, intellectually curious, careful and a deep thinker.

Her ability



to analyze and bring insight to our discussions was always respected. Classmates appreciate how she can integrate complexity, nuance and paradox into any situation without losing perspective. They think she radiates confidence combined with heartfelt compassion which draws others to her. We loved learning about her "five fabulous daughters," her adventure teaching boys for one semester, and how she always looks at things from a litigator's perspective.

I chose this quotation from the Song of Songs for you, Laura Fibbi: "The flowers appear on earth; the time of singing has come....The vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance....Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away" (Song of Songs 2:12-13). The flowers in the picture are from the grounds outside the place in Ephesus where, legend has it, Mary died.

Page 8 Celebrating our Graduates

This intern has a big heart and is supportive of those around her. She is committed to the value and power of Ignatian spirituality. **Classmates appreciated her ability to "call things as she sees them"** - no beating around **the bush! "Concise and to the point!" They** admire how she has her priorities straight family first - she put off joining ISI while her son was still home so she could spend time with him. Classmates appreciate the delicious baked goods she made for our classroom snack, and also how brave she was to battle rush hour traffic from



Words describing this intern: strong, serious, straightforward, sincere, concise, to the point, caring, conscientious, a dedicated and sensitive listener.

Westlake in all kinds of weather - she rarely missed a class. That's dedication.

Our other Laura - Laura Ramella, I chose this quote from Psalm 119 for you so that you may continue to march forward on the path you have begun in the ISI: "Keep my steps steady according to your promise" (Ps 119: 133). The scene is a walkway on the Island of Patmos.

Words describing this intern: A skilled and delightful storyteller, funny, competent, logical, intelligent, affable, confident and easy to talk to. This intern is perceived to be open in sharing experiences and one who listens with intelligent doubt. She is ever curious about the Spiritual Exercises and learning more about them. This, in spite of the wealth of experience with them that she brought to the program. She offered many stories that concretely illustrated how to offer the Exercises. Classmates found her "nuts and bolts" knowledge of the Exercises to be a great asset to our class. They are pleased that although she joined in the class midway through, she was able to be completely comfortable with them.



Ginny Pippin, I chose this quotation from Psalm 72 for you because of your dedication to making God **better known and loved by all you help:** *"May God have dominion from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth" (Ps 72:8).* The scene is a view of the Aegean from the Greek Island of Patmos.

Words describing this intern: Intellectually insightful, bringing richness to class discussion, committed to learning from multiple perspectives.



Classmates perceive that her passion is for Jesus alone, which has generated in her a deep commitment to action for social justice. They admire her passion for the world and especially for the downtrodden. One called her our "demure computer whiz." Almost all are impressed by her work with the International Justice Mission which works to combat human trafficking. Many said they wished they could have gotten to know her better - her presence in our class was sporadic because of special circumstances so don't be a stranger, Sharon Rowland!

I chose this quotation from Luke for you because of your missionary spirit and your dedication to work for the coming of the kingdom: "The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go" (Lk 10:1). The town viewed here is on the Greek Island of Patmos.

Celebrating our Graduates

Words describing this intern: Lovely, gentle, non-judgmental, transparent, quiet, reserved, caring, honest, insightful, sweet, humble, kind, and nurturing.



Classmates see her gentleness as a sign of both strength and wisdom. Several mentioned how comfortable it is to be in

her presence: her easy ways, smile and attentiveness invite their confidence and sharing. Classmates recognize and appreciate how committed and dedicated she is to the ministry of spiritual direction, as well as to being a good friend, wife and mother. One admired her

struggles with "learning her game of golf."

Because I think it describes your inner spirit, Liz Cotter, I give you this quote from Psalm 100: "Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise. Give thanks....Bless God's name" (Ps 100:4). The scene is a courtyard on the Island of Patmos.

Words describing this intern: A joy! earnest, persistent, passionate,

brave, thoughtful, smart, open-minded, honest. This intern has a way of revealing self and life as something positive with God. Classmates loved that this intern laughed at their jokes - laughed heartily and often. They love her dry, wry sense of humor. Classmates also find this one to be beautifully grounded in her considerable experience in active ministry, yet open to new viewpoints and adventures. Classmates appreciated her commitment to healthy eating - the "insightful Methodist with munchies," one called her. Another said "Green beans and tofu: she savors this

dish like it's a true epicurean delight!" And one called her "the unstuffiest minister I have ever met." Everyone is in agreement that it is wonderful that she finally responded to the ISI after receiving the brochure in the mail for years.

Jan Munsey, I give you flowers and grapes from the Island of Patmos, along with the quotation from Genesis: "Let the earth bring forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth" (Gen 1:11).

Words describing this intern: Colorful in dress and personality with a delightful self deprecating sense of humor, which is always right-on, positive and hilarious.





This intern truly vies with John Carlson for the title of "class clown." One intern said that she felt like a teenager laughing with Mary Downey at inappropriate times in class (and you thought I didn't notice this!). This same person said, "One day she mastered one of the big concepts from theology and kept throwing it into her conversation....It was hilarious." On a more serious note, Mary is appreciated for her generosity, care, kindness, openness, and candor. Classmates appreciate her humility and openness for growth and learning. She easily shares both tears and joys with others. One called her the queen of hospitality, opening her heart and her house to all of us. It must be that southern hospitality coming from the heart of this native Kentuckian. If I might voice a personal opinion: I was privy for two years to her daily struggles with Hal, her computer, and I greatly admire her perseverance - that says a lot about her. She never gives up and was determined not to let Hal win!

Because of your love for flowers, Mary, I give you this picture of the gardens outside the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, along with the promise from Isaiah: "You shall be like a watered garden" (Is 58:11).

Page 9

Page 10

Spotlight on the Newly Certified Spiritual Directors



Mary Ann Bowers accompanied one man through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, and another blind man through an abbreviated Eighteenth Annotation Retreat. She also conducted a thirteen-session group retreat for three members of the Evangelization Commission of St. John Bosco Parish, meeting each **one individually as well.** Mary Ann commented, "I learned through this practicum experience to let go of my preconceived expectations for each retreatant and to go with them where God was leading them on this journey. I was surprised at how often I was surprised during the direction process. I witnessed God's sense of humor. I also witnessed His love and compassion for each directee. I found myself being awed and humbled by the entire experience."

John Carlson spent his practicum providing individually directed eight-week retreats for nine people, all except one from his own parish, St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lakewood. Of his direction experience, John relates: "Who would have thought that the guy who likes to talk and wears hearing aids would be the one with the gift of listening? That was a surprise and one place I found God in me. It was a gift I did not know I had. I find that I can stay with my directees and get what they are telling me without worrying about what comes next or what I have to do after we meet. It has also carried over into my personal life in that I want to hear what people have to say. I have also learned that listening requires a response, but that response can be as simple as a facial expression or a nod of the head. It needn't be anything elaborate or complicated."





Pam Chaney began her practicum by developing and facilitating an eight-week Ignatian group retreat at **St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights for seventeen people.** She also directed one Nineteenth Annotation Retreat and another abbreviated twelve-week retreat, both at John Carroll, and a six-day retreat for two people. In reflecting on her experience, Pam wrote, "The most important resource I had during my practicum was my dear friends in the ISI. Those who helped me most have now become part of our ongoing peer supervision group. I was called again and again to community. I know this was of **God, because on my own I can be a 'lone ranger' type –** getting work done as efficiently as possible. I have learned that spiritual direction is not about efficiency, but about noticing what God reveals in God's time."

Liz Cotter spent her practicum accompanying two women through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat at the Spirituality Program for Adults (SPA) at St. Ignatius High School. Of her practicum, Liz remarks, "I believe in the actual practice of spiritual direction I experienced the reciprocity of the continuing act of creation. By entering into the ministry of spiritual direction I am witnessing and accompanying God's continual creation in those I direct and simultaneously God is revealing and creating in me. I learned how I must accept and trust my gifts. I learned that all of me is used as an instrument by God. The verbatims helped me notice movements within myself which allowed me to explore, accept, and bring my own unfreedoms to healing."





Mary Downey journeyed through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat with one woman, saw one woman monthly for ongoing spiritual direction, and facilitated three group retreats, one together with **Pam Chaney at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights, and two for SPA at St. Ignatius High School.** Of her goal to learn to use evocative questions, Mary comments: "The fear of having the 'right' evocative question dissipated sometime in the winter I had to learn to trust my 'inner voice' and to heed the direction in which I was being led. Uncomfortable issues became more tolerable when I put them in God's hands and didn't feel responsible for their resolution. . . . If an issue needed to be addressed, it came up unexpectedly (for me) in the next session."

Spotlight on the Newly Certified Spiritual Directors



Syndie Eardly realized a variety of direction experiences during her practicum. She helped facilitate an eight-week group retreat, accompanied two people through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, conducted a Lenten weekend retreat for 35 people, saw one person for monthly ongoing direction, and became part of **the core circle at Centering Space to prepare and lead prayer hours for participants. Syndie comments, "The** Nineteenth Annotation Retreat is a massive commitment, but I thoroughly enjoyed the depths to which the retreat takes people.... It was in [this] experience that I feel I learned to get myself out of the way and **let the Spirit go to work.... Throughout the year I relaxed more and more into the flow of that reality."**

Laura Fibbi spent her practicum directing two Nineteenth Annotation Retreats at St. Ignatius' SPA, and also helped facilitate two eight-week group parish retreats for the "Praying with St. Ignatius" program from the Jesuit Retreat House. On assessing her practicum experience, Laura wrote, "I became keenly aware of the power of silence and the need to honor the sacred space found in silence. I am now comfortable with silence and recognize it as a time of growth. ... I have become more sensitive to noticing movements and counter movements in direction and in myself. This experience has given concrete examples of many of the concepts discussed in class."





Chris Madsen directed four young men at John Carroll through a ten-week individually directed retreat. He also met with four people at his place of work, the Chronic Pain Program at the Cleveland Clinic, for ongoing spiritual direction. Chris commented on his **practicum thus: "I was open and humble with the supervision process. I experienced fear** of abandonment from God and from my directees as a block to listening to the Spirit. I made adjustments in my style of questioning . . . as I became quieter and asked fewer questions. I relaxed into listening better. My personal and communal prayer deepened and settled more into contemplation as I watched God work during the times of spiritual **direction. I began to understand Ignatian prayer and Ignatius' suggestions for direction at a deeper level.**"

Janet Munsey directed two United Methodist clergywomen though the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat. One of Jan's goals for her practicum year was "to learn to get myself out of the way so I am not stuck in wanting to respond in helpful ways." She commented on her progress: "I feel joy when I am listening to people. I believe that this joy is from God. God is with me in this process. I find my bliss. I believe when I am listening like this that I give the right responses for that moment. . . . In these times I stay in a contemplative stance. I stay with the directee. I can feel the difference when I get in the way, when this is not working."





Ginny Pippin guided two women through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, provided eight-week individually directed retreats for three people, met for monthly ongoing direction with three people, and facilitated two parish group retreats. Of her experience, Ginny remarks," I learned new things this year and grew in confidence. I came to second guess myself less frequently and trusted that the Holy Spirit was working not only in the retreatant but in me. The Nineteenth Annotation retreatants had good experiences and continue in regular prayer and awareness of their call and responsibility to build the Kingdom."

Spotlight on the Newly Certified Spiritual Directors

Page 12



Laura Ramella accompanied two women through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat for St. Ignatius High School's SPA. Laura summarizes her practicum experience thus: "My goal was to shepherd someone through the Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola as they pursue a loving and intimate relationship with God. Along the way I developed a knowledge of myself that came as a bonus. The concept of 'mirroring' led to an awareness of my sensitive areas that was new to me. . . . The most powerful moment came for me as I acknowledged my own brokenness. Then came the realization that all of us are broken. And therein lies the beauty of the human condition and God's unconditional love for us."

Sharon Rowland offered ongoing direction to five women during her practicum via Skype Video Chat. Of her experience during the practicum **year, Sharon wrote: "[My directees] each grew closer to God because they were each seeking God. It was a great reward to watch, but I don't think I was anything especially significant in the work. I pretty much asked them what they hoped to gain with God, and then shut up! . . . [My supervisor] was always willing to offer me extra time, and her comments eventually freed me from the need to keep asking the directee questions. The freedom allowed me to do what I was there to do – listen with God. Her unconditional support was evident."**



Dave Schrader accompanied two men through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat. He found



the greatest privilege of the year to be how he was used by God as a "catalyst" for the growth of his directees. He says, "I have been flexible in how I used the Exercises, not attempting to force my directees into too strict a format or focus. . . . I have learned a bit about helping someone pray affectively and begin to experience Christ in a more subjective way, rather than merely objectively studying Christ or the scriptures." As a result, both directees "made strides toward learning how to pray more authentically and openly, and listened more deeply to God's responses. This increased level of freedom brought me great joy when I saw it."

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Sharon Somerville guided two women through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat. Of her experience during the year, Sharon writes, "I believe I have grown in the ability to be in the present moment during direction sessions, to avoid the distractions of my own false self, to listen more fully without judgment, to ask evocative questions, to embrace the directee's experiences of life, to savor God's presence and explore God's seeming absence, to attend to the directee's interior movements toward and away from God, to be more deeply contemplative (noticing, absorbing, savoring God's self communication), and have strengthened my own personal awareness and interior freedom. . . I was led to new awareness, confidence, and comfort in my role as spiritual director."





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Photographs in this issue were taken by Michael Feldtz, Taylor Horen and from the ISI archives.