

Alumni Issue:  
**“Hearts on  
 Fire”**

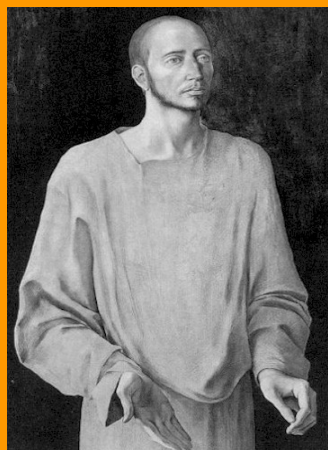
# IGNIS



*Newsletter of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute*

Volume 8, Number 3

Feast of St. Ignatius, July 2011



“Ignatius the Pilgrim”

**In This Issue:**

Director’s Message	1
Tracking ISI Alums	3
Feature Biographies	12
JRH Banquet	17
Meet Martha Campbell	19
Meet Teilhard de Chardin	19
Club 31 Report	20

**Director’s Message:**

Every year the Jesuit Retreat House holds an annual fundraising banquet entitled “Hearts on Fire,” indicating the ardent love its donors and patrons have for Ignatian spirituality. The title of our newsletter *Ignis* refers to the same phenomenon, being a kind of play on St. Ignatius’ name, with its possible etymological link to the Latin word for fire. At any rate “hearts on fire” is an apt way to describe the state of the ISI’s graduates, on whom this issue of *Ignis* focuses. You can read here about how each one describes her/his devotion to and love for the ministry of spiritual direction.

“Hearts on fire,” of course, reminds us of the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-25). After meeting the Risen Christ on the road and finally recognizing him in the breaking of the bread, they exclaim, “*Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?*” Painter Robert Zünd, in his 1877 canvas, depicts Jesus and the two disciples walking along a sun-dappled path under gloriously romantic trees, more reminiscent of the artist’s native Switzerland than of the arid landscape around Jerusalem. And yet, isn’t this appropriate? Isn’t it true that we each meet the Risen Christ in our own habitats, especially when, in Jesus’ words, two or three are gathered together in his name (Mt 18:20)?

Let’s apply this meeting with Christ to the ministry of spiritual direction. Here director and directee meet together to discern the presence of the living Christ in the life of the one coming for direction. At first, as with the Emmaus travelers, the presence of Christ might go unrecognized. Yet, as the journey continues, both hearts begin to burn with the awareness

that Christ is indeed present, alive in their hearts through the reality of grace, the indwelling Spirit of Christ in each one. And that Spirit reveals self in the very ordinary landscapes and experiences of each one’s life.



Where are some of the landscapes of northeast Ohio where ISI graduates have encountered this presence of the Risen Christ in the lives of those they serve? Four alumni are featured in this issue. Eileen Novotny (’07) finds Christ alive in her work as director of Program Development at the Ursuline Center in Canfield; DonnaMarie Kaminsky (’05) meets the Risen Christ in all those who come to Epiphany Hermitage in Akron for times of retreat and silence; Janet Lehane (’06) similarly finds Christ in her position as co-director of SPA at St. Ignatius High School and at River’s Edge on Cleveland’s west side; Carl Toomey (’09) encounters Christ in all those he serves as deacon and spiritual director at St. Mary Magdalene parish on the east side.

This issue of *Ignis* is chock full of the reflections of other ISI graduates, who speak personally of how their hearts have been touched through their spiritual direction ministry. Let me provide a kind of road map for reading these bios, explaining some of the ministries mentioned most frequently.

-- **Spirituality Program for Adults (SPA)** – [www.ignatius.edu](http://www.ignatius.edu) (search under “Spirituality”)

Begun at St. Ignatius High School by Jim Lewis, SJ, this program provides for parents of SIHS students and others the opportunity to experience the Spiritual Exercises in either the eight-week introductory format or the thirty-week Nineteenth Annotation Retreat. Many

-- **Parish Retreat Program (PRP)** – [www.jrh-cleveland.org](http://www.jrh-cleveland.org) (search under “programs,” then “Eight-Week Ignatian Retreat,” then “Parish Retreat: Praying With St. Ignatius”)

Modeled on SPA, since 2006 this program has been offered through the Jesuit Retreat House, bringing the opportunity to make the eight-week introductory Ignatian retreat to parishes in the Cleveland diocese. Begun by Rita Carfagna ('05) and Ginny Pippin ('10), the program is now headed by Martha Campbell at JRH. ISI alums are frequent presenters and table leaders in this program.

-- **Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP)** – [www.ignatianspiritualityproject.org](http://www.ignatianspiritualityproject.org)

Created in 1998 in Chicago by Bill Creed, SJ and Ed Shuma, this program brings spiritual direction to the homeless and those in transition. Cleveland's connection to this project is headed by Nancy Rowell ('07) and Linda Catanzaro. Over the past few years, they have initiated a program entitled “Samaritan Women” which brings homeless and transitional women together in various venues to find the Risen Christ in their lives. Many ISI grads provide ministry through this program.

-- **Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC)** – [www.ivcusa.org](http://www.ivcusa.org)

Modeled on the Jesuit Volunteer Corps for young people, this program provides men and women fifty years and older the opportunity to work for justice in ways suited to their talents and professions. One of the requirements of the program is that volunteers meet regularly with a “spiritual reflector” to talk about how their ministry contributes to their faith life. Many ISI grads have become reflectors for this group of people. Eugenia Gyi ('05) has been active in this ministry.

-- **Busy Student Retreats**

Sponsored by Newman Catholic Campus Ministry at various universities in northeast Ohio, these retreats last a week, during which time students meet individually with a spiritual director about five times. Rich Jerdonek ('06) and Mary Ann Spangler ('07) are frequent leaders for these retreats, along with other ISI alums.

ISI grads provide retreats and spiritual direction through all of these organizations, but others have created their own spiritual direction practices at their local parish church or elsewhere. Truly, there are many stops along the road to Emmaus for ISI grads where the Risen Christ ignites their “hearts on fire” with love for God and their neighbors. At the end of his practicum year, one intern confessed to being surprised by how much he cared about his directees. I think this has been universally true for ISI grads. It is certainly true for me when I remember all who have moved through the ISI program and who continue to minister to God's people all over northeast Ohio, the Risen Christ alive and well in each one. Truly, we can say often, “*Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?*”

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Ignis*! Peace and all good things to you,  
Joan



Rembrandt, “The Supper at Emmaus” (1648), Musée du Louvre, Paris

*“Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”*

*(Mt. 18:20)*

## Charter Class of 2005



### SR. MARY ANN BARAN, SND

Mary Ann continues to provide spiritual direction in several ways. She currently has eight directees and spends around eight hours each month providing direction. She has recently directed a woman making the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, and this year she supervised an ISI intern. Mary Ann writes, "My best discoveries continue to be my awe at how God works in people and the deep love God has for them and they for God."

### SR. MARIAN DURKIN, CSA

All would agree with Sr. Marian Durkin when she says, "I'm quite busy!" Currently, Marian provides spiritual direction for four individuals on a regular basis. She was part of the team at St. Barnabas Parish for an eight-week retreat, worked a weekend retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House and participated in a Busy Student Retreat at Kent State. She is part of the team for Samaritan Women and is greatly inspired by the women from the various shelters and homes. Marian finds being part of her peer supervision group to be most enjoyable: "We meet regularly and the time we spend together has been a tremendous support to me as a director."



### SHEILA FLYNN

Besides the joy that her grandchildren bring into her life, the youngest of whom is nine months old, Sheila finds that spiritual direction is still the great grace in her life. She spends her weekends at the Carmelite Monastery helping with organic gardening and recycling between appointments. Sheila writes, "I am very blessed with wonderful directees, each of whom enriches my soul. One shows me the value of persevering in prayer through very difficult mental stress, another the transparency of soul found in a life of pastoral service, another the richness of creative ministry in her community, another the spirituality of family, another the value of prayerful discernment in her young life directed toward wholeness...I am so grateful." This past year Sheila has been involved in the JCU eight-day silent retreat, the Busy Student Retreat at Case, and a retreat with Samaritan Women. Sheila also makes frequent Benedictine retreats and recently returned from Holy Cross Monastery in Chicago. She tries to take one class in religious studies each semester, and credits her CLC community for keeping her focused. She looks forward to planning a community collaboration with a Lutheran campus minister around the ideals of living simply and monastic spirituality. Sheila sends greetings to the ISI community: "Life is wonderful at this juncture and I am filled with gratitude for my association with all of you and wish you peace, hope and love."

### EUGENIA GYI

Eugenia continues to stay busy providing spiritual direction. Every summer she gives the Ignatian Exercises at her parish, St. Richard, in a nine-week individual format. Of the ten people she is currently directing, most have made the Exercises with her or are part of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) where she helps coordinate spiritual programs. She also helps at Case Western Reserve's Newman Center and gives direction to some of the students there. Eugenia continues her "presence ministry" with the poor and elderly and is now teaching crocheting at four locations. Having been a spiritual director for six years, Eugenia continues to be "humbled and fed by the retreatants' spirituality." *Photo: IVC Retreat at Franciscan Retreat House in Tiffin, OH—Eugenia in first row, right.*



### MARY KAY JONES

Mary Kay provides spiritual direction to three adults and also does retreat work. She has discovered that "the more I work with directees, the more I see myself as the 'go between' for Jesus." Mary Kay has discovered that what she learned at ISI goes beyond spiritual direction. She puts what she learned into practice constantly and uses the theology in her retreat work and adult education classes, to say nothing of her first-grade class. *Photo: Mary Kay surrounded by her first-graders.*

## Class of 2006

**DR. KAREN BROER**

Karen credits the ISI program with instilling in her a desire to be with people in spiritual direction. Karen writes, "The ISI provided a strong foundation in knowledge and skills for spiritual direction. That vocation has been confirmed in many ways over the years." Currently, Karen has three directees for ongoing spiritual direction and provided a Nineteenth Annotation Retreat with another as part of Gesu's Ignatian year. Her greatest challenge is finding time for everything and balancing her counseling profession, teaching, and spiritual direction. Additionally, last semester Karen took an online course in Biblical Psychology and Mental Health, which has given her new insight into integrating a biblical perspective in her career as a counselor. Karen hopes to go on a silent retreat this year, attend spirituality related workshops, and "read the many books I've accumulated."

**PAT CLEARY-BURNS**

Pat is keeping busy spending ten hours a week directing fifteen people individually in person, by telephone, and even by Skype! Pat also leads four eight-day directed retreats each year. This year he has discovered Elizabeth Liebert's, *The Way of Discernment* and Esther de Waal's *Every Earthly Blessing: Rediscovering the Celtic Tradition*.

**HARRY FINKBONE.**

Despite dividing his time between his job in industrial toxicology and graduate school, as well as his roles as a local church pastor, husband, father, and grandfather, Harry still manages to find time to provide ongoing spiritual direction to twelve people and to conduct a mini-retreat for his parish. His directees include clergy, church workers, and parishioners. Harry also takes part in a peer supervision group in Cleveland that meets once a month.

**RICH JERDONEK**

Since graduating from the ISI program in 2006, Rich has been busy providing spiritual direction in a variety of ways. Much of Rich's work has been done at St. Ignatius High School where he directed and led retreats through the Spirituality Program for Adults (SPA). He also assisted with a one-week retreat for St. Ignatius alumni and directed Busy Student Retreats at Cleveland State, Case Western Reserve, and Kent State. Rich has supervised a second-year ISI student and co-presented the Peer Supervision Workshop at the ISI Opening Retreat with Joan Carney. Despite his busy schedule, Rich is "becoming more aware of my need and God's call to trust, love, let go of attachments and control, and follow Jesus with fervor." He hopes to continue to grow as a spiritual director and is "in awe of how God is working dramatically in the lives of so many people and how they are responding to his call." Read more about Rich later in this issue.

**REV. PETER W. NIELSEN, III**

Since graduating, Peter has continued to provide spiritual direction, primarily within the Episcopal community and has done some group work with adults and youth. Although his greatest challenge is his struggle to find more time for this work, he has welcomed the opportunity to provide direction for those who are different from himself in lifestyle and social strata. He writes, "This is where I find God most present in my life." In anticipation of his retirement, Peter has been investigating how to offer his services as a retreat leader, spiritual director and referral counselor to the local Painesville ministerial association. He writes, "Ecumenically there is a lack of resources for such a person to be on staff at these community churches and I will likely try for a retainer relationship and offer private practice."

**EDWARD PECK**

Ed Peck does the bulk of his spiritual direction two weeks a year on six to eight day retreats with three to four faculty and administrators in his Ignatian Colleagues Program. He also works with one individual for ongoing spiritual direction and has seen two others for eight-week retreats in everyday life. The picture is of Ed and a faculty directee while on the Magis National Faculty Retreat in Denver, Colorado. Recently, Ed has also begun to accompany people through the Creighton University Online Retreat in Everyday Life. His most recent great discovery is Howard Gray's CD collection "Dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises." Ed's greatest challenge is similar to many: finding the time to schedule meetings given his own busy schedule and that of those he directs.



## Class of 2007

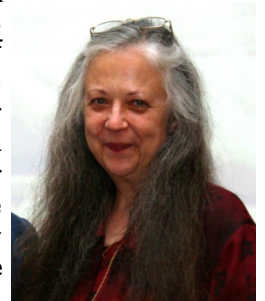
### DR. JULIE EXLINE, Ph.D.



Although Julie is not doing formal direction at this time, she recently joined a prayer ministry team at her local church. Julie is also enjoying informal conversations with people about spiritual issues. She writes, "It can be both fascinating and difficult to have spiritual discussions with people from diverse faith traditions, including those who are skeptical about religion and/or spirituality." As a psychologist, Julie focuses primarily on the struggles and challenges that people experience in their religious and spiritual lives. Julie is interested in learning more about people's spiritual struggles, especially those involving negative feelings like anger and mistrust towards God. She hopes to learn more about how spiritual directors, including those from ISI, work with individuals facing such challenges. She is interested in doing a blend of therapy and spiritual direction for these individuals (and welcomes any referrals). Julie conducted an informative, well-attended workshop on Anger at God for the ISI last March.

### JACKIE (BLUETT) KREJCIK

Jackie is currently the chairperson of the Spiritual Development Collaborative Commission for St. Colman, St. Malachi, and St. Patrick parishes, which involves coordinating adult education, prayer groups, Stations of the Cross, and a Pentecost Fest. Jackie also coordinated a committee for a day of reflection for the Liturgical Ministers at St. Colman's, St. Malachi's, and St. Patrick's. In the past four years, she has led four Praying with St. Ignatius Retreats through the Jesuit Retreat House and she recently coordinated a weekend AA women's retreat at Loyola Retreat House. Jackie currently has six people who come to her for spiritual direction. She is a spiritual care volunteer for the Hospice of the Western Reserve where she is currently companioning two people. She has found volunteering at hospice to be her best new discovery this year and would like to find a part-time job as a spiritual caregiver in a hospice setting. She welcomes any ideas or networking suggestions.



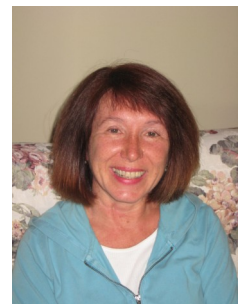
### NANCY ROWELL



Nancy Rowell has been busy in the past year with individual spiritual direction, Nineteenth Annotation Retreats, group spiritual direction with homeless ministries, retreats and *lectio* in shelters and treatment centers, as well as offering a spirituality series for fifteen year old girls based on the Exercises. One of her biggest challenges is "keeping from counseling/advice giving for those who are looking for that in everyday life; instead letting God be the counselor (and) discovering how present God is in their prayer if they are praying, listening and open!" Nancy is a member of the Lay Leadership Advisory Council at the Jesuit Retreat House, and encourages those who feel inspired to propose programs to let her know! *The picture shows Nancy (left) with Linda Catanzaro. Together they facilitate a spiritual ministry to the homeless and those in transition in greater Cleveland.*

### MARIA SKRABEC

Currently, Maria provides spiritual direction through St. Ignatius SPA. This year she directed three people in the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat and meets weekly with two others. She has found that "the longer I have been doing spiritual direction the more I am in awe of this holy presence between God and the retreatant, as I witness modern day miracles." Maria's greatest challenge "is to be fully present and listen at a heart level, allowing God to be the true spiritual director." Maria meets for monthly supervision at St. Ignatius and deems this necessary to process her own spiritual journey during direction. She has appreciated the continuing education that the ISI provides, as well as the continued support.



### DR. MELINDA SMITH, MD



Since graduating from the ISI program, Melinda has been working with Sr. Ardath Blake from Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center to offer eight-week Ignatian retreats at her parish. Melinda also meets with three ongoing directees once every four to six weeks. As with many ISI alums, Melinda's greatest challenge is balancing her time between her regular job as a physician and spiritual direction. Looking back on the ISI program, Melinda finds the community that was created through the program helpful and beneficial. She continues to learn as she journeys with more people and listens to their stories.



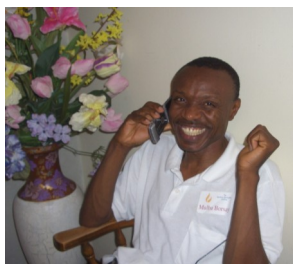
### **SR. MARY ANN SPANGLER, HM**

Sr. Mary Ann has continued her ministry of creating retreats for parishes and school faculties, Busy Student Retreats on college campuses and young adult retreats, always focusing on the areas of spirituality, discernment, transitions in life, and faith development. Mary Ann wants to update ISI alums on her work with the Coalition for Young Adults, which has just completed a strategic plan. In this plan, there are objectives focusing on retreats, spiritual direction for young adults, and on-going faith formation for underserved young adult populations. Sr. Mary Ann will continue to keep the group updated as sub-committees are being formed and action steps implemented.

## **Class of 2008**

### **ARLENE (GLADURA) ANDERSON**

Since graduating from the ISI program, Arlene has provided spiritual direction to several individuals. She has worked with an individual from AA and others within her congregation. Arlene has found her greatest challenge to be with those “who seem to be really stuck in one place and have difficulty moving on.” Yet her best discoveries are the progress that her directees have made and their finding out that prayer is something more than just “talking to God.” She has found within herself an aptitude for grief support, and much of her current spiritual direction is in this area. She credits the ISI program with helping her to listen to others, as well as enhancing her own journey in prayer and worship.



### **MULBA BORSAY**

Since graduation, Mulba has been seeing one person for ongoing spiritual direction. He has created group workshops about the need for spiritual direction, hoping to lessen people’s confusion about spiritual direction as individualism opposed to community worship. Although time is his greatest challenge, he writes, “The discovery of God’s love relationship for all of God’s creatures, especially human beings, has had a great impact on my ministry.”

### **KAREN KAPES**

As Karen finishes up her last year with Cuyahoga Falls City Schools, she is directing one individual in a modified Nineteenth Annotation Retreat. The experience has challenged Karen to be with the directee where she is in her own spiritual development. Additionally, Karen is learning how to challenge the directee without turning her off. Karen hopes to be more available for spiritual direction when she retires from teaching at the end of this school year.



### **JOANNE SHELDON**

After retiring from thirty years in hospice work, Joanne has kept busy with spiritual direction. She is now a spiritual reflector for members of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps who spend sixteen hours a week working with the homeless. Joanne has supported the Ignatian Spirituality Project and worked with the Samaritan Women. Currently, Joanne volunteers with a team from St. Francis of Assisi Parish to develop and train “Spiritual Friends.” Using the spirituality of Ignatius and other materials, Joanne has prepared a group of trained volunteers who visit elderly parishioners to discuss their spiritual concerns and issues. Joanne also developed and took part in a six-week retreat program for homebound parishioners based on Ignatius’ Spiritual Exercises, “a most satisfying opportunity and experience.” Joanne is amazed by how excited and open the elderly are in their desire to continue developing their relationship with God. Joanne has also been directing a first year Methodist pastor and assisted Rita Carfagna in offering the Praying With St. Ignatius group retreat at St. Barnabas.





### LARRY VUILLEMIN

Larry continues to co-present programs with Fr. Norm Douglas on behalf of Heart-to-Heart Communications, which focuses on the spirituality of everyday life. Larry writes, "ISI has provided a theological framework which resonates with the work we are doing in Heart-To-Heart Communications. In essence, our programs have a certain 'Ignatian flavor' to them, grounded as they are in awakening us to a greater self-awareness of God's grace-filled presence in the midst of the human condition." Larry has assisted with Heart-to-Heart missions in Kansas, Arizona, and several locations in Ohio, including Parma, Westlake, and Akron. Larry encourages anyone desiring further information about Heart-to-Heart to visit the web site at [www.h2hc.org](http://www.h2hc.org).

### DEBORAH GRIES ZAWISLAN

Since graduation, Deborah has provided spiritual direction to college students through Busy Student Retreats at two to three campuses per year and ongoing direction at a few of the universities with students who have completed the Busy Student Retreat. Deborah also provides retreats through Samaritan Women, and assists in up to two Ignatian Parish Retreats a year through the Jesuit Retreat House. She has recently been working with Elaine Fechko to adapt the Busy Person Retreat for parishes in the South Hills Cluster. The two recently completed the Busy Person Lenten Retreat at St. Matthias and are planning an Advent Retreat at St. Michael Parish in Independence. Deborah also directs three individuals in monthly ongoing spiritual direction and continues to work as an educational consultant and leadership development coach. Her greatest challenge this past year has been companioning individuals with depression and addictions. Looking ahead, Deborah is mid-way through a formation process to join the Humility of Mary Associate Program.



## Class of 2009

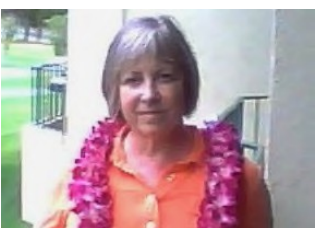


### ROBIN CRAIG

Robin is currently seeing about ten people in direction, two of whom are making Nineteenth Annotation Retreats. She is in a monthly peer supervision group with five others from her class and writes, "it's a great joy to get to know one another better and solidify our mutual support." As the call process in the Presbyterian Church is a long and winding one, Robin is currently guest preaching and remaining hopeful that there is a church for her somewhere. This past semester she has kept busy teaching a section of JCU's Religion 101 course, as well as working on writing and retreat projects.

### ELAINE FECHKO

Since graduating, Elaine has led the Eighteenth Annotation, Lightworks, with a group of eight women. She currently has one ongoing directee and has conducted a Busy Person Retreat in her parish. Although Elaine would like to do more spiritual direction, she is still balancing a busy work schedule with life at home. Elaine writes, "I just believe that God will provide when the time is right." Looking back, Elaine is appreciative for her practicum, which not only gave her a positive experience, but also boosted her confidence. She meets with a peer supervision group and enjoys attending the ISI continuing education workshops.



### KATHY HAAG

In the past year, Kathy has met with one woman for ongoing individual direction and is directing another woman through the Nineteenth Annotation retreat. She also helped with small group facilitation at two eight-week parish retreats. Kathy is part of a peer supervision group that meets monthly. The group members take turns presenting and facilitating the meetings and Kathy writes, "I find that whether I am presenting or serving as a participant I benefit tremendously from the support of this group."

**BECKI HALLER**

Becki continues to offer spiritual direction to individuals and small groups at Loyola Retreat House, Inc. and within her home. She recently finished the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat with four individuals who started in Fall 2010. Becki writes, "This has been a tremendous experience for me. I am so blessed to see how the Holy Spirit is working in the lives of these individuals." Becki's best discoveries come when the directee has an "A-ha moment." She is particularly thrilled when directees realize the significance of Jesus in their daily lives, especially when "this often brings about a new trust in him or deeper companionship with him." Looking ahead, Becki hopes to be able to offer group spiritual direction or the nine-week retreat at the Loyola Retreat House, as well as support the ministry of the Ignatian Spirituality Project.

**MARCIA LEWAN**

Along with meeting with someone she has been directing since her practicum year, last year Marcia directed an individual for a parish retreat and someone for an eight-week John Carroll retreat. Marcia finds that the most important time she invests is self-care through personal prayer and meditation, as well as meeting with her own spiritual director and peer supervision group. Her peer supervision group consists of six former classmates and has been "vital" to her identity as a spiritual director, "as well as a deep source of support and encouragement." Although working full-time as a nurse, Marcia is excited to see the path of spiritual direction unfold before her. *This is a picture of Marcia and her grandson Amir who directs her to much joy and laughter!*

**CHERYL MANOS**

As a director of a childcare center, Cheryl feels that she is on the mission field! She writes, "I am always thinking about and using the Exercises in every encounter. It has been SO helpful!" She is also meeting with three individuals regularly for spiritual direction and works with Peter Nielsen every year to present a women's retreat. While Cheryl's greatest challenge is finding people who feel that prayer is worth their time, her greatest discovery is that people DO sacrifice time and schedules to meet for spiritual direction! Although she is uncertain about what the future holds, she writes, "I want to be open and ready for my next mission. Pray that I don't miss His Voice. I will pray you don't either."

**ERIC MULLER-GIRARD**

Eric is currently directing three individuals on an ongoing monthly basis, while also "keeping busy daily with the care, feeding and transportation of my two daughters." He serves on two committees of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve (the Northeastern Ohio regional governing body of the Presbyterian Church, USA.) He has found "that my Ignatian education at the ISI has prepared me well to attend carefully to, and be aware of, 'the spirits' -holy and not- moving in, through, and around the church." Recently, Eric co-led a study group on the book of Acts, read Metaxis' biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and enrolled in drawing and graphic arts classes at Tri-C to begin to learn about Adobe computer software. Eric writes, "For me, all of this has underscored a theme that Ignatius was very familiar with: the inescapable ubiquity of conflict. But in all of these diverse things I'm also consistently finding God's grace and growing in my understanding that God's power can sometimes best be seen through facing conflict honestly and faithfully." Eric and his wife Laurie recently celebrated their twentieth wedding anniversary by traveling with a group from their church to Turkey and Greece "in the steps of St. Paul."





**DOROTHY RIEMAN**

Dottie recently participated in leading three eight-week retreats at St. Malachi, St. Ambrose and St. Coleman. She sees four directees at her home, Dottie's Rest (<http://www.dottiesrest.com/>), and hosts a peer supervision group at her home as well. In June, Dottie hosted a retreat in her home for her peer supervision group on Centering and Contemplative Prayer with a DVD presentation by Fr. Keating and Richard Rohr. Dottie has been attending workshops that focus on listening, healing ministries, and contemplative outreach. She recently attended the Spiritual Directors International Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, focused on "Cultivating Compassion."

**AGNES STRADA**

Currently, Agnes has three ongoing directees with whom she meets monthly. Agnes also continues to work as a spiritual director with the SPA program at St. Ignatius High School and assists with parish retreats at the Jesuit Retreat House. This past fall, she led two Nineteenth Annotation Retreats. *Pictured with Agnes is her husband Andy in Alaska.*

**JEAN SULLIVAN**

Since graduation, Jean has guided two people through the Nineteenth Annotation and is currently seeing two people for ongoing direction. Jean also continues to work with the Jesuit Retreat House to present the eight-week Praying with Ignatius of Loyola retreat at local parishes. She recently completed a retreat at St. Mary Magdalene with classmate Carl Toomey and had forty retreatants! She found Fr. Brian McDermott's "The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola" CDs, published by NowYouKnowMedia.com especially helpful for preparing a guided meditation on the Contemplation. She is in a peer supervision group with fellow ISI '09 graduates and writes that it "has been a grace-filled experience where I have most directly found the Holy Spirit opening me up to greater self-awareness."

**MICKY WOLF**

Micky currently averages four to six sessions for ongoing spiritual direction per month. She is also directing an individual through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat. Micky writes, "As has frequently been the case, the learning and sharing I experienced through the ISI has held me in good stead, not only in having lots of helpful information at hand, but in being able to recollect those occasions when God generously provided consolation and encouragement to wash away the uncertainty or discouragement that occasionally may lurk in the shadows." Apart from spiritual direction, Micky prepared and presented an eight-week series for Affirmation Ministries called "Discernment: The Art and Practice of Making Good Choices in Everyday Life." She continues to pray "to be open and sensitive to the movement of the Spirit in following the Lord's will in all things, whatever that may be." Micky sends greetings to the ISI community and writes, "The community we share as members of the ISI family is definitely a gift that continues to enrich our world beyond our individual and collective experiences."

**Class of 2010****JOHN CARLSON**

John currently volunteers at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lakewood, Ohio as a Pastoral Assistant for Spiritual Discernment and writes a monthly article on spirituality for the church's newsletter. He has just begun serving on a task force for Adult Christian Formation for the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio. In addition to this, John belongs to a peer supervision group at St. Ignatius High School and participated in the eight-week Ignatian retreat at St. Barnabas Roman Catholic Church, not only to pray and be with others, but to review the procedure and process of the retreat with the goal of incorporating it into the Episcopal Church. He has not done much individual spiritual direction so far, but has at least one prospect and is on a list of spiritual directors for the Episcopal Diocese. He is currently evaluating programs for confirmation preparation and Christian formation.

**MARY ANN BOWERS**

This year Mary Ann facilitated a small group of seven women at St. Ignatius High School as part of the eight-week SPA program. She is a volunteer spiritual director for the St. Dismas prison ministry for men in Kansas and directs via mail. Mary Ann also continues with on-going direction for two of the people she directed during her practicum. This is to say nothing of her full time nursing profession!

**PAM CHANEY**

Pam has been directing several people one-on-one and is now working on materials to be used in Adult Formation and Confirmation in the Episcopal Church. While in the ISI program, Pam became interested in developing a ministry that joined Ignatian Spirituality and Twelve-Step wisdom and thus began "Middle Way Ministries," which "meets people at the intersection of Ignatian Spirituality and Twelve-Step wisdom." Pam is currently taking her first unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at St. Vincent Charity Hospital. Although she spends most of her clinical hours in Rosary Hall, which was founded by one of the three co-founders of AA, Pam also works directly with the patients in the inpatient unit and the Intensive Outpatient Program. Pam writes, "Please hold Rosary Hall in your prayers and keep us close in your thoughts. We're having our first annual benefit golf outing for Rosary Hall on Monday, September 26th at Canterbury Country Club. We will be raising money which will directly support our work serving the 'forgotten': the homeless, destitute, un-insured sick and suffering of our area." To golf, or to become a sponsor of the event, please call Pam Chaney at 216-287-2675.

**LIZ COTTER**

Liz directed four women in an eight-week Ignatian Retreat at St. Ignatius High School and has also begun private one-on-one, ongoing spiritual direction. While she feels challenged to refrain from giving advice and instead ask "evocative questions," she continues to discover "the beauty of seeing the work of the Holy Spirit." Liz is part of a peer supervision group, as well as a prayer group whose members help guide each other in spiritual direction practices. Liz plans to continue to offer ongoing spiritual direction and facilitate small groups for retreats. She is on the Board of the Jesuit Retreat House working on the Programs Committee. *This is a picture of Liz on the Day of ISI Graduation with Fr. Lewis who directed Liz's Nineteenth Annotation in 2001 and was the first person to encourage Liz in her vocation of spiritual direction.*

**SYNDIE EARDLY**

Syndie recently joined the prayer team at Centering Space in Lakewood, where she leads prayer once a month, and prepares special prayer programs, like Lenten Monday night meditations. She hopes to become a full Core Circle member of Centering Space in the coming year so that she can participate more actively in program planning and create her own retreat programs. She has learned how "to accept people exactly where they are on the spiritual path. When you can look at someone with eyes unclouded by judgment, you see how beautiful their pathway to growth is, and how necessary for them. Allowing them the freedom to explore that path is truly a wonderful experience." Although making the commitment to do more spiritual direction is a challenge while working full-time, Syndie has discovered that she loves doing it. *The picture shows Syndie with her husband Jim at last year's certification ceremony.*

**LAURA FIBBI**

Laura has been active in spiritual direction since graduation. She has one ongoing directee, has assisted with three of the eight-week retreats in the parishes and a Lenten eight-week retreat with SPA at St. Ignatius High School. Laura writes, "The greatest gift has been a strong affirmation of the Spirit's loving presence in the world as witnessed to by my directees and fellow directors. I love having a front row seat to the work of the Spirit in all of our lives." Laura's training in spiritual direction also assists her in her position as the RCIA director at St. Mark Church. She finds that her training has helped her form her own catechetical style and helped her to be better able to walk with catechumens on their journey into full communion with the Catholic church. *The picture is of Laura and her husband Terry on a recent trip.*



## CHRIS MADSEN

Chris has two directees for ongoing spiritual direction now, both of whom came to him through the Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Program (CPRP) at the Cleveland Clinic where he works. Chris hopes to advertise his service to the graduates of the CPRP program, encouraging their attendance at a meeting held on the second Friday of every month. Chris writes, "I am praying patiently to respond to what God has in mind for me."



## JAN MUNSEY

Since certification, Jan has had two individuals in ongoing direction and presented the Ignatian Exercises at a retreat for East Ohio United Methodist Christian Educators March 14-15, 2011 at the Jesuit Retreat House. Jan writes, "The Exercises continue to bear fruit in my own life."

## LAURA RAMELLA

Laura is presently accompanying one individual on the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat and doing ongoing spiritual direction with another. In February, Laura joined a peer supervision group. Laura writes, "It is enormously helpful to listen to my peers recount situations in spiritual direction." Laura also enjoyed the time with fellow ISI graduates at the February presentation by Fr. McDermott. *In this picture Laura receives her certificate from Joan at last year's ceremony.*



## SHARON ROWLAND



Sharon is working in the area of Christian spiritual formation. She currently consults with a church staff and a university ministry team as they seek to bring formation into Christlikeness to themselves and their communities. Her work includes training, retreats, and individual practices. She finds it exciting and humbling work as she blends Ignatian principles with vision, intention and means for a life of apprenticeship to Jesus. Sharon also offers ongoing spiritual direction to two people monthly and one weekly. Personally, Sharon has developed the habit of praying the Daily Hours. She writes, "I find myself aware of God in more and more moments of my ordinary day, driving to appointments, errands, meetings, loving whoever is in front of me, I sure need this." With Michael Casey's *Sacred Reading, The Ancient Art of Lectio Divina*, Sharon has been practicing not "wolfing down the Bible." As a part of the Renovaré International Institute for Christian Spiritual Formation, Sharon meets with a spiritual director and just completed *Streams of Living Water*,

which "beautifully honors the varied streams of Christian experience." Although she has not been intentional about letting others know about what she is doing, she would appreciate any connection to offer assistance to churches or groups.

## DR. DAVE SHRADER

Since graduating, Dave has informally directed individuals on an as-needed basis. He has found that "the structure of the Exercises and the developmental progression that they embody is the most helpful dimension of the ISI program. Having the ability to discern where a directee is in their growth relative to the implicit stages of the Exercises is enormously valuable." Dave's greatest challenge right now is finding time in his business schedule to have regular meetings with individuals. Looking ahead to the future, Dave writes, "blending my calling as a director even more thoroughly with my methodology and work with my leadership development clients is where I want to take this: to introduce more reflective, contemplative disciplines into the work of leading, as a way of deepening clients' sense of calling and awareness."



## SHARON SOMERVILLE

Since graduating, Sharon has continued to do monthly spiritual direction for the two women who were part of her practicum. Although her greatest challenge is time, she has discovered that she truly loves one-on-one spiritual direction. The ISI taught Sharon how to listen better and confirmed her call to minister to others.

Thirty years ago, Eileen Novotny was a happily married, stay at home mother, parish volunteer, and substitute teacher. Yet Eileen realized she had a hunger for something she could not name. After meeting with a spiritual director who listened to and guided Eileen, she eventually was able to name that hunger as a yearning for wholeness and God. Eileen continued with spiritual direction but it wasn't until much later when she worked as a pastoral minister in a parish that she realized she too was being called to the ministry of spiritual direction. She says that as a pastoral minister, "I often spent time listening to and supporting people who were seeking and I realized that I wanted to be better formed."



After realizing her call to spiritual direction, Eileen happened to see an ISI brochure and quickly called Dr. Joan Nuth only to discover that the deadline for application had passed. Yet a few open slots remained, and Eileen requested two applications. The first application was for herself but Eileen had another good friend in mind, Dr. Melinda Smith, for the second application. Eileen says, "I laughingly suggested to her that this was a sign from the Holy Spirit that we should do this together since we had been discussing finding a program. Well, we both applied, were accepted, and spent two years carpooling, writing papers, role-playing, and learning about 'holy listening,' presence and attentiveness."

**Eileen encourages ISI graduates not to be afraid to market themselves.**

Following her graduation, Eileen's practice as a spiritual director has grown. Eileen currently works as the Director of Program Development at the Ursuline Center in Canfield where she has a delightful space available to meet with directees. Eileen approximates that she has around fifteen people per month that she directs. "My directees are interdenominational and diverse in background and age; presently I meet with several protestant ministers, a few women religious, and individuals of all ages. I feel truly blessed." Eileen never "advertised" that she did interdenominational direction, rather it just happened, and Eileen attributes it to the work of the Spirit. She says, "I am very up front about my own faith formation and background; I believe my openness creates a comfort level on their part."

Along with ongoing spiritual direction, twice a year Eileen offers the "eight-week Retreat in Daily Life," which usually attracts five to six individuals (several of whom decide to continue with spiritual direction at the end of the retreat). Currently Eileen also has two individuals doing the Nineteenth Annotation, using Tetlow's *Choosing Christ in The World* as their resource, while also constantly referring to Fleming's *Draw Me Into Your Friendship*. Eileen encourages other ISI graduates not to be afraid to market themselves when looking for directees. Her advice is to talk to pastors, religious educators, and contact the religious editor of the local paper to perhaps do an interview or offer to write the article yourself!

In the past, Eileen has been part of a "wonderful, insightful, peer supervision group," which unfortunately required a ninety-minute drive. She has not been able to attend the group this past winter and is hoping to form a peer supervision group in the Youngstown/Canton/Warren area and is looking for others in that area who may be interested in joining such a group.

On a personal note, Eileen says, “In many ways this is the happiest time of my life.” Even though Eileen and her husband both work part-time and do a lot of volunteer work, they have recently been able to travel and will be going to Italy in the fall. She is blessed that her three adult children are healthy and happy in their marriages and jobs and is delighted to have four grandchildren. Eileen has also found time for prayer and spiritual reading and doing other things she enjoys. She recently started a Prayer Shawl Ministry at the Ursuline Motherhouse and over three years this ecumenical group has made over 400 shawls of healing and comfort for the Ursuline sisters’ AIDS/HIV ministry and Hope Cancer Center. Eileen has also discovered the benefits of Hatha yoga and has found that this too has deepened her spiritual life.

Eileen’s work as a spiritual director constantly affirms her sense of God’s love and compassion for her directees and herself. She feels “richly blessed by her directees’ diversity of faith backgrounds and life experiences.” Eileen has learned to keep asking Ignatius’ questions: “What is it you desire in your prayer and spiritual life?” and “What is it God desires for you?” She also practices following these questions with patience as the directee explores the process of sorting those desires. Eileen has found Janet Ruffing’s book *Spiritual Direction: Beyond the Beginnings* to be relevant to her own experiences, especially when Ruffing talks about “directees avoiding the implications of spiritual experience.” Despite challenges with spiritual direction, Eileen assures her directees and herself that in the 21st century God is found in everyday life just as surely as in the 16th century.

**DONNAMARIE KAMINSKY (ISI ‘05)**

Since graduating in the charter class of ISI in 2005, DonnaMarie has worked hard to reach out and provide spiritual direction to the northeast Ohio community. Currently, DonnaMarie has a full practice of spiritual direction located at Epiphany Hermitage in Akron, Ohio. The creation of Epiphany Hermitage grew out of DonnaMarie’s yearning for a place near by where she could retreat on her own. Following the sudden death of her parents in 2004, DonnaMarie was left with her parents’ home in Akron. Simultaneously, DonnaMarie was completing the ISI and was trying to meet with individuals for spiritual direction, but had difficulty finding a conducive and flexible location. So, as DonnaMarie puts it, “I started using my parents’ home.” Located in a private cul-de-sac, next to a city park, the location was ideal - “close to everything, and yet far enough away to be private and quiet.” The space began to evolve naturally as others encouraged DonnaMarie to offer the house as a place for retreat and people began asking to use the space.



*“I am constantly inspired by the people who come for spiritual direction and retreats. They remind me that God continuously works in and through all people.”*

DonnaMarie chose to name her retreat space “Epiphany Hermitage” for two reasons. First, because her mother was Russian Orthodox, Epiphany was a special feast day within DonnaMarie’s family. Her mother called Epiphany the “Russian Christmas” or “Little Christmas” and so DonnaMarie equates Epiphany with a festive family gathering. Second, within both the Eastern and Western traditions, Epiphany is about the manifestation of God to all people. As DonnaMarie explains, “Since the reunion of both the East and the West is important to me, and since I wholeheartedly believe that God is inclusive and inviting all God’s sons and daughters into relationship, this seemed the perfect name, the perfect feast to celebrate!” Thus, Epiphany Hermitage was born.

DonnaMarie’s ministry at Epiphany Hermitage includes a variety of programs aimed at spiritual direction. DonnaMarie meets all of her directees at Epiphany Hermitage. She currently has two directees making the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, as well as several other individuals in on-going spiritual direction. Epiphany Hermitage offers the opportunity for solitary prayer with a Desert Day and Poustinia. During a Desert Day, individuals come for a single day of prayer for a few hours or a whole day. During a Poustinia, individuals take part in a twenty-four hour, overnight retreat. Translated as ‘desert,’ the Poustinia “is a place to meet Christ in silence, solitude, fasting, and prayer.” Epiphany Hermitage also offers two types of retreats: Ignatian Retreats and Franciscan Retreats. Ignatian retreats include the full thirty-day retreat, the eight-day retreat, and the Retreat for Busy People, and retreatants have the choice to stay at the Hermitage or in their own homes. During the Franciscan Retreat, the retreatant focuses on the “charisms of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi and the contemporary applications of their legacy.” DonnaMarie also recently received certification as a Grief Recovery Specialist to help individuals deal with life’s losses like divorce, separation, and unemployment. She hopes to do workshops and seminars on the topic and use Epiphany Hermitage as a place where she can do one-on-one grief work.

The response to Epiphany Hermitage has been extremely positive. DonnaMarie has many “regulars” who come for retreat and days of prayer. She plans to start a “Guest Book” to see how many people utilize the space. Additionally, DonnaMarie says, “Because of the many people who have come and prayed here, some people tell me that when they enter, they feel like the place is saturated in prayer!”

Maintaining the Epiphany Hermitage also requires a lot of labor and is DonnaMarie’s greatest challenge. As she explains, “I am the chief cook and bottle-washer, as the saying goes.” DonnaMarie keeps up with the day-to-day chores of the house including cutting grass, snow removal, and laundry but also tackles one major project each year. In the past, she has updated the bathroom and screened in the patio so retreatants could comfortably sit outside in the evenings. This year DonnaMarie hopes to do some landscaping. Yet despite the challenge of maintaining the property, DonnaMarie writes, “I really love having the space and having people come to use it! So, I’m pleased to be able to serve in this way.”

On top of running and maintaining Epiphany Hermitage, DonnaMarie continues her full-time job with Veterans Affairs where she works with veterans in hospice, considering it “a sacred privilege to be able to accompany the families during what can be a very difficult time.” She provides anticipatory mourning and grief counseling for both veteran and caregiver(s). Although to many it may seem overwhelming to work full time and run a full practice of spiritual direction, DonnaMarie finds it to be “very invigorating and spiritually nourishing” rather than tiring. DonnaMarie writes, “I am constantly inspired by the people who come for spiritual direction and retreats. They remind me that God continuously works in and through all people, and is ever inviting us into a deeper relationship with God’s self.” DonnaMarie also stays at the Hermitage once a week for her own Poustinia. Echoing St. Francis of Assisi, DonnaMarie encourages her ISI colleagues: “I have done what Christ has given me to do; may Christ direct you to find what is yours to do.”



Lev Shomea Prayer Area in Epiphany Hermitage

It was a six-year process for Janet Lehane to rediscover her spiritual dimension. During this six-year time, Fr. Jim Lewis shared his zeal and excitement for the Spiritual Exercises with Janet, and her spiritual director, Judy Cole, helped Janet integrate the spiritual with the physical, emotional, psychological and social realities of her life. After auditing several of Fr. Howard Gray's courses at John Carroll University, Janet found herself being drawn into the academic setting of spirituality. Janet became part of the ISI program in 2004, which affirmed her call to the work of spiritual direction. Janet recalls Dr. Joan Nuth exclaiming in class one day, "Do you think anyone here ever thought when young, 'I hope to be a spiritual director someday?'" This simple statement is one that Janet found extremely helpful as she began to discern her path.

Since her graduation in 2006 from ISI, Janet has left her career as a nurse and has become more committed to spiritual direction and sharing the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Currently, Janet is the Assistant Director of the Spirituality Program for Adults (SPA) at St. Ignatius High School (SIHS) where her husband teaches biology and helps coach basketball. SPA reaches out to the parents, alumni, and friends of SIHS "with the goal of promoting the School's mission by affording the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius Loyola in a modified format to its lay constituencies." Janet finds the program fulfilling: "It is great when a retreatant comes to understand and experience God in his/her ordinary life." Janet enjoys working with ISI colleagues in the SPA program: "It is great to see fellow ISI companions like Joan Carney, Maria Skrabec, and Rita Carfagna give instructions and share as they lead retreats." As Assistant Director, Janet also supports the work of ISI colleagues Rich Jerdonek and Nancy Rowell who have initiated Ignatian-based programs for the formerly homeless who are now in transition, and supports the work of Ginny Pippin and Rita Carfagna as they bring the SPA-type retreat to parishes.

Janet is also an affiliate at River's Edge, "a place of contemplation and action," and meets there with adults seeking spiritual direction. Before her own affiliation as a spiritual director at River's Edge, Janet took advantage of what River's Edge offered including yoga, speakers like Barbara Marx Hubbard and Judy Cannato, and retreats from Fr. Norm Comtois. Currently, at River's Edge, Janet supports the

work of fellow ISI graduate Maureen Haggerty ('09), who "shares her knowledge and passion of the Universe Story and the work of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin." Janet has enjoyed reading Louis Savary's books *The Divine Milieu Explained* and *The New Spiritual Exercises in the Spirit of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin*.

Through her work with SIHS and River's Edge, Janet has directed six people through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat in daily life and is also seeing four to five people each week for ongoing direction. Janet's biggest challenge is "keeping my schedule straight! I find in this type of work, people's schedules change constantly and flexibility is required. I had no idea how much time would be required before and after appointments to keep up." Yet despite the requirement to remain flexible as a spiritual director, Janet has discovered how "so many of us [are] hungry to live more contemplatively and reflectively and how strong the Spirit is in moving us." On a personal spiritual level, Janet writes, "In prayer, experience, and reflection, I hold the richness of our traditions and the excitement of new revelations. Spiritual direction and the Spiritual Exercises have brought an interior freedom that is worth sharing."



*"It is great when a retreatant comes to understand and experience God in his/her ordinary life."*

Carl Toomey's road to spiritual direction began while reading Joseph Girzone's book *Never Alone*, which discusses how little parishioners are taught about the spirituality of individuals like Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross and Ignatius of Loyola. After realizing how wonderful it would be if more people knew of these individuals, Carl set out to learn more about spirituality and decided that Ignatian Spirituality was the most practical for him. This call to Ignatian Spirituality became even stronger as he did an eight-week retreat with Sheila Flynn (ISI '05) and learned not only about the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, but also about the "great value of spiritual direction and how useful it could be in ministry." Carl enrolled in the ISI program at JCU in 2007 and found the work to be both intellectually challenging and spiritually enriching. Carl recalls the diversity of his colleagues, which led to a rich and challenging experience. Yet despite the diversity of experience, "we all had one thing in common and that was to teach people about the love of God." Looking back, Carl writes, "ISI helped me realize that really God is the director. And the only thing one can do most of the time is to listen."

Carl currently works in ministry in his parish, St. Mary Magdalene, where he serves as a deacon. Part of his work includes outreach to the sick and elderly in homes, hospitals, and nursing homes. Although this ministry can be difficult at times, Carl has discovered that spiritual direction is also "the business of restoring hope in people's lives." Carl is educating his parish about spiritual direction and Ignatian spirituality. He has written articles for a ministry newsletter and talked to small groups within the parish. Carl has directed three individuals in the parish, as well as another deacon, in the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat. He finds that the parishioners he meets with typically have not had the opportunity to sit down and discuss the experience of God in their lives, and thus welcome a listening ear. In turn, Carl has been uplifted by his directees' faith and perseverance. Last November, Carl co-directed with Megan Wilson-Reitz the retreat "Living Simply" about life's transitions at the Jesuit Retreat House. At the retreat, Carl spoke of his recent struggle with unemployment, which has been challenging but has helped Carl to see that "God is in everything - even in unemployment." Carl recently worked with Jean Sullivan to direct the Praying with Ignatius Retreat at St. Mary Magdalene and hopes to begin directing more people in a smaller eight-week retreat soon.

Carl has discovered how his directees have a way of helping him, instead of the other way around. He truly loves this ministry, and is seeking ways to combine spiritual direction with his other ministries to make himself more marketable. On a personal level, Carl has found "that involving God in all my life experiences, the good ones and the bad ones," has been a great gift and has helped him become a better spiritual director.

In his spare time, Carl keeps busy taking care of his granddaughter, Sophia, with Maryellen, his wife of 33 years. Carl is also looking forward to summer when he will be able to golf again.

"ISI helped me realize that really God is the director. And the only thing one can do most of the time is to listen."





On the evening of May 13, the Jesuit Retreat House held its annual fundraising event, "Hearts on Fire," during which it honored two ISI members, Rich Jerdonek ('06) and Joan Nuth (director) by bestowing upon them the Ignatian Spirituality Award. This award, given annually, recognizes those who have furthered the promotion of Ignatian spirituality. Two others with a connection to the ISI, Rita Carfagna ('05) and Howard Gray, SJ, received the award in 2007.

In her remarks presenting the awards, Sr. Mary Ann Flannery, SC, JRH director, made it clear that the Ignatian Spirituality Institute is recognized as having a strong impact in Northeast Ohio. In introducing Rich, she called him "an example of the type of student the Institute has trained over the years: committed to guiding others in their journeys of spirituality." She continued, "St. Ignatius Loyola outlined a treasure trove of methods and guidelines for the ordinary person to achieve a more fulfilling life with Christ. The wonderful grace of this spirituality is that St. Ignatius envisioned lay people as called to do the work of Christ in helping each other on the spiritual journey. Rich Jerdonek is a model of that call, that vocation. A quiet, non-imposing man, who finds fulfillment in drawing others into their real selves where God waits with open arms, Rich Jerdonek deserves the Ignatian Spirituality Award." In his acceptance, Rich generously shared his award with members of his ISI class of 2006, whom he had invited to join him at his table to celebrate the fifth anniversary of their certification.



In introducing Joan, Mary Ann remembered the part she herself had played in forming the ISI by serving on the committee at John Carroll in 1999 which eventually drew up the ISI curriculum and the resume of the kind of person they hoped would administer it. "Joan has been the perfect fit," she continued. "I have witnessed each year that she carefully puts together a presentation on each graduating student, personalized with meaningful photography and words carefully chosen from scripture to describe the character and promise of that student. Then she lets them go . . . evangelists into the world of the tentative, walking with the apprehensive or those wanting simply to grow in God's love through a deeper spirituality. . . . Joan is a respected academic and a serious spiritual maven of the Ignatian Exercises, a combination of qualities and gifts which makes her so deserving of the Ignatian Spirituality Award."

In her acceptance, Joan remarked, "When I began the ISI . . . I could not see the road ahead. . . . I felt guided every step of the way by that Spirit who fills all our lives with graciousness and peace. Step by step the ISI took shape under the love and guidance of that One in whom we all live and move and have our being. The result? 72 certified spiritual directors, wonderful human beings all, who are doing wonderful things to bring the light of Christ into the lives of untold numbers. I am grateful to God for all of them. I believe this award is theirs as well as mine."

Guest speaker for the event was Howard Gray, SJ, well known to many ISI students as spiritual director, practicum supervisor, and presenter of the ISI discernment workshops while he was at John Carroll. In his address, Howard reflected on the Emmaus event and how "it defines the mission of JRH to be a place on the road of life where women and men can pause to let the word of the Lord touch their hearts anew, to deepen their interior lives." Certainly the same can be said of the ISI and the hospitality ISI grads provide to all they encounter in their ministry of spiritual direction. Later in his talk he defined apostolic leadership as "the ability of a man or woman to work creatively within a community to help its members articulate their vision, relate that vision to the priorities of Jesus and the Kingdom he preached, and to find ways that inspire, challenge, and mold the wider culture in which they live and work." Howard recalled how, in sending Francis Xavier to the Indies, "Ignatius told him to go and to set the world on fire. . . . We remind ourselves that we are apostolic partners of a tradition that is enflamed by God's inspiration but meant to be passed along to generations yet to come. The tradition is God's ownership; we are the stewards." May the ISI family continue to be faithful stewards!



This was indeed a grand celebration, not only of JRH which graciously welcomes us each year for our opening retreat, but a celebration of everything the ISI is about, and it was attended by many in the ISI family. We thank the JRH Board for honoring us, and we are happy to be collaborators with the Jesuit Retreat House in promoting Ignatian spirituality to the church of northeast Ohio.



**Pictures clockwise from top left:** 1) Rich's table: Rev. Jerome Lajack (former pastor of St. Wendelin's Church), Janet Lehane (ISI '06), Patrick Gilday, SJ (theology teacher at St. Ignatius High School), Rich, Karen Broer (ISI '06), Pat Cleary-Burns (ISI '06), Sr. Mary Ann Burke, SND (ISI '06) 2) Dan and Liz (ISI '10) Cotter (Dan received the Ignatian Spirituality Award last year). 3) Rich Jerdonek (ISI '06) with son Rob, daughter-in-law Cindy and wife Julie 4) Joan's table: Carol Polish (ISI secretary), Margaret Balewski (ISI '11), Robin Craig (ISI '09), Claudette Matero (ISI '11), John Spencer, (Chair, Department of Theology & Religious Studies at JCU), Joan, Brian McDermott, SJ, Lynne Vettrano (Joan's goddaughter), Leo O'Donovan, SJ. 5) Howard Gray, SJ with Leo O'Donovan, SJ, known to ISI students as the editor of our favorite text on Rahner, *A World of Grace* 6) Jean Sullivan (ISI '09), Laura Ramella (ISI '10), Rita Carfagna (ISI '05), Eileen Gallagher.



Many of you by now have met Martha Campbell, Director of Lay Leadership Programming at the Jesuit Retreat House. Unlike the continuing education workshops run by ISI which are specifically designed for spiritual directors, Martha plans programs for a wider audience. As she describes them in her recent newsletter, these include “1) People who are looking for ‘meaning’ and are not finding it in their parishes, 2) People who have completed SPA or the PRP [Parish Retreat Program] and whose ‘thirst is awakened and are looking for support’, 3) People who have completed the full Spiritual Exercises and are looking for ways to live out their sense of mission, 4) People who are seeking ‘personal spiritual deepening’ on all levels of the spiritual journey, 5) People who are seeking ways to concretely connect spirituality with social justice, ecology, cosmology and work.” You are encouraged to attend Martha’s programs for personal enrichment, but also to advertise them to those of your directees and friends who might profit from them. Look for Martha’s monthly newsletter *Lay Leadership Update* which should be coming to you by e-mail. If you are not receiving it, simply ask to be added to the mailing list. Martha can be reached at the Jesuit Retreat House at 440-884-9300 x17 or by email: [campbellml@att.net](mailto:campbellml@att.net) or [campbellmarthal@gmail.com](mailto:campbellmarthal@gmail.com).

## MEET PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, SJ

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ (1881-1955), Jesuit paleontologist and priest, was one of the most important theological voices of the last century. His Ignatian understanding of “finding God in all things” found its focus in the earth which he literally dug into as part of his daily task as a scientist charged with unearthing the shards of the earliest periods of humanity. He discovered in this earth important links to the deep mystery of the Incarnation. In a work entitled the *Mysticism of Science* (1939) he wrote, “Through the Incarnation God descended into nature in order to super-animate and take it back to him.”

According to Ursula King, Teilhard’s vision was “one of consuming fire, kindled by the radiant powers of love. It was a mystical vision, deeply Christian in origin and orientation. Yet it broke through the boundaries of traditional orthodoxies -- whether those of science or religion -- and grew into a vision which is global in intent. . . . In the rhythm of life and its evolution, at the center of the cosmos and the world, Teilhard believed, is a divine center, a living heart beating with the fiery energy of love and compassion” ([www.earthlight.org](http://www.earthlight.org)).



For this coming year Martha Campbell has organized a program, a series of Saturday mornings at the Jesuit Retreat House, in which to meet this great man of science and spirituality and probe into his thought. The group will read two books by Ursula King, *Spirit of Fire: The Life and Vision of Teilhard de Chardin*, and *Christ in All Things: Exploring Spirituality with Teilhard de Chardin* (London: SCM Press, 1997). In a day when there is such misinformation in the media about evolution and creation, education about Christian reflection on this relationship is imperative. But even more important for each of us personally is the opportunity to probe more deeply into what keeps our hearts burning with love for God and one another. Save the following dates: for *Spirit of Fire* – 10/15, 11/19, 12/17; for *Christ in All Things* – 1/21, 2/18, 3/10, 4/21, 6/9.

Two other books by Louis Savary can provide essential reading into Teilhard’s thought: *Teilhard de Chardin – The Divine Milieu Explained: A Spirituality for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (NY: Paulist, 2007). This is a commentary on Teilhard’s most famous work of spirituality *The Divine Milieu* (HarperCollins, Torchbook edition, 1960), and it would be helpful to read Teilhard’s work along with that of Savary. Savary also makes links to the *Spiritual Exercises* in this text, including personal spiritual exercises to use with each chapter. The second book is *The New Spiritual Exercises: In the Spirit of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin* (NY: Paulist, 2010). This book uses the actual pattern of Ignatius’ *Spiritual Exercises*, and inserts into each movement appropriate aspects of Teilhard’s thought. Both of these texts are more to be used, perhaps for daily prayer, than read straight through.

***The day will come when, after harnessing space, the winds, the tides, and gravitation, we shall harness for God the energies of love. And on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, we shall have discovered fire!***

-- Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, *Toward the Future*, 1936

**CLUB 31 FUNDRAISING REPORT**

Last July the ISI initiated a new fundraising effort to replace the annual Advent Appeal we had conducted since the ISI's beginning. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are happy to report that our first Club 31 Appeal was an unqualified success, taking in over \$6,000 more than the average Advent Appeal. We made a concerted effort to appeal to ISI alumni/ae, asking that each one contribute at least \$31, insuring that how they benefitted through the ISI might endure for many others in the years to come. We are extremely grateful to all who contributed: ISI students, grads, helpers and friends.

Below you will find the report on Club 31 for the academic year 2010/11. We intend to make this appeal a yearly event. Included with this newsletter is a letter asking you for a contribution for the 2011/12 academic year. As you know, our tuition covers only a fraction of what it costs to run the ISI. The draw from our endowment and our annual appeal supplies the rest of what is needed to cover our yearly expenses. I appeal to your "hearts on fire" with love for the ministry of spiritual direction, and ask that you be as generous as you can this year. Thank you in advance for your heartfelt generosity.

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

**Club 31 Donations 6/1/2010 - 5/31/2011**  
**Grand Total: \$16,269.00**

Class of 2005 - 46% - \$1,162.00	Class of 2009 - 33% - \$ 737.00
Class of 2006 - 55% - \$2,053.00	Class of 2010 - 86% - \$3,599.00
Class of 2007 - 46% - \$1,252.00	Class of 2011 - 50% - \$2,968.00
Class of 2008 - 14% - \$ 372.00	Class of 2012 - 25% - \$ 511.00
Other Friends of ISI - \$3,615.00	

Henedine Aldana '12	Mary Downey '10	Barbara McWilliams
Margaret Balewski '11	Joan Dworzniak	Kathy Michael '11
Sr. Mary Ann Baran '05	Syndie Eardly '10	Mary Michael
Bruce Batchelor-Glader '05	Julie Exline '07	Eric Muller-Girard '09
Ed Bourguignon	Elaine Fechko '09	Janet Munsey '10
Mary Ann Bowers '10	Michael Feldtz '11	Eileen Novotny '07
Julie Bradley '11	Laura Fibbi '10	Joan Nuth
Paula Britton	Harry Finkbone '06	Carol Polish
Karen Broer '06	Mary Anne Gauntner	Laura Ramella '10
Sr. Mary Ann Burke '06	Eugenia Gyi '05	Nancy Rowell '07
Kate Campbell '11	Chuck Herbruck '08	Dave Schrader '10
Sr. Carolyn Capuano	Mary Kay Howard	Barbara Schubert
Rita Carfagna '05	Rich Jerdonek '06	Helen Sennett
John Carlson '10	DonnaMarie Kaminsky '05	Maria Skrabec '07
Joan Carney '07	Janet Lehane '06	Melinda Smith '07
Pam Chaney '10	Jeffrey Leitch	Sharon Somerville '10
Kathi Chapman '11	Chris Madsen '10	Agnes Strada '09
Richard & Dee Christie	Laurie Malone	Jean Sullivan '09
Liz Cotter '10	Claudette Matero '11	Micky Wolf '09
Maggie Cretella	Andrea McGovern '11	
Deborah Dacone '05	Amy McKenna '12	

**Image credits:** Photographs of ISI graduates are from the ISI archives or have been provided by the graduates themselves. Hearts on Fire pictures courtesy of the Jesuit Retreat House and Lynne Vettrano.



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

**Ignatian Spirituality  
Institute**

John Carroll University  
20700 North Park Boulevard  
University Heights, OH 44118

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

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

Special thanks to Megan Odell-Scott, Publications Assistant for her work on this issue of *Ignis*.



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