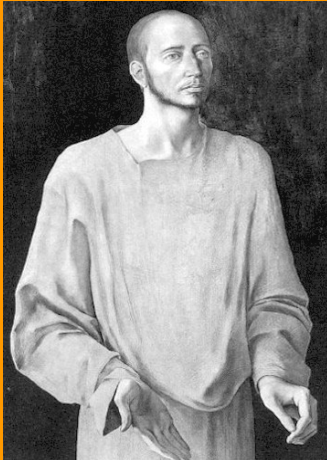




Newsletter of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute

Volume 15, Number 1 August, 2016



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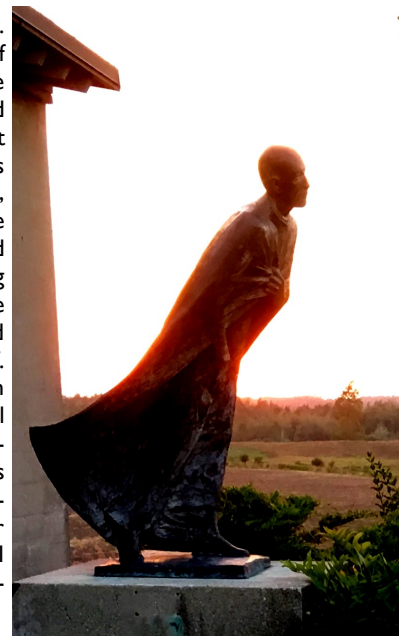
Message from the Director:

This issue of Ignis welcomes you to a new academic year, our fourteenth. In it you will find reflections on their first year experiences from the fifteen entering into their internship year, our sixteen new first-year students introduce themselves to you, and the fourteen who will be certified on August 28 will be honored in our next issue dedicated to them. We welcome you to share in our journey of faith together.

Journey of faith: what is that? In his discussion of faith, theologian James Alison* makes the point that the Christian journey through life is not about learning the right things to believe or the right way to be from some theory removed from history and then putting that into practice. Rather, Christianity is for people who muddle through their own history, learning that they are not always going to be right or good, but also that this doesn't matter overmuch. They learn they need a new identity, a new relationship to help them be their true selves. He ends by saying "being good or bad is not what it's about. It's about being loved." Christianity, in other words, is not learning some generic orthodox doctrine and believing it, nor is it learning a generic moral code and following it. The Christian journey is about falling in love with One who has first loved me, and this journey is unique to each one of us, informed by the specific circumstances of each one's time and place in history.

This year the first-year students will embark upon the journey of the Exercises, bequeathed to us by our friend and mentor Ignatius; the second-years will put into practice what they have experienced by accompanying others on their journey. There is a statue of Ignatius on the grounds of Loyola House, the Jesuit retreat center in Guelph, Ontario, which expresses dramatically the essence of this journey of faith: energetic, confident, purposeful, exhilarating. The sculptor, William McElcheran, says of his work:

I have approached St. Ignatius as both a symbol and a person. The symbolic aspect of the saint has to do with the response of the church to a changing world. Ignatius is probably the prototype of the modern Christian going forth into the world carrying the cloister about his heart — a very large cloister that has room for the whole of creation. This "going forth" is symbolized in the statue by the driving stance of the figure, leaning into the wind. The winds of change . . . blow from the ends of the earth. They still blow from yet undiscovered reaches of creation. The challenge of the world is . . . a living manifestation of God's power and the wonder of the Incarnation. Ignatius, the adventurer, responds. . . . I have tried to embody all these overtures in the person of Ignatius himself. We are very fortunate to have a good deal of information about him. His death mask gives us a very clear idea of his facial type. It is therefore possible to portray him in depth. . . . Ignatius is no dreamy legend. He is not only very real to us, he was also very much a realist. . . . The strong earthy man who naturally responded to the force of the wind . . . is, I feel, a better description of Ignatius than a generalized abstraction. I have tried to see this reality in [a way] that speaks of the significance of Ignatius, the contemplative in action.



*James Alison, Jesus, the Forgiving Victim. Volume I: Starting Human, Staying Human (Glenview, IL: Doers Publishing, 2013) p.42.

Message from the Director

McElcherson speaks of the “cloister” about Ignatius’ heart, a reality bespeaking a deep and abiding relationship with the One he called “the Divine Majesty.” Ignatius learned, often the hard way, that his Christian faith was all about “being loved.” He created his Exercises as a practical guide for those who would give themselves over to the loving influence of the God who wants only what is good for us. While there is an overarching pattern to this relationship of love, Ignatius provided room for variation and flexibility in the way God relates to each one in the day to day circumstances of life.

This pattern begins with the Disposition Days in which I am encouraged to ask for the grace of a “felt experience” of God’s absolute, unconditional love for me. The Principle and Foundation lays out the freedom that comes from a relationship of trust in the God who continually creates me in my daily life. Alison calls this “relaxing into” the Presence that sustains me. Against this relationship of love, I am enabled to contemplate my sin with true contrition in the First Week, asking for the grace to know I am a loved sinner. In the Second Week I am invited to journey with Jesus, asking that I “see him more clearly, love him more dearly, follow him more nearly, day by day.” Not abstract moral codes, but falling in love with Jesus leads me into the desire to live my life as he lived, sustained always by his abiding presence. In the Third and Fourth Weeks which follow I ask to enter into union with Christ as he endures his death and rejoices in his new resurrected life. In the Contemplation to Attain the Love of God which ends the retreat, my new life in God sends me out into the world, carrying my love of God to many others.

All of this happens in community in which fellow pilgrims on the way can share their “joys and hopes, grief and anguish” (*Gaudium et Spes* I) with each other along the way. All of this is about “being loved” and it is foundational for those called to the ministry of spiritual direction. I love the back of the Ignatius statue. His cloak floating behind him in the breeze bespeaks the excitement and urgency of his enterprise. Ignatius was not always right, nor was he always good, but he knew he was loved, and this enabled his life and ministry. May we follow him as he followed Jesus, relaxing into Christ’s love for us as we enter into this new year.

Peace and all good things, Joan



Reflections from the Interns



Virginia Bemis

My first year brought me a great many discoveries. I rediscovered the joy of learning and of talking about the material with people who were interested in the same things. I enjoyed writing papers that weren’t for delivery at academic meetings. And I learned the location of every pothole and road construction zone between Ashland and the John Carroll campus! The class brought me one special thing I had been hoping for: the opportunity to expand my horizons. I had reached the limit of what I could teach myself out of books, and I needed more, both for my own spiritual development and for the work. This I certainly found. The way the class bonded both about the work and as a group was truly wonderful. Thank you again, everyone, for your support and kindness when my mother died. Now we are all heading into our practicums. I’m eager to hear what other people are doing and to exchange experiences. I expect that I will learn a great deal from my directees as well as from my fellow students.



Kristian Bendoraitis

This past year has been a great year for me as I worked my way through the first half of the classes and coursework for ISI. Initially, I was not sure what to expect when I began the program. The reading and assignments seemed more theological than I would have presumed for a spiritual direction program; yet I soon came to see the benefits of the instruction, guidance, and academic reflection as we completed a set of case studies near the end of the first semester. Here, praxis met theory, and theology met spirituality. In the semester that followed, these kinds of moments increased and thus roused my curiosity and interest in the second year’s practicum. As the new year begins, I am eager to see how God will work in me and in those with whom I meet.

Susan Carey

My first year in ISI has been very rewarding for me. Through it my relationship with Jesus has deepened in a way I could never have imagined. It was as if I had been transported to another place, and in a sense, I was. I also learned that being a Spiritual Director is *more* companioning and *less* directing on my part. I really like that idea. The prayer time at the beginning of each class set the tone, giving an attitude of reverence and awe for the material we were about to discuss. Joan's lectures and my classmates' input helped me to delve deeper into my center and understand a little better the journey I am on. Moving into the second year practicum is exciting to me. It will give me insight into others' experience of God and will feed my own spirituality further, which is very important to me. In all of this, I am confident God is walking with me.

**Andy Costigan**

My journey through the first year of the ISI has been a life-giving adventure filled with the graces of renewal, inspiration, and continued learning and self-discovery. This first year, and all that has come with it, has been a time to reflect further on who I am as a minister and who I want to be as a spiritual director. I have particularly enjoyed noticing and reflecting on how the themes of the *Exercises* are alive and active in my Campus Ministry work. I am especially grateful for our wonderful cohort that has become a true community. It has been a tremendous blessing to laugh, mourn, pray, and learn together on this beautiful journey.

**Larry Cuy**

My first year spanned two years and two classes with wonderful fellow students and extraordinary instruction from Joan. It was a blessing to meet and learn from the many inspirational students in both classes. First year was an incredible awakening spiritually and intellectually, especially from the study of Karl Rahner and Christology. It was much more impactful than any other academic or course experience in my lifetime. The rigor and thoughtfulness with which Joan approached the class, including the ever-present homework paper assignments, were key to my becoming immersed and engaged in the material and learning from her inspirational lectures and the many fantastic reading assignments. Upon completion of the first year and the 19th Annotation with Abbot Clement Zeleznik O.S.B., a wonderful opportunity sprang forth to make an Eight Day Silent Retreat as a result of Joan's repeatedly knocking at our email doors. This retreat, in the natural beauty of the JRH and grounds in Parma, built upon the first year and helped fuse together much of what I had learned and experienced during the first year. I was also incredibly blessed to be guided by former fellow student Sr. Carol Anne Smith, H.M. She was so amazingly helpful to my trying to move closer to finding God in all things, in all people and (hardest of all) in myself. Her incredible helpfulness during this "vacation with God" makes me look forward to what I can learn and experience during the second year practicum.

**Sr. Mary Josephe Fernandez, SND**

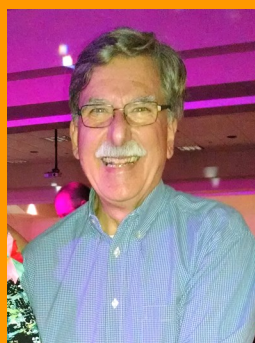
As I reflect upon my first year, it is with great gratitude for the opportunity and privilege of being a part of the ISI program, for the knowledge and wisdom shared by Joan, and for those in my class who not only inspired and enriched me, but challenged and stretched me by their insights and their ever-searching questions—always seeking greater depth and understanding of the Mystery we call our God. I feel truly blessed to journey with these remarkable women and men and I look to the future with great hope and desire to journey with others who also wish to deepen their relationship with God as part of our practicum this coming year. I believe it will be a truly blessed time, because the One who has called us to this privileged opportunity is the One who will lead us along the way and speak through our hearts.





Elyse Garver-Hughes

Stretching. This past year has been about stretching theological muscles through class readings and discussions. The combination of readings and class discussion offered challenges in both areas of belief and practice. I found myself engaging with new concepts and broadening my perspective, I suppose as expected and directed, on a very personal level. This personal application and/or exploration was enhanced by stepping through the Exercises in parallel with class work and conversation. Time and again, I was surprised by the Holy Spirit's synchronicity in bringing together what I was learning at a cerebral level through class work, and at an experiential level through weekly direction. This theological stretching, like physical exercise, caused soreness and fatigue. But, also like physical exercise, it built muscle and endurance, allowing me to move to a new level. I anticipate more of the same next year and am looking forward to additional growth opportunities both for myself and those with whom I'll be walking. Yes, stretching hurts, but not nearly as much as I expected nor as much as rejecting the opportunity for growth would!



Dennis Guritza

SURPRISE! When asked to sum up the first year in ISI, the first word that popped up was "surprise." One begins a journey always with some notion of expectation of what is about to unfold and indeed some of that even happens: deepening certain thoughts and inclinations, even a fuller appreciation of favorite authors. But study combined with the 19th Annotation Exercises and further blended with the liturgical year creates "Zacchaeus Moments": a new perspective with some great surprises with great anticipation for much more to come with a new set of tools and clarification of a new mission.



Millie Haynam

This past year has been challenging, rewarding and fulfilling. It has deepened my faith and strengthened my walk with Christ. It stretched my brain further than I could have ever imagined and just when I thought it might burst, Joan's comprehensive knowledge and ability to clarify the Exercises and the theology behind them brought a whole new clarity to the mix. She has been a wonderful guide. I also appreciate each and every one of my classmates for all the knowledge, passion and insight they brought to every class. Their support this year has been humbling. It was also an honor to share Lynn's last few precious months of life's journey with her. I will never forget her ease of spirit and generous heart. I'm looking forward to what the next year brings.



Janet Kurtz

I knew God had something in store for me. I knew it would build me spiritually if I remained open and free toward all that I encountered. I knew it also would require my commitment and dedication. I knew the spiritual growth encountered would only be more of the plentiful gifts that God has poured into me. I knew I had discerned clearly and it was affirmed very swiftly. I did not know that God would take the teaching, the readings, the writing, the learning, the community and sculpt from the raw materials, a new sculpture with higher, more Godly desires to serve, to experience him in a whole new way. My joy is only matched by my continued desire to experience him fully in all things. As I continue this lifelong desire, I know that finding and experiencing God with others and hearing their soul adventures is to be my true self. To share the deepest experiences of other souls is to lay bare my own soul to the presence of God in our world. So very thankful for this year in ISI.

Gretchen Nock

My first year in the ISI program was a wonderful combination of challenges and surprises! The challenges came in the form of using my rusted out skills of writing papers! The challenge was a great exercise (not to steal from Ignatius' work) in stretching my abilities to reflect and verbalize those reflections through writing. The readings were very engaging and more importantly the time in class really flew! Having been a student many years ago at John Carroll, I found it amusing to look forward to a night time class! My ISI class has been such a gift. The class is amazingly supportive, and enriches my ability to look at spiritual direction as a true adventure that we are all on! Picture to the right is of me in Montserrat, Spain.



Br. Mario Parisi

This grace thus affords us the greatest security in God's keeping. This holy year of Mercy I went through the doors in Canton (www.littleflowerparish.com), did the 19th Annotation Retreat with former Abbot C.Z., hiked at Hocking Hills, did some hospital visiting, and kept a tidy household with/for some twenty or so fellow monks. All these things taught me the metaphorical art of "kintsukuroi": that is, that the virtue of religion helps the practitioner to "tie or bind again" his or her heart to the object of one's love. A crowning image this year for me has been poet Hopkins' "Golden Echo." The fact that an echo soon only weakens over time highlights the fleeting nature of fading beauty. But I am learning the value of freely forfeiting oneself with holy indifference.



Judy Ringler

I continue to minister as spiritual director with LifeSpring School of Spiritual Formation. I am working with the LifeSpring leadership team to gear up for the upcoming retreats beginning in September. I also serve on the leadership team at Faith United Methodist Church as worship chairperson. I also continue to enjoy the grandchildren, gardening, reading and writing. I was deeply privileged to participate in the 8-Day Retreat held at JRH this past June. I wasn't able to attend the whole 8 days, but the time I had was most blessed and life impacting. Thanks Nancy Rowell for your loving and encouraging spiritual guidance during that holy time! I have so appreciated the ISI course at John Carroll and tutelage under Dr. Nuth. I feel my faith has been strengthened through a renewed fellowship with Jesus. Through these studies, I have come to see him more clearly, love him more dearly and follow him more nearly, yes, day by day. It is very cool. It is certainly shaping my personal journey and my service in my community.



Sr. M. Kelley Rush, SND

The ISI has been a life-changing experience in many ways. Words couldn't ever adequately express the gratitude I have in my heart for Joan and ALL my classmates, including Lynn and Jeff's faith-filled example. My experience of the 30-day Spiritual Exercises allowed for St. Ignatius' *suscipe* utterly to come alive for me as I became keenly aware that God's love and grace are truly enough for me. The central grace continues to be "living in sync with the Holy Trinity with a true sense of 'poverty of spirit,' letting go of everything I've received, including all the spiritual gifts and graces, and running directly to God, being at peace living 'in Mystery' in the quiet, and letting God take the lead." This grace-filled experience allowed for the fruits of Joan's instruction to come alive and a readiness for God's grace to flow through me in profound ways. What gift! I truly look forward to my second year practicum and collaboration with my amazing class of 2017!





Michael Tracy

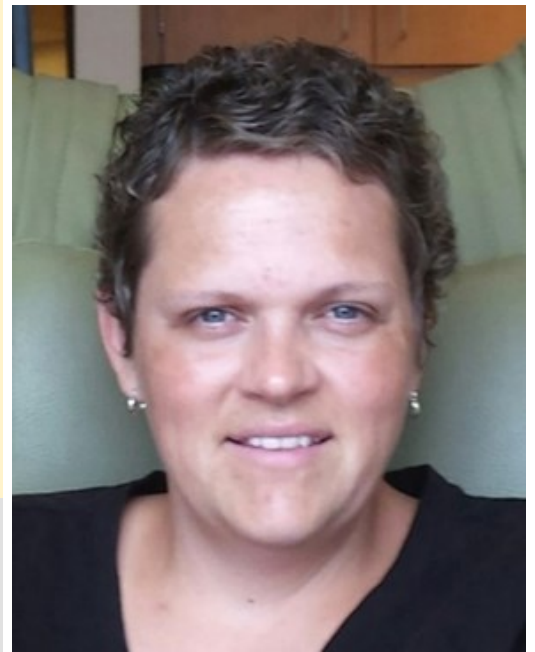
Gratitude. As I come to the end of Year One in the ISI and look ahead to Year Two and attempt to summarize my experience so far, the word that comes to mind is Gratitude. After making the Spiritual Exercises, St. Ignatius invites us to live in a new way. For me, our Lord has invited me to live with a greater sense of gratitude for all the many good things in my life. I try to be very intentional about bringing this spirit of gratitude into my family life with my wife and daughter. I also feel very privileged to bring this attitude to my work in adult faith formation at St. Ignatius High School. Finally, I can honestly speak about my experience this summer moving from one house to another, purchasing a new home and selling our old home, as one of the most exhausting and demanding projects I have lived through. At the same time, I am also filled with gratitude for the good help we received from so many people. While it has required an incredible amount of time and work, it has actually proceeded rather smoothly. For all of this, I simply say, "Thanks be to God!"

In Memoriam: Lynn Goggins

A very tragic and at the same time inspirational and holy event was part of the experience of the class of 2017. It was the experience of being with and coming to know our classmate Lynn Goggins. Lynn had been diagnosed and treated for multiple myeloma prior to her acceptance into the ISI, and at the start of her program she was cancer free. She wanted to become a spiritual director, having felt the call that she sensed would best utilize her gifts and desire to be of service to others. However, by the midyear break, her cancer had returned, and it progressed swiftly. She died on February 2, 2016. This young woman, who wanted to be a spiritual director, may not have finished her ISI training, but she was indeed spiritual director to all of us in extraordinary fashion. She showed us so gracefully how to live life fully, with confidence in God's protection, even in the face of her coming death. She did not in any way deny the inevitability of her death and talked about it freely, but she did not let that overshadow her love for life or define the way she lived it. Thank you, Lynn!

Here are some memories of Lynn shared by members of the class of 2017:

"We were in the hallway of JCU on break from class. I was lamenting how reading A World of Grace made me feel dumb and slow. Lynn ask me if I got anything out of the reading at all. I said, 'Sure, some things.' She then said, 'Then just go with that; that is probably all you are supposed to learn.' Then she told me to stop putting myself down. She said it very gently. She said, 'Just be open to what God has for you in this. Don't worry about how you compare to others.' I think she kept me in the program!" – Judy Ringler



"I so appreciated the experience of spending time with Lynn the last few months of her journey here on earth. It was an honor actually. I chose to go to the evening of worship where Lynn and her husband Jeff shared their journey to ministry. It was a profoundly moving experience, one of the most spiritual events I have ever attended. I had the opportunity to speak with Lynn for a few moments afterward and shared with her that I wished I had known her better. She told me, 'you do now, and I'll be with you every time you direct.' What an incredible witness she was to all who had the good fortune to know her!" – Millie Haynam

"Lynn's life and gentle spirit summed up for me 'finding God in all things!' For me, she was and continues to be a true expression of God's faithful love." – Kelley Rush, SND

“Lynn showed me what it is to be a warrior in both her faith and her life. She really lived ‘to give and not to count the cost.’ When we met she knew she was ill, yet it never overpowered her love of Jesus, who was front and center in her life. Her fearlessness was something I carry with me.” — Gretchen Nock

“I found myself amazed at Lynn’s continued singular focus on God in her diagnosis, treatment and approaching death. I would find myself wondering how she could sit in class and remain diligent in learning. I am afraid my thoughts would have been less focused on the material and more on my circumstances. Instead, she maintained a desire to know more of God, to give more of God, and to be free in every circumstance as she relished His presence. She never blamed God for her cancer. She never demanded more from anyone in her trials. She simply gave herself freely and with an honesty that made you want to be around her even more. She was vulnerable, honest and lacked pretense of any kind.” – Janet Kurtz

“What touched me so much about Lynn (and Jeff, too, in some ways) was both her extraordinary sense of peace as she faced death and the way she seemed to grow in faith as death drew nearer. She truly was one of those special people who had the type of faith we all strive for, and you knew that when you were in the presence of Lynn you were in the presence of God (I really admire this and hope to emulate this as a minister). Furthermore, I was also struck by the way she and Jeff readily invited all of us into their very difficult journey (whereas many others may have kept such a journey more private). In this way, they truly understood and valued the role of a community of faith in life.” – Andy Costigan

“In the short time I knew her, I could see Lynn had tremendous faith and a personal relationship with Jesus. She was spiritual, friendly and thoughtful, very reflective, funny and happy. Even in her darkest moments, Lynn’s faith kept her going. If I have learned anything from Lynn, it is to be faithful and trust God, and be happy; because life was meant to be enjoyed and to be lived to the fullest, and Lynn did that beautifully.” – Susan Carey

“The last time I saw Lynn was at a prayer service on January 20, 2016. For me it was like a ‘living wake.’ I had a chance to tell her how much she meant to me and that I loved her. My last words to her were, ‘remember us when you come into the kingdom’ and she replied, ‘Oh yes, I will.’ So now we have a very powerful intercessor before our God in Lynn.” – Josephe Fernandez, SND

“My memory of Lynn will always be of somebody who was 100% committed to living out her faith in a humble but completely trusting way. From sitting next to Lynn in class discussions to attending the remarkable memorial service at her church shortly before she passed away, I found that Lynn’s clear desire was to be an instrument of God’s work. She truly left this world as a good and faithful servant of the Lord.” – Michael Tracy



“Sunrise, Easter Morning,” Photograph by Janet Kurtz

MEMORIES FROM YEAR ONE

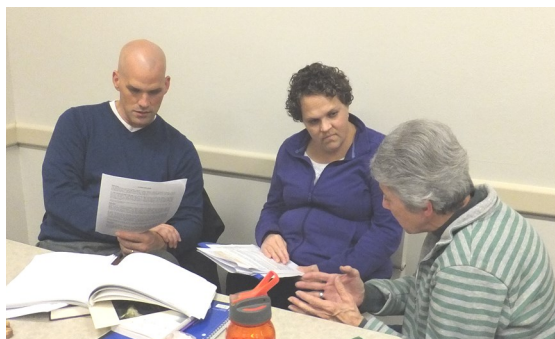


Members of the class of 2017 proudly posing at midyear.



BABY, IT'S COLD INSIDE!

We know that AD225 is often cold, but on Wednesday March 2, the first year ISI class figured the heat was turned way down for JCU's spring break. Midway through class they broke out the hats (coats had been on from the beginning). But good nature and good humor prevailed nonetheless. Look at the broad smiles!



Being studious



Being silly

MEMORIES FROM YEAR ONE



A Day with Brian McDermott



And with Paula Britton





Anne Browning

I am a native Clevelander, having grown up in Euclid and moved to the west side in my early 20s. I formed a very strong spiritual foundation in my early years and continued to grow in spirituality and service into adulthood. When my son started St. Ignatius High School in 1999, I made my first eight-week retreat which was only the second one to be offered at the school. It was a transforming experience which I continued through several additional eight-week retreats and proceeding to the 19th Annotation Retreat. I felt called to give back and have been a small group facilitator at the high school for about 15 years now. I volunteer at St. Christopher Church by teaching PSR and Confirmation with the thought of one day becoming a spiritual director. Recently, my sister asked me, "have you ever considered being a spiritual director?" and that's all I needed to hear. God's voice was loud and clear. In addition to my son, who lives in Charlotte, I have a daughter who is a United States Naval Officer currently stationed stateside but deploying to Spain at the end of the year. I love visiting my kids, interval training, tennis, running, figure drawing and very warm weather!



Linda Catanzaro

I look forward to joining the ISI community at John Carroll and my classmates with great anticipation and excitement. I am a mother of four grown children, thirteen grandchildren and married to my husband Phil for fifty-two years. I am a retired social worker with a degree in pastoral ministry from Ursuline College and a Certified Pastoral Minister with the Cleveland Catholic diocese. Since retirement, I have had the opportunity to do the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat at St. Ignatius High School. I also have been involved in prison ministry and working with the marginalized in Cleveland with the Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) for the last ten years. ISP offers spiritual retreats to men and women struggling with homelessness and addiction. The principles of the Spiritual Exercises continue to influence my faith/life journey, my prayer life and my ministry work especially with ISP. My desire is to nurture those roots in order to enrich my personal spiritual life and the lives of those to whom I minister. I look forward to answering this call to ISI and sharing it with my classmates and the ISI community. May we all discover our piece of God's dream for us.



Peter Catanzaro

I am a general pediatrician who has worked for the past sixteen years at a practice on the Eastside of Cleveland. I live in Cleveland Heights with my wife, Allison, and three children (two in college, one in high school). I will be sharing the "going back to school" experience with my wife, who is about to enter her second year of nursing school at Cleveland State University. My interest in Catholic spirituality has been informed by my own reading as well as the wonderful example of the spiritual life provided by the Carmelite sisters of Cleveland Heights, whom I have been blessed to know and worship with over the past five years. This has led to a recent and very rewarding experience of the 19th Annotation Retreat through the Saint Ignatius Spirituality Program for Adults. While a younger version of myself would have approached the Spiritual Exercises as some secret source of gnostic knowledge, the more mature version knows that such knowledge is an illusion at best, and a dangerous obsession at its worst. Rather, what I hope to gain is a framework for greater understanding of my relationship with God and his creation. I have faith that this understanding will set me on a pathway towards greater union in the Mystical Body of Christ, which is God's ultimate plan for all of us.

Sara Jo Emmerich

I am a staff chaplain at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center in Cleveland. I just moved to Cleveland last year after serving for three years in Northeast Tennessee as a parish minister and a second year CPE chaplain resident. While in seminary I took part in pastoral internships and fellowships in campus ministry, Benedictine lay spiritual formation programs, interfaith environmental advocacy, and hospital chaplaincy. Before seminary I taught English as a Second Language and College Composition, which allowed me to travel and learn both overseas and in the mountains of Radford, VA. My joys in life include reading, writing, time in nature, and running.



Lydia Fernandez

I was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, historically called the “Land of the Eternal Spring.” Memories come of the beauty of the sky, the sunshine at sunset with rays of gold color, the green of the trees, the rainbow of various beautiful colors after the rain, and May flowers planted by my father to embellish our home. I was also surrounded by the love of my family: mother, father, brother, and of caring, respectful neighbors. I learned the great significance of the church and sacraments. I have memories of attending Mass on Sundays at the Cathedral; it was joyful like going to a big celebration for a special event. I remember that at the age of fifteen, I wanted to become a missionary; I was also often approached by others for help with their daily concerns, or even with complicated situations in their lives. I felt called by God to give my life in service to others. This became true for me when I came to the United States, where I have spent much of my life involved with various social justice organizations and other community groups working for a better society. I was fortunate to have learned English before coming to this country. I did not know then what good use it would be to me. We never know how or when what we learn today will be key to our future contribution to this world. Only God, the God of Love, knows where our gifts and talents will be of service for a peaceful and hopeful environment and a world of peace, respect, and love. My faith in God’s love and providence tells me I am called to contribute something significant for many others. I see being in the ISI as an additional way to answer that call.



Paula Fitzgerald

“Behold, now is a very acceptable time” (2 Cor 6:2). I have faith that as I embark on my so-called *second half of life* that now is (finally!) the time for me to begin the ISI. For more than 27 years I have been in Jesuit institutions, in retreat ministry or faith formation. I have facilitated countless retreats for college students and young adults. I have worked alongside many people, including numerous ISI graduates, as spiritual directors on silent retreats. Now it’s my turn. I am ready and open to exploring new ways I can further develop and use my gifts of attentive listening as a spiritual director. I enjoy discovering and sharing Ignatian resources with others, as well as connecting “texts” – including poems, music, movies and books – to central themes in Ignatian spirituality. I am drawn to the ISI, in part, because of the rich opportunities to learn from my classmates and alums about spirituality through other lenses and life experiences. My vocations as minister, parent, and friend are always informing and enriching one another. I am married to Tom Bogen, a high school biology teacher, and we are the proud parents of two young teenagers, Dorothy and Lucy. Living in Cleveland for the past eighteen years I have come to love the shores of Lake Erie. However, as a native New Yorker (just north of NYC), my sports allegiances remain with my hometown teams. I am an avid reader and always open to book suggestions.



Reed Fuller



I was raised in a Christian family in Saugerties, New York. Saugerties was where my father's roots were dating back to the early 1800s. We attended Trinity Episcopal Church and I made my confirmation there. During my childhood I believed in God, but had little understanding of who Jesus was. I was a Sunday school dropout, which ended any knowledge of God's word. After high school I attended the University of New York at Albany. There I met my wonderful wife, Liz. She too had been raised in a Christian tradition, Greek Orthodox. Neither of us attended church at that time. It was not until we started our family of three that we returned to church. We moved to Ohio in 1990 and soon started attending The Church in Aurora, a non-denominational community church. It was here in the late 1990s that I became a Christian. The Holy Spirit started a yearning in me. I wanted to know more about who God really is. Through an Education for Ministry program and an Emmaus Walk, Christ opened my heart to Him. Since then I have been called to service in a number of ways, teaching adults and children, leading Bible studies, leading family worship and a prayer chapel. However, the yearning continues. Through prayer, study, meditation, and God's grace, the love of Christ continues to pull me closer to Him. This is why I am looking forward to the next two years at the Ignatian Spirituality Institute. God is leading and I will follow.

Erin Garlock



I was born and raised in Canton, Ohio, and had numerous adventures, some of which even went according to plan. I have continued my life's adventures in all the major Ohio cities starting with the letter 'C': Canton, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland – this was unplanned. Along the way, while serving as coach, mentor, teacher, publisher, parent, and husband, I have encouraged, and at times dragged unwillingly, others to have new adventures and embrace new ideas. Somewhere in the middle, in a time of personal darkness, my attention was caught by an invitation from God for a new adventure in the life of Christ. This unplanned change in course has, sometimes, meant being dragged unwillingly, and made me embrace new ideas and teachings during several multi-year studies. Though digging deeper into matters of faith and experiencing an immersion in the larger Church have been fruitful, solace and true joy have been found in solitary contemplation and reflecting on the relationship of the world with God. I have broadened my journey in teaching and adventuring, but now it also extends the invitation of Christ to others who are willing to divert their attention from worldly matters. I currently work in banking and IT security in Cleveland and reside on the east side with my wife, Colleen. We are active members of the Episcopal Church, and enjoy going on retreat at the Mt. St. Benedict monastery in Erie, PA. We look forward to being empty-nesters soon, though somewhere in the house are two ornery cats.

Debra Griest



My name is Deb Griest and I am thrilled to be part of the ISI class of 2018. I look forward to my time in the program - learning academically, growing spiritually, and also making new friends among my classmates and ISI alums. I have had the joy of learning about Ignatian spirituality as I have been under direction for the past several years, participated in the 19th Annotation Retreat, and participated in JRH workshops and discussion groups. In 2011 I enrolled in the Shalem Institute program for spiritual directors and began taking on directees. I can't wait to integrate Ignatian spiritual disciplines with the contemplative approach to spiritual direction I learned at Shalem. I'm a long-time member and elder at Bay Presbyterian Church. I regularly attend and lead spiritual retreats and workshops. I see as my primary mission field the business industry, where I serve as an executive coach and consultant. I have also been heavily involved in inner city ministry and outreach. My greatest joy in life comes from experiencing God's work in and through my life, and then helping others experience God in ways that are uniquely designed for them. The power of the Holy Spirit never ceases to amaze me! My husband, John Clark, and I live in Bay Village with our two Labrador retrievers, Jake and Lucas. John has five adult step-children and we have tons of grandkids. I enjoy the outdoors, sports, arts and crafts, and international travel.

Patricia Hollis

I am a mother of five lovely children living in Bay Village, Ohio, with my husband of 28 years. Our daughters graduated from Magnificat High School and our son graduated from Ignatius High School this past year. It's safe to say where the majority of my focus has been over the past years! I attended Beaumont High School and graduated from Ohio State University with a Bachelors degree in Nursing. My nursing focus has always been child/adolescent psychiatry. I most recently worked PRN for Rainbow Babies and Children's hospital, in Cleveland. I hope I have been able to offer support and encouragement to teens and parents through the years. I was introduced to my first eight-week Encountering Christ retreat, in 2008, through Saint Ignatius High School's SPA program. Thankful for the tools provided I have stayed involved, helping to facilitate small groups for the Encountering Christ retreat, participated in several of the Nurturing the Call series and the Decision and Discernment course, prayed the 19th Annotation retreat twice and attended two of the Saint Louis University Ignatian Spirituality Conferences. I am grateful for the gift of prayer, a deepening relationship with Christ, my spiritual director, and an inspiring Ignatian community! I just returned from a spiritual vacation in Italy with my husband and good friends. My whole life I have been given so many gifts. I hope to listen now and serve. I am so thankful for the opportunity to learn and experience the ISI program.



Kris Linton

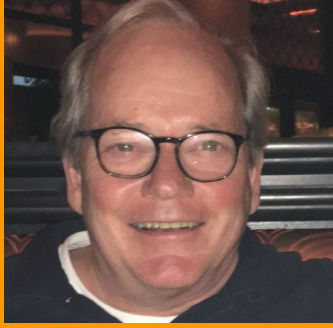
The desire to join ISI has been nudging me since 2012, when I completed my 19th Annotation Retreat. Life got in the way, but this desire persisted. So here I am joining the ISI class of 2018. Perfect timing, as my husband Bob Linton (ISI class of 2014) and I are officially empty nesters. For the past twenty years, I've been home raising our four children, after a fifteen year career in physical therapy at Lakewood Hospital. I've been an active volunteer at my children's school, St. Raphael's and at St. Ladislav Church. In fact, I was first introduced to the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises ten years ago when I volunteered for my son's third grade retreat, led by ISI grad, Andy Kereky. I was moved by his child's version of the Exercises. For the past 21 years, I've been a part of the food ministry at St. Lad's, serving St. Pat's Hunger Center, St. Ignatius of Antioch and St. Herman's House of Hospitality. In the last several years, God has led me to be a part of a wonderful group of women (many are ISI grads) who lead women's spirituality groups at Northeast Reintegration Center, the Cosgrove Center and Edna House. These women who are in prison, homeless or in recovery help me see God in our brokenness. I am grateful for all the opportunities God has given me, including ISI.



Patricia Ludick

How I love this second half of life, and I am well into it! I look back at my upbringing in a large Catholic family and appreciate as never before the simple but heroic journey exemplified through the lives of my dedicated parents. Mass, sacraments, works of mercy, a Catholic education, and the rudiments of daily living nurtured our lives as children and influenced us as adults. I was inspired at the age of 17 to enter the convent, where I remained under the kind care of the sisters until the age of 24. Trusting in God's new directions for my life, I choose to travel to Cleveland, Ohio to work in special education in the inner city. It is here where I met my wonderful husband of now 50 years. We are the parents of five adult children and have ten lovely grandchildren. My professional life as an educator has been focused upon the science of Montessori education. I received my AMI training, secured my Master's Degree, and have currently completed 30 years of teaching Montessori adolescents, as well as founding new programs. I feel so fortunate to have been able to immerse myself in what I recognize as a deeply spirit-filled manner of guiding young lives. My current work is now dedicated to training and coaching new teachers in the field of adolescent education, both locally and internationally, and of being available to serve others in my parish community of St. Anselm.





Tim Merriman

My name is Tim Merriman. My wife Lynn and I are members of St. Christopher parish in Rocky River. Lynn and I celebrated our 39th wedding anniversary this past June. I am the Director of Marketing for a Marketing firm in Avon, OH. We have four grown children, two daughters-in-law, and five grandchildren, with our sixth due this October. Seven years ago I completed the Spiritual Exercises, and I have never been more aware of the graces that God has bestowed upon us. It is my hope to be able to help others do the same.



Lynn Miller

My name is Lynn Miller and I am very grateful for the opportunity to join the community of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute. I anticipate Wednesday evenings will stir my spirit, nourish my soul and lead me in unknown ways. I also anticipate listening to many audio books as I make the round trip from Pittsburgh to Cleveland. Even when I studied in Iowa and St. Louis, Pittsburgh has always been my home. My professional journey has taken me in many different directions: therapist, educator, social worker, but the journey of my heart has been with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden and with my sons, Joshua and Christopher and 85 foster children.



Vickie Montague

“To everything there is a season...” I awakened to those words and knew it was time for the next phase of my journey. I recently retired from a career in healthcare that spanned 8 states and various positions in “hands on” care and administration. Throughout my life, I have felt called to a deeper ministry of service. I obtained a degree in pastoral ministry during my “career years.” Volunteer ministries during those times included: Eucharistic minister; lector; RCIA Director; member of various parish committees; and work with the homeless, refugees, youth, young adults, the elderly, and the dying. My desire to pursue spiritual direction training has evolved. During a time of personal crisis, I embraced the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. I found the only peaceful response to crisis was rooted in trusting God. Last year I travelled to Montserrat and prayed before the Black Madonna. I made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I tossed in a boat on the waves of the Sea of Galilee, tasted a mustard seed, witnessed a baptism in the Jordan, stood in the town where Mary visited Elizabeth, and wept midst the olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane. As I walked the land where Jesus walked, I sensed a stronger call to walk with others in their brokenness and joy, their search for meaning, their restless quest for something more. I am moved to share their journey as God reveals a transcendent life through a deeper relationship with the one Source of all life.

Maryann Ruben

I am an Independent Retirement and Life Insurance Consultant, holding life insurance licenses in nine states. For over a decade, I have enjoyed helping folks retire safely and plan their legacies. Over this time, my practice has evolved into nurturing the whole being, focused on spiritual and financial health. I have a special love for encouraging and empowering women. I am co-founder of Metanoia Ministries, a new entity whose purpose is transforming lives through self exploration and practical application of Christian values. I authored "Which Way Today" and was contributing author of "Faith, Hope, and Charity" - and have offered keynote presentations and spiritually motivational workshops since 2011. Some form of Ignatian spirituality has been a constant in my presentations - and life - unbeknownst to me! What joy I have found in learning that there is a title for, and a language that describes my faith and prayer life! Currently, I serve my community and church family as Retreat, Bible Study and small group facilitator, Stephen Minister/Stephen leader, chairperson of the Christian Education Team, and volunteer in many capacities. I am an active board member of Jeremy Cares, Inc., whose mission is creating moments of joy for families with children in medical crises. Hailing from Cleveland, Ohio, my husband, Paul, and I will celebrate twenty years of marital bliss in August, 2016. We have two children, Layla and Joseph.

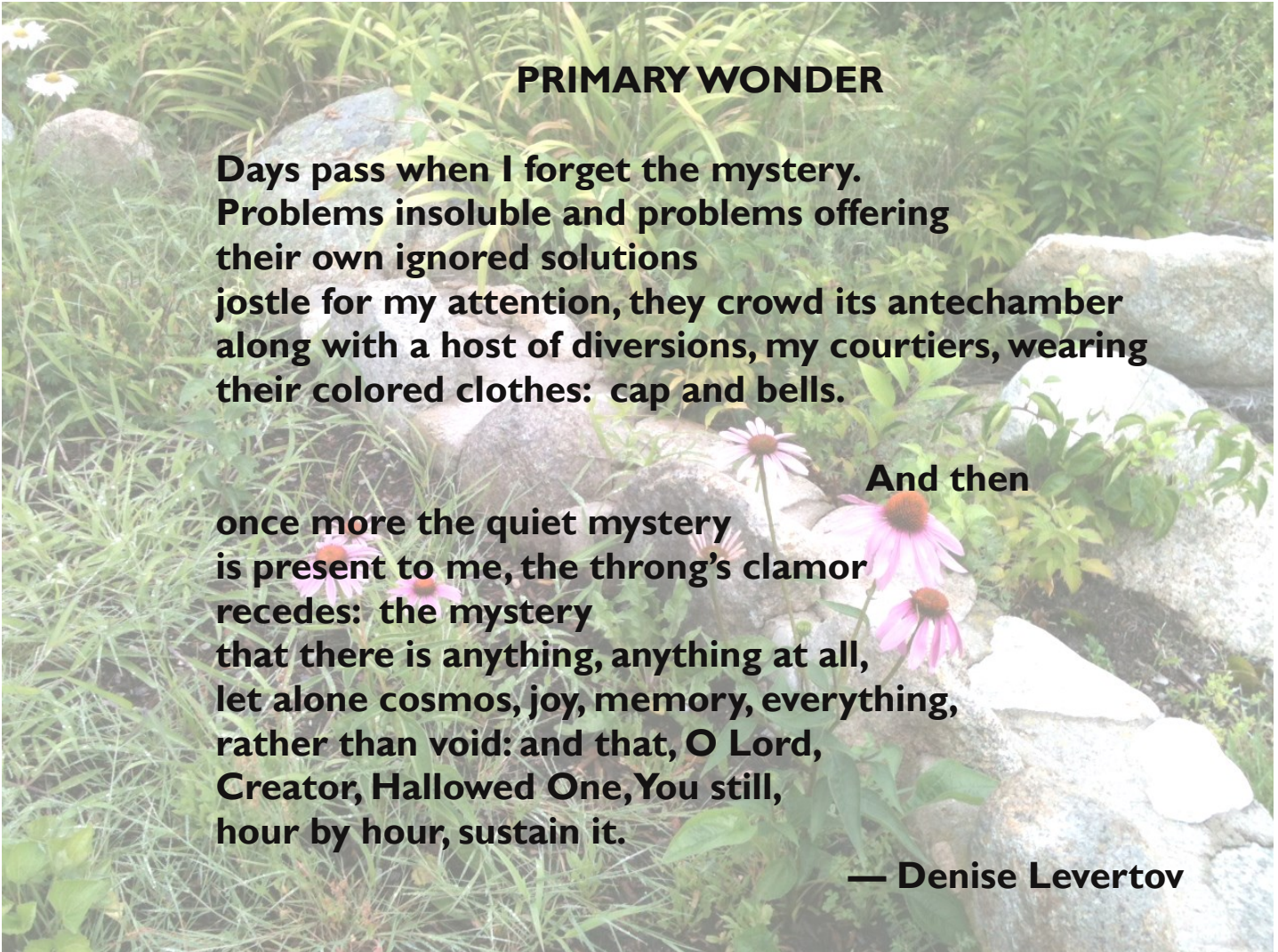


PRIMARY WONDER

**Days pass when I forget the mystery.
Problems insoluble and problems offering
their own ignored solutions
jostle for my attention, they crowd its antechamber
along with a host of diversions, my courtiers, wearing
their colored clothes: cap and bells.**

**And then
once more the quiet mystery
is present to me, the throng's clamor
recedes: the mystery
that there is anything, anything at all,
let alone cosmos, joy, memory, everything,
rather than void: and that, O Lord,
Creator, Hallowed One, You still,
hour by hour, sustain it.**

— Denise Levertov



Tuition:

Tuition is billed directly from and payable to the ISI Office. Make checks payable to John Carroll University, and send them addressed to the **Ignatian Spirituality Institute** or give them to Joan in class. Tuition is payable quarterly. Due dates are August 31, November 30, January 31 and March 31. Reminder bills will be sent to you. If you prefer, you may pay the entire amount at the beginning of the year, or half at the beginning of each semester (August 31, 2016 and January 31, 2017).

Nineteenth Annotation Retreat:

Making the full Exercises is a requirement of the program. The ISI Director will provide assistance in finding directors for those who need to make this retreat, which usually begins in September or October. Finances are arranged privately between retreatant and director.

Parking:

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

All-day Parking: \$150.00 per semester

After 4:30pm: \$60.00 all year

Summer Time: Open Parking on campus lots (no permits needed)

Since our classes are in the evening, you will not need the all-day permit unless you want the luxury of coming to campus anytime. **There is no charge for second year interns, but you will need to stop in the parking office to pick up your updated tag from Patti Taylor.**

Student ID (optional):

Student ID cards are necessary to check out books from the library, to use computer labs and athletic facilities, and to cash checks. The first card is free; there is a \$50 replacement fee for lost cards. IDs will be passed out to the first year students at the beginning of classes.

Library:

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

Sunday: 11:00am-2:00am

Mon-Thu: 8:00am-2:00am

Friday: 8:00am-7:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am-8:00pm

Holidays: as posted

Special Days: as posted

Student Service Center:

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

Monday-Thursday: 8:30am-6:30pm

Friday: 8:30am-4:30pm

Einstein Brothers Bagels:

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

RecPlex:

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

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

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



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

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